Dr. Cunha Receives AHA Grant
Dr. Shane Cunha

Transverse tubules are membrane invaginations that facilitate the rapid propagation of action potentials to insure uniform contraction throughout a cardiomyocyte. Frequently, these tubules are adjoined by the sarcoplasmic reticulum, which stores calcium ions necessary for excitation-contraction coupling. All forms of heart disease cause a disjunction in SR/T-tubule complexes. My 2-year AHA grant proposes to investigate a novel ankyrin-dependent protein complex in the formation and maintenance of these SR/T-tubule complexes in normal and diseased hearts.

New Members of the Team

Cynthia Pagba
Research Scientist
Dr. Gorfe

Kendra Wicks
Research Assistant
Dr. Walters

Wenli Yang
Research Associate
Dr. Cheng

Ruiying Zhao
Assistant Professor

The IBP Newsletter is published quarterly by the department and distributed to faculty, staff and students. An electronic copy is available on the IBP website at https://med.uth.edu/ibp

Chair, IBP
Dr. John Hancock

Vice Chair, IBP
Dr. Agnes Schonbrunn

Director of Management Operations
Monica Gardner

Editor
Catrina Stevens

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The University Classified Staff Council (UCSC) hosted its annual workshop on Friday, July 15, at the Denton A. Cooley, MD and Ralph C. Cooley, DDS University Life Center. This year’s workshop’s theme was “Go Team! UTHealth Classified Staff: Making a Better Team” where they awarded six scholarships for a record amount of $22,000 contributed toward higher education.

Given annually, children or dependents of full-time, currently employed, classified employees at The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston (UTHealth) are invited to submit an application to be considered for the Education Awards. To be eligible, the student must have graduate from high school this past spring and are enrolled to a university or community college. Funds for the scholarships are raised each year through a variety of USCS activities.

Michael Brisbay, son of IBP Senior Research Assistant Shawn Brisbay, was awarded a $2,500 scholarship and will be attending Texas Tech University to pursue a degree in aerospace engineering.

Please find the complete article at https://www.uth.edu/hr/storydetail.htm?id=c435f39a-7631-4b59-aba4-3b61caf4f4f6
CRB students chair student seminar weekend for Gordon Research Conference
Tanya Baldwin

Tanya Baldwin (chair) and Randi Fitzgibbon (co-chair) coordinated and hosted a Gordon Research Seminar (GRS) in Biddeford, MA June 4-5, 2016. Gordon Research Seminars are student-run conferences for students and post-doctoral fellows attending Gordon Research Conferences. Tanya and Randi raised funds to support this weekend-long event where students and postdocs competed in an oral competition and presented scientific posters to stimulate scientific discussion and enable trainees to network in the field of G-protein signaling and mechanisms of protein phosphorylation. In addition, this seminar included a research presentation from distinguished keynote speaker, Dr. Maurine Linder, chair of the Department of Molecular Medicine and professor of pharmacology at Cornell University’s College of Veterinary Medicine. The seminar concluded with a unique career panel discussion with Dr. Linder, Dr. Jack Cook (Vice President of Molecular Pharmacology, Pfizer), Dr. Carmen Dessauer (Professor, UTHealth), and Dr. Angeline Lyon (Assistant Professor, Purdue University). This seminar served as a unique opportunity for trainees to gain practice in presenting their research to a diverse audience and provided a forum for students to ask important career-related questions to leaders in different stages of their careers. UT Health and the Department of Integrative Biology and Pharmacology (IBP) were represented by three postdocs and three students at the GRS. A special thank you to the IBP Department and Dr. Hancock for the financial support provided to this conference.
CONGRATULATIONS!

Congratulations to Dhananjay Thakur who was selected to receive the 2015 UTHealth GSBS Dissertation Award. The award was established this year by the graduate school to recognize the best dissertation written by a student whose research advisor was based at UTHealth. This award was provided in recognition of his PhD dissertation “Gating Mechanisms of the Canonical TRP Channel Isoform TRPC4” which he completed during 2015.

In addition, Tanya Baldwin won second place in the GSBS Oral Presentation Competition. Well done Tanya!

Let’s Talk: Tanya Baldwin

Tanya Baldwin wrote a blog for the Let’s Talk column on the GSEC website titled “What I learned from Chairing a Conference.” The blog highlights her experience chairing the Gordon Research Seminar in Phosphorylation and G-Protein Mediated Signaling Networks in Biddeford, MA June 4-5, 2016. Be sure to check out Tanya’s blog at https://med.uth.edu/gsec/blog/what-i-learned-from-chairing-a-conference/.
Proposals & Awards

Twenty proposals were submitted by the Department of Integrative Biology & Pharmacology in the fourth quarter of Fiscal Year 2016 by Drs. Berdeaux, Chang, Cunha, Dessauer, Du, Gorfe, Levental, Li, Lichtenberger, Pochynyuk, Walters, Yang, and Zhu.

Eighteen proposals were awarded this quarter. Faculty receiving awards include Drs. Berdeaux, Cunha, Dessauer, Gorfe, Levental, Li, Lichtenberger, Mamenko, O’Neil, Pochynyuk, Schonbrunn, Venkatachalam, and Yang.

~Data provided by Deborah Brougher, Sr. Grants and Contracts Specialist

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Proposals Submitted FY2016 4th QTR</th>
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<td># Submitted</td>
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<td>Federal</td>
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</table>

New Awards

New Awards received during the fourth quarter of Fiscal Year 2016 include:


Dr. Venkatachalam. University of Pittsburgh. GDAP1 Mediated Cellular Damage in MLIV.

Dr. Yang. Craig H. Neilsen Foundation. Manipulating Sur Subunits to Treat Sensory and Motor Dysfunction After SCI.


<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Speaker</th>
<th>Affiliation</th>
<th>Title of Talk</th>
<th>Host</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>September 12, 2016</td>
<td>Ruiying Zhao, M.D., Ph.D.</td>
<td>Integrative Biology and Pharmacology</td>
<td>&quot;A p53 Signaling Coordinator NUP98’s Impact in Hepatoma&quot;</td>
<td>Dr. Ghislain Breton</td>
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<tr>
<td>September 19, 2016</td>
<td>Paul J. Chiao, Ph.D.</td>
<td>Molecular and Cellular Oncology</td>
<td>&quot;The Function, Mechanisms, and Therapeutic Targeting of Constitutively Active NF-kB in Pancreatic Cancer&quot;</td>
<td>Dr. Yi-Ping Li</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September 26, 2016</td>
<td>Xiang Zhang, Ph.D.</td>
<td>Molecular and Cellular Biology</td>
<td>&quot;New insights into early-stage bone colonization of disseminated breast cancer cells&quot;</td>
<td>Dr. Guangwei Du</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October 3, 2016</td>
<td>Jun Liu, Ph.D.</td>
<td>Department of Pathology &amp; Laboratory Medicine</td>
<td>&quot;High-throughput cryo-electron tomography: Visualizing bacterial nanomachines in action&quot;</td>
<td>Dr. Xiaodong Cheng</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October 10, 2016</td>
<td>Liang Xie, Ph.D.</td>
<td>Medicine, Athero &amp; Lipo</td>
<td>&quot;Oxygen Sensing in the Heart&quot;</td>
<td>Dr. Guangwei Du</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October 17, 2016</td>
<td>Alicia McDonough, Ph.D.</td>
<td>Cell and Neurobiology</td>
<td>&quot;Maintaining Balance under Pressure: Intrarenal Mechanisms Controlling Blood Pressure and Potassium Homeostasis&quot;</td>
<td>Dr. Yi-Ping Li</td>
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<td>October 24, 2016</td>
<td>Yong Zhou, Ph.D.</td>
<td>Integrative Biology and Pharmacology</td>
<td>&quot;TBD&quot;</td>
<td>Dr. Ghislain Breton</td>
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<tr>
<td>November 7, 2016</td>
<td>Pierre McCrea, Ph.D.</td>
<td>Department of Genetics</td>
<td>&quot;Nine lives: catenin proteins’ multifaceted roles&quot;</td>
<td>Dr. Jeffrey Frost</td>
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<td>November 14, 2016</td>
<td>Hong Xu, Ph.D.</td>
<td>Molecular Genetics</td>
<td>&quot;How mother gives best and enough mitochondria?&quot;</td>
<td>Dr. Kartik Venkatachalam</td>
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<td>November 21, 2016</td>
<td>Eileen Kennedy, Ph.D.</td>
<td>Pharmaceutical &amp; Biomedical Sciences</td>
<td>&quot;Targeting Protein-Protein Interfaces that Regulate Kinase Function&quot;</td>
<td>Dr. Xiaodong Cheng</td>
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Seminars are held on Mondays at 4:00 PM in MSB 2.135, unless otherwise noted. For information and questions, please contact Catrina Stevens at catrina.m.stevens@uth.tmc.edu or 713-500-7536.
IBP Seminar Series

November 28, 2016
Lisa Wang, M.D.
Pediatrics-Oncology
Baylor College of Medicine
Title of Talk: “TBD”
Host: Dr. Dung-Fang Lee

December 12, 2016
Douglas Wright, Ph.D.
Anatomy and Cell Biology
University of Kansas Medical Center
Title of Talk: “TBD”
Host: Dr. Qing Yang

December 5, 2016
Brendan Lee, M.D., Ph.D.
Molecular and Human Genetics
Baylor College of Medicine
Title of Talk: “Genetics of Brittle Bone Diseases”
Host: Dr. Guangwei Du

December 19, 2016
Daniel Lingwood, Ph.D.
Department of Medicine
Harvard University
Title of Talk: “TBD”
Host: Dr. Ilya Levental

IBP Calendar of Events

Administrative Staff Meetings, 2:30-3:30 PM, MSB 4.100
October 6, November 3, December 1, January 5, February 2

CRB Meetings, 12-1 PM, Room 4.100
October 6, November 3, December 1, January 5, February 2

Faculty Coffee/Tea, 10-11 AM, MSB 4.100
October 5, 12, 19, 26
November 2, 9, 16, 23, 30
December 7, 14, 21
January 4, 11, 18, 25
February 1, 8, 15, 22

Dates to Remember:
September 22: First Day of Autumn
October 10: Columbus Day
October 31: Halloween
November 8: Election Day
November 11: Veterans Day
November 24: Thanksgiving
December 21: First Day of Winter
December 25: Christmas Day
December 26-January 2: Winter Holiday—December 26 and January 2 the University will be closed for Official Business; December 27-December 30 are skeleton crew holidays
January 16: Martin Luther King Day—The University will be closed for Official Business
February 2: Groundhog Day
February 14: Valentine’s Day
February 20: President’s Day—The University will be closed for Official Business