

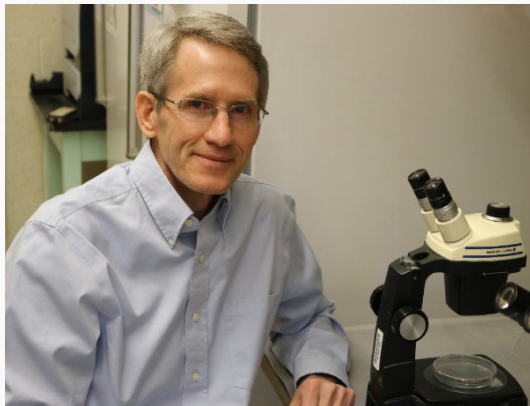
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March/April 2018

DEPARTMENT NEWS

Awards and Recognition



Dr. Jim Forney, Professor of Biochemistry, received an award in the amount of \$248,700 from the National Science Foundation for a proposal entitled "REU Site: Molecular and Biochemical Analysis of Proteins". The grant is renewed every three years and this is the third time that Dr. Forney has been awarded the grant. The project period is 3/1/2018 – 2/28/2021. To read more about Biochemistry's REU program click on the link. <http://bit.ly/2I5Rzyl>.

Dr. Andy Mesecar, Department Head, received an award in the amount of \$699,832 from the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID) for a proposal entitled "Structural Genomics Center Subcontract". The award will be used to support the Center for Structural Genomics of Infectious Diseases (CSGID). The CSGID is a consortium of laboratories using state-of-the-art structural biology methods to determine the 3-D structures of proteins from pathogens in the NIAID category A-C priority lists and organisms causing emerging and re-emerging infectious diseases. The project period is 9/1/17 – 8/31/22. To read more about the CSGID click on the link. <http://www.csgid.org/>

Shiv Grewal, NIH Distinguished Investigator, presented this year's **Bernard Axelrod Lectures** on March 26 and 27. Dr. Grewal is recognized for his groundbreaking research in the field of epigenetics. His work provided fundamental insight into heterochromatin formation, a compact form of chromatin that inhibits inappropriate gene expression and ensures genome stability. To read more information about Dr. Grewal click on the link. <http://bit.ly/2lpaPpX>

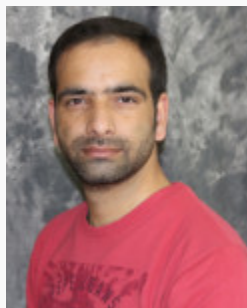


New Faces

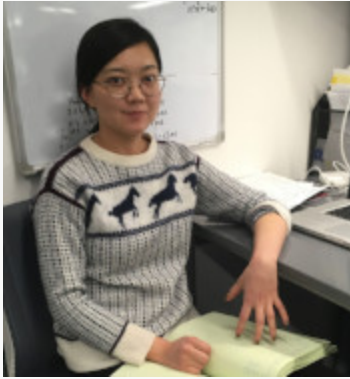
Two new postdoctoral researchers recently joined the department. **Kristian Caldo** (Dudareva lab) received his Ph.D. in Plant Biochemistry and Biotechnology from the University of Alberta (Canada) where he worked on plant oil biosynthesis. In his spare time, he enjoys running, photography, and watching documentaries.



Saleem Dar (Gowher lab) is originally from the Kashmir Valley of Jammu & Kashmir state in India. Saleem earned a B.Sc. in Biochemistry, Chemistry and Zoology from S.P. College Srinagar (now a Cluster University), a M.Sc. in Biochemistry from University of Kashmir, Srinagar, and a Ph.D. in Biological Sciences from CSIR-Indian Institute of Integrative Medicine Jammu. In Saleem's spare time, he enjoys playing cricket and talking to his friends.



Graduate Program Spotlight



This month's spotlight is on **Zheng (Cindy) Xing**, a member of Dr. Beth Tran's lab. Cindy's research is on the human DEAD-box helicase DDX5 which represents one of the most thorough biochemical characterization of this protein, and provides the first evidence of an RNA helicase involving in glucose metabolism (Xing et al., 2017). To read more about Cindy's research click on the link. <http://bit.ly/2Gvrsjo>

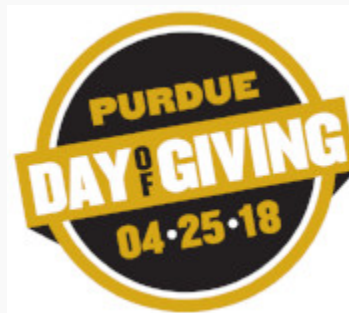
Undergraduate Program Spotlight

This month's spotlight is on **Kylie Zehner**, a senior in biochemistry and a member of the Purdue University cheerleading team. To read more about Kylie click on the link <http://bit.ly/2lgh4NE>

Recent Publications

Li, L., M. Qian, I.-H. Chen, D. Finkelstein, A. Onar-Thomas, M. Johnson, C. Calabrese, A. Bahrami, D.H. López-Terrada, J.J. Yang, **W.A. Tao** and L. Zhu. 2018. Acquisition of Cholangiocarcinoma traits during advanced hepatocellular carcinoma development in mice. *Am. J. Pathol.* 188(3):656 – 671.

Yang, Z., Q. Qiu, W. Chen, B. Jia, X. Chen, H. Hu, K. He, X. Deng, S. Li, **W.A. Tao**, X. Cao and J. Du. Structure of the Arabidopsis JM_{J14}-H₃K₄me₃ complex provides insight into the substrate specificity of KDM5 subfamily histone demethylases. 2018. *Plant Cell.* 30(1):167 – 177.



Purdue's annual Day of Giving will take place on April 25, and you are invited to make your mark! This year we are asking you to support Biochemistry's dream of renovating our building to have a new collaboration space. To read more about Purdue Day of Giving click on the link <http://bit.ly/2GuLyKp>

Going the Extra Mile

Dr. Xiaoqi Liu traveled to San Diego, California on February 5 – 6 to serve on a NIH study section for Tumor Progression and Metastasis (TPM). Dr. Liu also traveled to Washington D.C. from February 28 – March 1 to participate in a Career Development study section by the National Cancer Institute (NCI).

Dr. Elizabeth Tran traveled to Frederick, Maryland on February 5 to the National Cancer Institute where she presented a talk entitled, "Dynamic regulation of gene expression by RNA Helicases and new avenues for cancer intervention". Dr. Tran also traveled to Lehi, Utah from March 4 – 7, to the University Of Utah, Department of Biology to present a seminar entitled, "Unraveling the role of RNA structure in gene regulation through studies of the RNA Helicase Dbp2/DDX5".

Dr. Vikki Weake traveled to Reno, Nevada on February 21 to the University of Reno, Department of Molecular Biosciences, to give a seminar entitled "Aging photoreceptors: light, stress and transcription."

Upcoming Events

Biochemistry Speaker Seminars

(Every Tuesday in Whistler Hall, Rm. 116 unless stated)

- April 3 **Dr. Bradley Moore**, Scripps Institute of Oceanography, Skaggs School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences, University of California San Diego
- 10 **Dr. Dorothea Tholl**, Virginia Tech, Department of Biological Sciences
- 17 **Dr. Brian Murphy**, University of Illinois Chicago, Medicinal Chemistry and Pharmacognosy

Biochemistry Graduate/Postdoc Seminars

(Fridays at 12:30 – 1:30 p.m. in Whistler Hall, Rm. 116 unless stated)

- April 6 **Srishti Chakravorty** (Kazemian lab) & **Xiangying (Candy) Mao** (Chapple lab)
- 20 **Der-Shyang (Leo) Kao** (Tao lab)
- 27 **Elia Farah** (Xiaoqi Liu lab) & **Rui (Gary) Gan** (Golden lab)



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