KUDOS

Sanjay Bidichandani, Ph.D., was selected as Course Director for Clinical Molecular Genetics for the Mid-America Genetics Education Consortium [MAGEC] (University of Oklahoma, University of Arkansas, University of Kansas, and University of Nebraska).

POSTER PRESENTATIONS

Jialing Lin, Ph.D., presented a poster entitled “The interface of Bcl-2 homodimer is distinct yet overlapping with that of Bcl-2/Bax heterodimer” at the 10th SCBA International Symposium, Beijing, July 18-23.

Wei-Xing Guo, Quentin N. Pye, Kelly S. Williamson, Charles A. Stewart, Kenneth L. Hensley, Yashige Kotake, Robert A. Floyd, and Robert H. Broyles presented a poster entitled “Disruption of Mitochondrial Membrane Potential by Choline Deficiency in Cultured CWSV-1 Rat Hepatocytes” at the 95th Annual Meeting of the American Association for Cancer Research, March 27-31, 2004, Orlando, FL.

Robert H. Broyles, Visar Belegu, Austin Roth, Katharine Harris, Charles Stewart, Quentin Pye, Biji Kurien, Kiodianna Jani, and Marie Trudel presented a poster entitled “A Phenotypic Cure for Sickle Cell Disease: A Proposal and Progress” at the 15th NIH Conference on Hemoglobin Switching, September 10-14 2004, Orcas Island, WA.

Robert H. Broyles, Visar Belegu, Charles A. Stewart, Quentin N. Pye, Austin C. Roth, Kenneth L. Hensley, and Robert A. Floyd presented a poster entitled “Targeting Transcription in Stem Cells: Ferritin Heavy Chain May Be Useful in Gene Therapy and Iron Chelation Therapy for Parkinson’s and Other Diseases” at the 2nd annual meeting of the International Society for Stem Cell Research, June 10-13, 2004, Boston, MA.

Caleb Stowell presented a poster at the SURE program this summer entitled “Investigations into the structure and function of T-synthase, an enzyme responsible for mucin glycosylation” by Caleb Stowell, Tongzhong Ju, Kiem Nguyen, Ziad Kawar, and Richard Cummings.

NEW GRANTS

Paul Weigel, Ph.D., was awarded a new NIH grant.
1 RO1 GM069961-01A1 - Structure-Function of the HA Receptor for Endocytosis. 7/1/04-6/30/07, Total Direct: $800,000

PUBLICATIONS


Richard Cummings, Ph.D., served as a regular member of the NIH Physiological Chemistry Study Section, which met in June 2004 at the NIH in Bethesda, MD.

Richard Cummings, Ph.D., is the new Chair of the Graduate Education and Curriculum Committee (GECC) of the General Program in Biomedical Sciences (GPiBS). He replaces Dr. Anne Pereira of the Department of Pathology.

Sanjay Bidichandani, Ph.D., was appointed as a member of the GPiBS student recruitment committee.

Sanjay Bidichandani, Ph.D., was appointed as a member of the OU College of Medicine, Student Promotion committee.
INVITED PRESENTATIONS

Richard Cummings, Ph.D., was invited to present a lecture at The Institute of Microbiology, Chinese Academy of Science, Beijing, China on July 8th, 2004.

Richard Cummings, Ph.D., was invited to present a lecture for the Department of Biochemistry & Molecular Biology at the Qindao University Medical School, Shandong Province, China on July 13, 2004.

Richard Cummings, Ph.D., was invited to speak at the 8th Symposium on Complex Carbohydrate in China, 2004, Shanghai, China on July 17, 2004.

Richard Cummings, Ph.D., was invited to present a lecture for the Department of Biochemistry & Molecular Biology at the SuZhou University Medical School, Jiangsu province, China on July 20, 2004.

Tongzhong Ju, Ph.D., was invited to present a lecture for the Department of Biochemistry & Molecular Biology at the Qindao University Medical School, Shandong Province, China on July 13, 2004.

Tongzhong Ju, Ph.D., was invited to speak at the 8th Symposium on Complex Carbohydrate in China, Shanghai China on July 17, 2004.

Tongzhong Ju, Ph.D., was invited to present a lecture for the Department of Biochemistry & Molecular Biology at the SuZhou University Medical School, Jiangsu province, China on July 20th, 2004.

Jialing Lin, Ph.D., was invited to speak at the Institute of Botany, Chinese Academy of Sciences, Beijing on July 6th, 2004.

Jialing Lin, Ph.D., was invited to speak at the College of Life Sciences, Peking University, Beijing on July 7, 2004.

Jialing Lin, Ph.D., was invited to speak for the Department of Medical Technology/Institute of Cell & Molecular Biology at Taipei Medical University, Taipei on July 9, 2004.

Jialing Lin, Ph.D., was invited to present “Mapping the dimer interface of Bcl-2 family proteins — Implication for apoptotic regulation and drug design” for the Department Biology at Hong Kong University of Science and Technology on July 14.

Adam Zlotnick, Ph.D., was invited to present “Describing Assembly of Nanoparticles with Minimal Thermodynamic—Kinetic Models” at the 1st Annual Viruses and Protei Cages as Materials Conference on August 1-3, 2004.

C. Pfeiffer, J.M. Johnson, and A. Zlotnick were invited to present “Thermodynamic and Kinetic Control of Assembly of Icosahedral Structures” at the 1st Annual Viruses and Protei Cages as Materials Conference on August 1-3, 2004.

C. Pfeiffer, J.M. Johnson, and A. Zlotnick were invited to present “dsDNA is a Nucleating Agent in the Production of Nanotubes Derived from CCMV Capsid Protein” at the 1st Annual Viruses and Protei Cages as Materials Conference on August 1-3, 2004.

Congratulations

Jun Peng
Pablo Ceres
Helga Veeraprame

For completing your MS Thesis Defenses.
We would like to say congratulations and farewell to Joyce Anderson who retired from our department June 30, 2004. Joyce was a very valuable member of the Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology for over 17 years. She started at OUHSC in September of 1986 as a Secretary. She worked her way up and became the Department's Business Manager in March of 1993. Joyce did an excellent job in that role while working under two different Chairmen. She leaves us in good shape as she now devotes her time and energy to herself and her family. We say thank you to Joyce for all the hard work and time she gave to us. She will be greatly missed.
The Department of Biochemistry & Molecular Biology hosted a luncheon and tour of the Department’s research programs on August 17, 2004 for the GPIBS Students. These hosts included Gillian Air, Ph.D., Edith Kinney Gaylord Presidential Professor, Sanjay Bidichandani, M.B.B.S., Ph.D., Assistant Professor, Paul DeAngelis, Ph.D., Associate Professor, Karla Rodgers, Ph.D., Assistant Professor, and Tim Mather, Ph.D., Adjunct Assistant Professor. The student ushers were Tasha Arnett, Rhonda Clark, Paul Rindler, Pablo Ceres, Mandy Peak, Laura Hern, Craig Eyster, and Breca Tracy.
Welcome to Our New Students!

PhD Students

Anthony Luyai

Jun Peng

Bojing Shao

Zhuo Wang

MS Student

Shuying Zhao

Thanks to the Welcoming Committee

Laura Hern (Chair), Jun Peng, Kellie Williams, and Mandy Peak comprised a welcoming committee that coordinated pick-up and transportation of new students from the airport to their apartments, purchased survival items for students’ first few days in the United States, made up students’ beds, accompanied students to the Social Security Office, and provided general information on Oklahoma City and our campus. We appreciate the efforts of the welcoming committee members as well as those of Jian Liu and Feng Li, who also helped out, in making the arrival of our new students a positive and welcoming experience.