UPDATES

IMPORTANT DATES

NIH DEADLINES

FEBRUARY 5 R01 (NEW)
FEBRUARY 12 K SERIES (NEW)
FEBRUARY 16 R03, R21, R33, R21/R33, R34, R36, UH2, UH3, UH2/U (NEW)
MARCH 12 R15 (NEW, RENEWAL, RESUBS, REVISIONS)
MARCH 5 R01 and U01 (RENEWAL, RESUBS, REVISIONS)
MARCH 12 K SERIES (RENEWAL, RESUBMISSION, REVISION)
MARCH 16 R03, R21, R33, R21/R33, R34, R36, UH2, UH3, UH2/U (RENEWAL, RE-

PUBLICATIONS


GRANTS/CONTRACTS

Hecht

Shrine Marfan – Development of a Blood Test Grant Continuation

PEDiATriC reSEARCH SEMiNAR SErIES

February 19, 2015 12:15PM-1:15PM MSB B.104

Michael Blackburn, Ph.D. UT Medical School

March 18, 2015 12:15PM-1:15PM MSB B.105

Andy Groves, Ph.D. Baylor College of Medicine

April 15, 2015 12:15PM-1:15PM MSB 3.301

Richard Behringer, Ph.D. MD Anderson Cancer Center

May 20, 2015 12:15PM-1:15PM MSB B.107

Paul Trainor, Ph.D. Stowers Institute

June 17, 2015 12:15PM-1:15PM MSB B.100

Mary Dickinson, Ph.D. Baylor College of Medicine

Researcher Conversations; an Inside View with Joe Alcorn, Ph.D.

We are introducing a new segment for the PRC newsletter this month (Researcher Conversations: an Insider View) in which we will get to know researchers in the department from an in depth perspective. This month our chat is with Joseph "Joe" Alcorn who recently won the “Man of Distinction” 2016 award from Lexus based on his work which shows that surfactant plays a protective role in the immature gut. The Men of Distinction Annual Awards Luncheon was founded in 2007 with the objective of recognizing the contributions of the many outstanding researchers in our community. The goal is to recognize the work of Houstonians who have distinguished themselves through excellence in community achievement by funding researchers in the Texas Medical Center.

Joe grew up in rural Louisiana (Abita Springs population 2,450) and got hooked on science in eighth grade using his microscope, a Christmas gift. Joe, as a child, loved nature and collected rocks and insects and spent the late winters and early springs trudging through the woods next to his home collecting samples from various puddles and drawing what he observed through the eyepiece while imagining himself as Antonie van Leeuwenhoek. His observations were used to create a science fair project that won second place in the regional science fair and took him the state science fair in Baton Rouge. After that Joe says “there was no hope. I was hooked on microbiology. I wanted to be a college professor where I could teach and be part of a team doing weird science experiments.” His ideas of what University life would be like were taken from the series of Disney movies featuring Dexter Riley, played by Kurt Russell, at Medfield College. I suppose the lesson is for all of us as adults GIVE INSPIRING and THOUGHTFUL GIFTS because you may be helping to shape a young mind!

Joe is motivated to stay in science by the collegial environment of the university setting. He still has the spark for science, “I get just as much satisfaction teaching and helping someone to make their science better, whether by reviewing grants or sharing technical knowledge.” Joe plans to dedicate his last 15 years in science to understanding the role that a pulmonary surfactant (surfactant protein A (SP-A)) plays in maintaining the health of the neonatal gastrointestinal tract and the potential use as a biomarker and therapy for necrotizing enterocolitis. This research has grown out of Joe’s work in pulmonary physiology at the Mendelson lab at UT Southwestern. Joe has dedicated much of his career to understanding how SP-A is regulated by hormones, cyclic AMP, glucocorticoids, betamethasone vitamin D, airborne particulates and pollutants and respiratory syncytial virus infection and characterized the role of nonsense-mediated decay on the stability of SP-B mRNA.

Teaching is a talent and he has won the GSBS John P. McGovern Outstanding Teacher Award and the UT–Houston MS Dean’s Teaching Excellence Award twice. Joe has served on 56 graduate student committees, mentored 14 MD fellows and 9 summer students. He also served the scientific community by reviewing grant applications for NIH (NIAID, NHLBI, American Heart Institute, Oklahoma Center for the Advancement of Science and Technology, abstracts for annual SPR/PAS meeting. His service to the Medical School and UTHouston is first rate. Joe has served on 12 committees, served and chaired the faculty senate and Faculty Search Committee for the Pediatric Research Center, co-chaired Faculty Compensation Committee, served on the Faculty Research Forum, acted as a postdoc judge, organized collaborative workshop and most importantly shares in knowledge and expertise as valued collaborator to many scientist here and in the research community. Joe is da man!!!