October 2015 Issue

PUBLICATIONS


AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

Brian Dilkes received a grant from North Carolina State University with primary funding from NSF for a project titled “The Genetic and Genomic Exploration of the Maize HR Response”. This is a 4-year project and the total funding is in the amount of $1,934,074.

Andy Tao received a grant from PHS-NIH National Inst. General Medical Sciences for a project titled “A proteomic platform to identify and validate biomarkers in metabolic syndrome and coronary artery disease”. This is a 3-year project and the total funding is in the amount of $884,080.

Andy Mesecar and his post doc Sarah St. John were quoted in the August 22, 2015 issue of *Science News*. The article titled “Hands-free Chemistry - New tricks and tech may help turn the tide for automated molecular synthesis” by Beth Mole.

Andy Mesecar was featured in an article written by Elizabeth Gardner, titled "Targeting the Achilles' heel of MERS virus" in the August 2015 issue of ASBMB Today. Here is the link to the article: http://www.asbmb.org/uploadedFiles/ASBMBToday/Content/Archive/ASBMBToday-201508.pdf
Jim Forney has been chosen as an education fellow for the American Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology. [http://www.asbmb.org/asmbbtoday/201509/Education/](http://www.asbmb.org/asmbbtoday/201509/Education/)

UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT NEWS

Michael Busche is one of three Purdue College of Agriculture undergraduate students chosen to participate in the new "PotashCorp Executive i2i Pathway to Excellence, 2015-16" program. The PotashCorp Executive i2i Pathway to Excellence is a program run in collaboration with Southern Illinois University and Purdue. Faculty members at SIU and Purdue University will serve as mentors to PotashCorp Executive i2iPathway to Excellence students at their respective institutions. A faculty mentor will work with a student to submit the research proposal, conduct the research, analyze results, and prepare a presentation of research findings.

GOING THE EXTRA MILE

Joe Kappock organized the 35th Midwest Enzyme Chemistry Conference [http://www.midwestenzyme.org/](http://www.midwestenzyme.org/) which was held on September 12, 2015 at the Illinois Institute of Technology, Chicago. People from several Purdue BCHM groups were there including Jeremy Lohman, Andy Mesecar and Andy Tao. Former Purdue BCHM PhD student Elwood Mullins (Kappock lab), who worked in the department until 2012, gave a talk on his postdoctoral work at Vanderbilt. There were 215 registered attendees, 115 posters, which is a record number, and 10 talks that took place during the 1 day conference.

Humaira Gowher gave a talk titled, Histone demethylation sanctions enhancer DNA methylation during embryonic stem cell differentiation”, at the 7th New England BioLabs (NEB) meeting held August 24 – 29, 2015 at the University of Gdansk, Poland. Dr. Gowher also gave a talk on Wednesday September 2nd, under the same title in the Department of Biological Sciences, Purdue University.

DEPARTMENTAL NEWS

Dr. Uma Aryal (Hall lab) is leaving Biochemistry to take a new position as Director of Purdue Proteomics Facility at Bindley Bioscience Center on October 1.
Akhila Kingsly (Dudareva lab) joined Dr. Natalia Dudareva’s lab as a Technical Assistant on September 14, 2015. She was born and raised in southern India. She received her B.S. and M.S. in Chemistry from Kerala University, Thiruvananthapuram, India. Akhila moved to Purdue along with her husband and kids in August, 2015. Previously, she worked as a research assistant at the Department of Grain Science and Industry, Kansas State University, Manhattan, KS. Akhila’s favorite pastime is playing with her daughters.

Additional graduate students working in our labs:

Ruixin (Ricky) Wang (Liu lab)  
PULSE

Yifan (Evan) Kong (Liu lab)  
Animal Sciences

Dennis Monteleone (Tao lab)  
Medicinal Chemistry/Molecular Pharmacology
CONGRATULATIONS to Humaira Gowher who became a United States citizen on September 11, 2015. She took her oath at the courthouse in Fort Wayne, Indiana. Pictured are Dr. Gowher, her husband, Faisal Lateef, and the Honorable Susan Collins who gave the oath of citizenship.

Heartfelt Congratulations to Nina Serratore Deno (Briggs lab) for her wedding held on Saturday, September 12th in her hometown of Grand Rapids, Minnesota. Nina and her husband Nathan Deno were married outside at Gunn Park overlooking Prairie Lake. They were surrounded by friends and family from across the country.

Welcome to Abigail Rose Lynch who was born on Sunday September 20, 2015. Abigail weighed 8 lb. 12 oz. and is 18.25 inches tall. Congrats to Joe Lynch (Dudareva lab) and his wife.
Congratulations to Vikki Weake and her husband Daniel Leon-Salas on the birth of their daughter Emily Marie Leon-Salas who was born on Monday, September 28. Emily weighed 8 lb. 1 oz. Emily’s picture will follow next month.

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Karl Brandt</th>
<th>Sara Cloutier</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Brett Bishop</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Joe Kappock</td>
<td>David Krogmann</td>
<td>Jeremy Lohman</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sherry Pogranichniy</td>
<td>Faeze Saatchi</td>
<td>Tian Shao</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lee Stunkard</td>
<td>Lingfei Zeng</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

DEPARTMENT EVENTS

BIOCHEMISTRY SPEAKER SEMINARS - OCTOBER

10/6/15  Elizabeth Sattely  
Stanford University  
*Title: Discovery of Plant Metabolic Pathways for Plant and Human Health*  
Host: Jeremy Lohman

10/20/15  Paul Wade  
National Institutes of Health  
*Title: DNA Methylation, Chromatin Structure and Gene Regulation*  
Hosts: Humaira (Humi) Gowher & Joe Ogas

10/27/15  Rachel Green  
Johns Hopkins University, School of Medicine, Molecular Biology and Genetics  
Howard Hughes Medical Institutes  
*Title: Exploring mRNA Surveillance Using Biochemistry and Ribosome Profiling*  
Host: Biochemistry Students & Aamir Mir

BIOCHEMISTRY GRADUATE/POSTDOC – OCTOBER

10/2/2015  Julia Luciano  
Sakshi Tomar
10/9/2015  Mayank Srivastava  
Kalyani Josyula
10/16/2015  Funmi Adebesin  
Zhigou Li
10/23/2015  Rotation talks (12:30 PM - 2:30 PM)
10/30/2015  Anwesha Sanyal  
Yueping Zhang