PUBLICATIONS


AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

Andy Tao received a grant from International Foundation for CDKL5 Research for his project titled: “Identification pf CDKL5 direct substrates based on kinase linked phosphoproteomics” the funding is $42,032. The time period for this is 7/01/2015-06/30/2016.

Natalia Doudareva received a grant from NSF for a project titled “Evolution of Specialized Metabolite Biosynthetic Pathways in the Lamiaceae: Sources of Chemical Diversity for Molecules Essential for Human Use and Plant Defense”. This is a 5-year NSF project and the total funding is in the amount of $1,369,993.

Anwesha Sanyal has been awarded the Cancer Preventions Internship Program graduate fellowship for the 2015 – 16 academic year.

GOING THE EXTRA MILE

Andy Tao traveled to Hong Kong to give a talk at the Gordon Research Conference on protein PTMs and their networks. More info can be found at their website: https://www.grc.org/programs.aspx?id=16413
DEPARTMENTAL NEWS

Dr. Orla Hart has been elevated to a non-tenure track Clinical Teaching Assistant Professor position. Dr. Hart’s new position will focus on teaching, course development and/or revision, engagement in service activities that enhance the undergraduate educational experience, including advising and mentoring students, and scholarly research in biochemistry education.

NEW FACES

Andy Mesecar – Department Head & Deputy Director, Purdue Center for Cancer Research Professor Andrew Mesecar completed his B.Sc. in Chemistry degree at Purdue University, West Lafayette, IN, in 1988. He received his Ph.D. in Biochemistry in 1995 from the University of Notre Dame, South Bend, IN, which is also his hometown. He then went onto the University of California, Berkeley, and completed a post-doctoral fellowship in structural enzymology and X-ray crystallography. In 1999, he started his career as an assistant professor in the Department of Medicinal Chemistry and Pharmacognosy at the University of Illinois at Chicago where he initiated his research into the basic biochemical and structural mechanisms of how natural product and dietary molecules such as resveratrol from wine, and sulforaphane from broccoli, prevent cancer. He quickly rose through the ranks and was promoted to full professor in 2008. He served as the assistant head of the department from 2009 until the time he left for Purdue. In August of 2010, Professor Mesecar moved to Purdue University as the Walther Professor of Cancer Structural Biology where his lab works to decipher the atomic resolution structures of enzymes that are promising new drug targets. In his spare time, Andy loves to cook, watch college football and build and fly radio controlled cars and boats.

Brian Dilkes joined the department as an Associate Professor effective August 18. Brian was born and raised in Los Angeles, CA. He earned a Bachelor of the Liberal Arts degree from Oberlin College and a Ph.D. from the University of Arizona. Prior to joining Purdue he was a postdoctoral researcher at the University of Washington and a Project Scientist at the University of California, Davis Genome Center. Work in the Dilkes lab is focused on genetically dissecting the molecular mechanisms responsible for plant speciation and adaptation. Dr. Dilkes has brought an integration of computational tools from both genomics and statistical genetics alongside high throughput measurements of traits to detect genetic variation with single-nucleotide resolution.
Gayle Purdy joined the Lohman lab as a Technical Assistant on August 19. Originally from Mesa, Arizona, Gayle graduated from Arizona State University with B.S. degrees in Molecular Biosciences/Biotechnology and Sustainability with an emphasis in Sustainable Energy, Materials, and Technology. She earned a Professional Science Master’s in Applied Biosciences with an emphasis in Industrial Microbial Biotechnology from University of Arizona. Gayle relocated to West Lafayette because her husband is pursuing a Ph.D. in Chemical Engineering. When not doing science, she loves to read, listen to music, play the flute, and cross stitch.

Sunhynug (Sunny) Lim is from South Korea. She works at the National Academy of Agricultural Science as research scientist. Her project there was enhancing of secondary metabolites in rice, specially anthocyanins and flavonoids. Sunny joined Dr. Dudareva’s lab as a Visiting Scholar through the international collaboration research program in the summer of 2015. She will stay here and study for 1 year. Her current research project involves clarifying the mechanism of Phe production and understanding the interplay between the precursor and Phe-derived metabolites in rice. In her spare time, she enjoys talking with my friends and traveling.

2015 INCOMING GRADUATE STUDENTS

**Front Row, (Left to Right):** Elia Farah, Allison Norvil (Master’s Program), Bethany Manning, and Aaron Benjamin  
**Back Row, (Left to Right):** Colin Carlock, Zach Beck, and Ryan Benke

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Home Country</th>
<th>Undergrad Institution</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Elia Farah</td>
<td>Lebanon</td>
<td>Lebanese University</td>
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<tr>
<td>Allison Norvil</td>
<td>USA</td>
<td>Purdue University</td>
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<td>Bethany Manning</td>
<td>USA</td>
<td>Truman State University</td>
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<td>Aaron Benjamin</td>
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<td>Worcester Polytechnic</td>
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<td>Colin Carlock</td>
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<td>Zach Beck</td>
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<td>Purdue University</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ryan Benke</td>
<td>USA</td>
<td>Jamestown College</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
AUGUST GRADUATES

UNDERGRADUATES

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS
Scott Briggs
Mike Christy
Michael Gutensohn
Laura Henry
Joe Ogas

SEPTMEBER BIRTHDAYS
Hunter Balduf
Sherry Honn
Victor Rodwell
Joshua Widhalm

GRADUATE STUDENTS

Aurelie Chuong
Major Professor: Dr. Kappock
Master of Science

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS
Harry Charbonneau
Whitney Dolan
Brianna Hatfield
Jingqun Ma
Kelly Sullivan

I-Hsuan Chen
Caitlin Falcone
Ming He
Luyen Nguyen

SOCCER IN THE SAND
Congratulations to Erin Sorlien (Ogas lab) and Wai Ma Kit (Tran lab) for winning the “Soccer in the Sand” tournament championship in Michigan City, IN.
Top (Left to Right): Shaina Riciputi, Matthew Dally, Ryan Penny, Victor Hoyos
Bottom (Left to Right: Wai Kit Ma (Tran lab), Tarsis Burst, Jocelino Rodrigues, Erin Sorlien (Ogas lab)

STRICTLY PERSONAL

Scott Gentry
Come join Joe Levell for the “Biggest Pig Party on Planet Earth” at the Tipton County Pork Festival. It’s free and family friendly. It takes place on September 10, 11, & 12th. Joe is the “Voice of the Pork Festival” and will be giving away free food and items all weekend long. If you come to the festival and he sees you, participation will be mandatory! Here is the website for the festival (Joe didn’t design it). [http://www.tiptoncountyporkfestival.com/](http://www.tiptoncountyporkfestival.com/)

BIOCHEMISTRY SPEAKER SEMINARS - SEPTEMBER

9/1/15  Dr. Andrew Mesecar

9/8/15  Dr. Chun-Ju (Alice) Chang - The Role of MicroRNA in Regulation of Mammary Stem Cell Fate and Tumorigenesis

9/15/15  Dr. Christine Mayr - Alternative 3’UTRs Functionally Diversify the Proteome

9/22/15  Dr. Jorge Rodriguez - Quantum Biochemistry: Computational Studies of Metallo-enzymes and DNA/Protein-Ligand Interactions

9/29/15  Dr. Barbara Stefanska - Epigenetic Effects of Berry Polyphenols on Oncogenic Signaling in Cancer

BIOCHEMISTRY GRADUATE/POSTDOC – SEPTEMBER

9/4/2015  No Seminar

9/11/2015  Chris Petell  Qiangyi Yang

9/18/2015  Sakshi Tomar  Nikhil Gupta

9/25/2015  Yafang Chen  Yichun Qian