December 2015 Issue

PUBLICATIONS


AWARDS AND RECOGNITION
Natalia Dudareva received a $27,450 award from Binational Science Foundation for the project titled "Plant-mediated defense mechanisms in gall-forming aphids". This is the third year of a 4-year project with total finding of $244,000 ($122,000 to Purdue).

Jeong Im Kim (Chapple lab) and Chen Shao (Liu lab) were the recipients of the 2015 fall Beach and Weiner Travel Awards. The Weiner Travel Award will help Jeong attend the International Conference on Arabidopsis Research (ICAR) in June 2016. The Beach Travel Award will offset costs for Chen to attend the America Association for Cancer Research (AACR) in New Orleans, LA.

Humaira Gowher was awarded a PCCR (Purdue Center for Cancer Research) grant for her project titled “Targeting mechanisms of Dnmt3a through Lsd1 activity at the PpG enhancers” in the amount of $5,000 for use in the DNA Sequencing Facility and $1,000 for S&E. The project period for this award is 9/22/15-3/31/2016.


Beth Tran won a $3,000 internal Shared Resources Award from the PCCR (Purdue Center for Cancer Research) on October 14, 2015 at the Purdue Cancer Research Day. The awards was sponsored by the Indiana Elks Charities Inc. The project period for this award is 10/15/15 -4/30/16.

Beth Tran was the keynote speaker for the Women in Science Programs (WISP) dinner on November 4, 2015. She discussed strategies for surviving graduate school, getting research published, and maintaining a healthy work-life balance.
Humaira Gowher and Orla Hart were part of a team that received a Diversity Transformation Award (DTA). For more information on DTA and their program, “Building Partnerships with Historically Black Colleges and Universities: Graduate Faculty Diversity Ambassador Program”, check out the following story in Purdue Today. http://www.purdue.edu/newsroom/purduetoday/releases/2015/Q4/dta-winners-receive-funding-to-enhance-diversity.html

GOING THE EXTRA MILE
Humaira Gowher was a speaker at the 4th Cancer Epigenetics meeting in San Francisco, CA. which was held on November 16-17th. Her talk was entitled “Histone demethylation sanctions enhancer DNA methylation during embryonic stem cell differentiation”.

Karen Lai and Cindy Xing (Tran lab) traveled to Huron, Ohio to attend the 2015 Rustbelt RNA Meeting. Karen presented a poster titled "The role of the DEAD-box protein Dbp2 in RNA structure remodeling", and Cindy presented a poster titled "Characterization of the human DEAD-box protein DDX5".

NEW FACES
Graduate students from other areas working in our labs

Hillary Andaluz (Tao lab)
Chemistry

Peipei Zhu (Tao lab)
Chemistry

GRADUATE STUDENT NEWS
Congratulations to Samantha Lee (Golden lab) for passing her prelim on November 5, 2015.
The article ‘Redesigned labs promote student and instructor collaboration’ featuring the newly renovated Biochemistry lab, BCHM 112, was in the November 2015 issue of the Plant Sciences Research and Education Pipeline Update. Full Story: http://mailimages.purdue.edu/vo/?FileID=77178bbc-ce26-4502-bb7f-4e1ead83c3dc&m=7e359135-90f7-4b51-b106-06e1b59b6b1f&MailID=31047077&listid=110332

Congratulations to Wai Kit Ma (Tran lab) for passing his defense on November 16, 2015.

Congratulations to Michael Melesse (Hall lab) for passing his defense on November 24, 2015.

Congratulations to Fabiola Muro-Villanueva (Chapple lab) for passing her prelim on November 5, 2015.

Good bye to Qianyi Yang (Gowher lab) who left Biochemistry on November 30th to work at Washington University’s School of Medicine in St. Louis, MO.
DEPARTMENT EVENTS

BIOCHEMISTRY SPEAKER SEMINARS – DECEMBER

December 1
Mathew Tantama
Purdue University, Department of Chemistry
Title: Visualizing ATP in Live Samples
Host: Jeremy Lohman

December 8
Jan Skotheim
Stanford University, School of Medicine
Title: Coordinating Division with Cell Growth and Differentiation
Host: Mark Hall

BIOCHEMISTRY GRADUATE/POSTDOC – DECEMBER

12/4/2015  Long Chen & Liang (Robert) Qin
12/11/2015  Holiday Party
12/18/2015  Rotation talks (12:30 PM - 2:30 PM)

AgIT will be having a “Coffee Break” open house on Thursday, December 10, from 9-10 a.m. in BCHM 101 for all Biochemistry faculty and staff. Pat Smoker, Head of AgIT, managers and other AgIT staff will be available for informal conversation. Breakfast pastries and coffee will be available. Please stop by as time allows.
END OF SEMESTER SCHEDULE

- Classes End – Saturday December 12
- Final Exams Week – Monday through Saturday, December 14-19
- Semester Ends – Saturday, December 19
- COMMENCEMENT Division 1 – Sunday, December 20, 9:30 am
- COMMENCEMENT Division 2 – Sunday, December 20, 2:30 pm

STRICTLY PERSONAL

Welcome to Rebekah Joy Bishop born to Brett (Ogas lab) and Amy Bishop on Wednesday November 11, 2015. Rebekah weighed 8 lbs. and 4 ounces and was 20 inches long. Congrats, Brett and Amy!

Beth Tran and Scott Briggs ran the Indianapolis Monumental Marathon on November 7th. Both ran qualifying times for the 2017 Boston Marathon.

Congratulations to Sara (Tran lab) and Alan Cloutier on the birth of their son, Colin Gerhard who weighed 9 lbs. on November 12, 2015.

December Birthdays

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grad Student</th>
<th>Lama Alabdi</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Faculty</td>
<td>Jim Forney</td>
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<td>Faculty</td>
<td>Humaira Gowher</td>
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<td>Grad Student</td>
<td>Longyun Guo</td>
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<td>Staff</td>
<td>Joe Levell</td>
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<td>Staff</td>
<td>Kay Wood</td>
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