


Augie Pioszak was awarded a one year $112,000 OCASCR entitled “Recognition of R-sponsin Adult Stem Cell Growth factors by LGR Receptors”.

AHA Predoctoral Fellowship Awarded to Xiaolei Liu in 7/1/2012, Mentor Hong Chen.

Blaine Mooers was awarded a R01 NIH entitled “The role non-canonical base pairs in RNA editing” $1.5M 07-01/12-06/16.

Guangpu Li (PI), NIH/NIGMS R01. Structural and Functional Specificity of Rab GTPases. $1,118,916 (total costs). May 2012-April 2016.

Chris West served as vice-chair at the Membrane Biology and Protein Processing NIH Study section meeting in San Francisco in June.

Yogesh Chutake: Poster presentation at the 7th International Conference on Unstable Microsatellites and Human Disease, June 9-14, 2012, Strasbourg, France entitled—“RNA-mediated transcriptional silencing in Friedreich ataxia”.

Hem Sapkota (INBRE student) presented a poster at the SURP poster session. Hem Sapkota, R. Nowlin, R. Cail, R. Rahman, W. Rodgers, and K.K. Rodgers (July 20, 2012) Regulation of the V(D)J recombinase upon genotoxic stress. Summer Undergraduate Research Programs (SURP), OUHSC.

Guangpu Li joins the editorial board of F1000 Research.

**Talks**

**Paul DeAngelis** was invited to speak about the Domain Structures in Heparan Sulfate Glycosaminoglycans on July 9, 2012 at the Proteoglycan Gordon Conference in Andover, MA.

**Paul DeAngelis** was invited to speak about the Glycosaminoglycan Synthases: Tools for Medical Applications on July 14, 2012 at the Glycobiology & Glycomics of Glycosaminoglycans, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in Troy, NY.

**Sanjay Bidichandani**: Oral presentation at the 7th International Conference on Unstable Microsatellites and Human Disease, June 9-14, 2012, Strasbourg, France entitled "Transcriptional Gene Silencing of the FXN gene in Friedreich Ataxia."

**Lyubov Popova, A. West, G. Air** “Escape mutant viruses of A/Perth/16/09 (H3N2) selected by post-vaccination human plasma contain mutations in antigenic site B but not in antigenic site A” American Society for Virology, Madison WI, July 21-25

**Mary Tappert, C. Feasley, S. Gulati, Z. Porterfield, G. Air.** “The binding specificity and affinity of human parainfluenza viruses 1, 2, and 3 “American Society for Virology, Madison WI, July 21-25

**Gillian Air**: Plenary Speaker “Evolving glycan recognition by influenza viruses” NIH/FDA Glycosciences Day, June 12, 2012


“Molecular circuits in thrombosis and inflammation.” Plenary lecture, 17th International Vascular Biology Meeting, Wiesbaden, Germany, June 2-5, 2012.—Charles Esmon

“Extracellular histones are major players in multiorgan failure.” Scientific Meeting on Translational Medicine, Howard Hughes Medical Institute, Ashburn, VA, April 24-27, 2012.—Charles Esmon


“Preventing multiorgan failure with the protein C pathway and histone blockade.” Critical Care Grand Rounds, Department of Anesthesiology, University of Alabama at Birmingham, March 1, 2012.—Charles Esmon


“Preventing multiorgan failure with the protein C pathway and histone blockade.” Department of Biochemistry & Biophysics and the McAllister Heart Institute, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, January 24, 2012.—Charles Esmon

Chris West was an invited participant at the one-day Glyco-summit Workshop on the Future Direction of Glycoscience in Europe, sponsored by the European National Science Foundation Euroglycoforum Research Network Programme, held in Madrid Spain during the 26th International Carbohydrate Symposium sponsored by the International Carbohydrate Organization.

**Professor Emeritus Dr. Leon Unger** was recognized in a special graduation-related ceremony on the Norman campus. He received an OU Regents' Alumni Award for his 45 years of outstanding service and his exceptionally high level of performance as a Medical Student educator.

**Lyubov Popova** and **Mary Tappert** (Air lab) both received travel awards.

**Special Recognition**

**Talks cont.**

Yogesh Chutake was selected as a semifinalist for the 2012 Charles J. Epstein Trainee Awards for Excellence in Human Genetics Research for the 62nd annual meeting of the American Society of Human Genetics, which will be held in San Francisco, November 6-10. At the semifinalist stage he received an award for complimentary registration to the 2012 annual meeting and $750. Only 60 semifinalists have been selected out of nearly 800 applicants.
MEDIA COVERAGE—

Oklahoma biotech company charges through partnering session at Boston conference

Boston—It was just more than a month ago that Oklahoma City-based Caisson Biotech LLC signed a developmental license agreement with Novo Nordisk of Denmark that ultimately could be worth more than $100 million.

Founded by University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center researcher and professor Paul DeAngelis, Caisson Biotech developed HEPtuneTM, a heparosan-based drug delivery system, that can be used as a platform in a wide variety of therapeutic areas. Novo Nordisk is a global health care company and leader in diabetes care.

The Novo Nordisk deal is only the beginning for Caisson Biotech, DeAngelis said Wednesday before he and two company executives began their third straight day of intense partnering discussions at the 2012 BIO International Convention.

“Novo Nordisk recognized this is an interesting technology and is now working toward improving three of their drugs using HEPtune,” DeAngelis said. “Now other companies are beginning to contact us, including a number of top-ranked pharmaceutical companies.”

Tuesday, DeAngelis, along with Breca Tracy, the company’s director of business development who received her Ph.D. from OU under DeAngelis, and new CEO Glenn Nedwin, made a full presentation to a major pharmaceutical company just across the Charles River in Cambridge, Mass.

“After we executed this agreement I knew it would expand Caisson's horizons,” DeAngelis said. “This platform technology has the potential to be leveraged for a number of existing marketed drugs and new drugs currently in development.”

Caisson Biotech is a portfolio company of Emergent Technologies Inc., an innovation and management firm in Austin, Texas. Emergent also serves as the management firm of three other Oklahoma City-based companies founded upon the scientific research of sugar polymers by DeAngelis.

From left, Glenn Nedwin, Caisson Biotech CEO (and former University of Oklahoma HSC Biochem PhD student), Breca Tracy, director of business development, and Paul DeAngelis, founder and chief scientist, at the BIO International Convention in Boston on June 20, 2012.

PHOTO BY JIM STAFFORD, For the Oklahoman

The Hays Group would like to welcome Rebba Casteel to the lab as a new PhD student. Rebba is entering BMB through the GPiBS program and is interested in using biophysical methods to study protein structure and function. Rebba earned her undergraduate degree at UCO in Chemistry-ACS with a minor in Biology. While at UCO she was named a 2011 Outstanding Graduating Senior and a recipient of the Fred Grosz (2008) and Verlin Richardson (2010) Scholarships. She previously worked in the Advanced Magnetic Resonance Center at OMRF, has two prior scientific publications as a co-author, and a very strong background in physical chemistry and mathematics. Welcome to the lab Rebba!

Caleb Marlin (Li lab) received his B.S. in Cell and Molecular Biology from Cameron Univ in spring of 2011. Received the John C. Johnson Award for excellence in undergraduate research in 2008 from the Beta Beta Beta national biological honors society and received 1st place in the INBRE poster competition in 2010. He and his wife have a 2 year old daughter and another girl on the way in August.

Jami Gurley (Olson lab) graduated from UCO in Edmond last Spring 2011 with a major in Biology and a minor in Chemistry. She has an 11 yr-old daughter. They enjoy going to see films and reading together.

Suzanne LaPolla received her BS Chemistry at the Univ of Tulsa. She worked in Dr. Lin’s lab for 5 years before returning to enroll in the MS program in the Biochem & Molec Biol department. She enjoys reading and spending time with her husband Matt and son Christopher.

Robert Jackson (Olson lab) graduated with a Biology-Chemistry degree at Southern Nazarene University May 2011. Robert participated in 3 different research experiences during his undergraduate, one of which was the SURE program at OUHSC in 2010 in the lab of Dr. Ann Louise Olson. After that summer, he stayed on with Dr. Olson as a lab technician before being accepted into the GPiBS program July 2011. Robert entered as a graduate student into Dr. Olson’s lab this last spring 2012. Outside of lab, he is involved with my church, Western Oaks Church of the Nazarene. I also enjoy taking time for a good game of disc golf, racquetball, or ultimate Frisbee.

Braxton Nottingham (Zou lab) grew up in a rural area outside of Lawrence, Kansas. He received his bachelors degree from Oklahoma State University in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology. He started the MD/PhD program in 2010 here at OUHSC. Braxton enjoys outdoor activities (hunting, fishing, camping, golf, really anything that gets him outdoors since he is indoors most of the day with school/lab).