


Gillian Air: NIH “Vaccines against Microbial Diseases” March 2-3, 2006; Chair, NIH/CDC study section “Influenza Research” May 1, 2006.


Paul DeAngelis: Reviewer, Texas Advanced Research Program grant study section, Austin, TX March 25-26, 2006.

Christopher West: Grant Review Panel, Reverse Site visit panel member NIH-NCRR April 2006.

Baraka Ford

Proud parents: Susan and Anthony Luyai

Born: April 7, 2006 at 11:12 p.m.
Weight: 7 lbs. 6 oz.
Length: 20 in.
May Birthdays
Craig Eyster
Carrisa White
Paul Rindler
Christina Bourne
Feng Li
Upma Gulati
Svetlana Kiosseva
Bryan Fuller
Hiro Matsumoto
T K Johnson
Robert Steinberg
Martin Levine

June Birthdays
Laura Pollard
Robert Russell
Altan Ercan
Anil Singh
Paula Reed
Last year, the Oklahoma State Business Community inaugurated the Donald W. Reynolds Governor’s Cup to encourage Oklahoma University Students to develop Business Entrepreneurship. The Cup Award is sponsored by i2E Inc., a private not-for-profit Oklahoma corporation that focuses on developing Oklahoma’s technology-based entrepreneurial economy. i2E, originally the Oklahoma Technology Development Corporation, was founded in September 1997 in response to an Oklahoma Center for the Advancement of Science and Technology (OCAST) initiative.

Business Students at any level and attending any Oklahoma State College may enter the competition. However, the primary award is at the Graduate level and is for MBA students who develop the most competitive business plan. There were 11 MBA groups entered from Universities across Oklahoma and 6 of these were selected as finalists who presented orally to a group of investors in early April. The winners, all from OU Norman, were announced at a banquet on Thursday, 20th April. The first placed group was PreDENT, prepared by Isabel Chancellor, James Haddock and Mallory Van Horn from OU Norman. They had two faculty advisors, Dr Lowell W. Busenitz, McCasland Foundation Professor of American Free Enterprise and Academic Director - Center for Entrepreneurship, who was responsible for overall guidance, and Dr Martin Levine, Associate professor of Biochemistry & Molecular Biology, OUHSC Colleges of Medicine and Dentistry. Dr Levine prepared the group on the scientific background that underlies this new business opportunity.

The business is based on Dr. Levine’s patents on lysine decarboxylase inhibitors for the prevention and treatment of periodontal disease. As in humans, this disease is common in older household pets and it is caused in the same way, except that brushing a dog or cat’s teeth is not for pet owners. A vaccine to lysine decarboxylase was developed by Dr Levine, and if given to young animals, it will inhibit the enzyme activity. Since the cost of this vaccine is small compared to the potential for later savings, it is proposed to market this vaccine to pet owners, while using the proceeds to develop the technology further for use in humans. The first place prize gives the company a setup investment worth $30,000.
Dr. Leon Unger receives the 2006 Edgar W. Young Lifetime Achievement Award presented by the OU Medical Students at the Aesculapian Banquet on Friday, April 28, 2006

The Edgar W. Young Lifetime Achievement Award was established in 1987 by students on both the Oklahoma City and Tulsa campuses in honor of its first recipient, Dr. Edgar W. Young, who served as the Associate Dean for Student Affairs. The award was created in his honor to recognize an individuals’ long-term dedication to excellence in medical education.

This award recognizes and honors Dr. Unger for his contributions to Medical Education at OU for more than 40 years. Making it even more special, his daughter Alison (Austin) and son Mark (San Antonio) were able to attend the event.

Jonathan Heinlen said in his introduction that Dr. Unger "...is an absolute icon of the OU College of Medicine. He has been nominated for the Aesculapian award eleven times, has received the Oklahoma Medal for Excellence in Teaching, was honored in 2004 with a David Ross Boyd Professorship, and is one of an elite club of professors, having received the Stanton L. Young Master Teacher Award. He is known and loved by students for his unashamed passion for teaching and for the ability to frame things exactly right – so that several years later we all still remember the concepts he taught and their relevance to clinical medicine." We will have more details, pictures and the complete text of Jonathan's introduction on the Department website.

Congratulations to Dr. Unger for this recognition of his outstanding contributions and performance as a Medical Educator. He has served the Department and University with distinction in this very important mission.
Dr. Bidichandani was chosen from among five finalist by the COM class of 2009 to receive the 2006 Aesculapian Award for Excellence in Teaching. The other candidates were from the Departments of Physiology and Family Medicine. This is the second Aesculapian Award for Dr. Bidichandani in three years, and he has been a finalist for the award three years in a row.

The Aesculapian Awards are the highest honor and recognition that a teacher can receive because the recipients are chosen, and the awards given, by the students themselves.

We are proud of his dedication, hard work and outstanding performance as a teacher. Congratulations!
Dr. Richard Cummings says “Good-bye” with a Farewell Reception held in his honor, May 17, 2006. Several Faculty, HSC friends, students, and staff attended. Dr. Paul Weigel, presented him with a plaque for his outstanding years of service and a book of instruction on “how to be a chair”. It was a bittersweet send-off, wishing him much success at Emory.

Above: Dr. Weigel making the presentation.
Below: Cummings visiting with Provost, Dr. Joseph Ferretti

Dr. Cummings with long time friend and assistant, Jane Driver.