Chair Speaks Out…

Welcome to the 08/09 academic year. This past year was a very busy one for the department, most notably due to the arrival of James Zheng from the Robert Wood Johnson School of Medicine where he was Professor of Neuroscience and Cell Biology. As you likely know, James is internationally renowned for his pioneering studies detailing the mechanisms underlying growth cone dynamics. He couples biochemical and genetic manipulation of developing neurites with state-of-the-art imaging approaches to unravel the intracellular signaling cascades that influence growth cone turning toward or away from chemotactic cues. The arrival of James to the department brings our research active faculty to 24 investigators, 15 tenure track and 9 research track. Notably, the department’s NIH funding has increased more than four-fold, while faculty size has remained relatively constant, during the past 11-12 years.

In conjunction with the Center for Respiratory Health, housed in the Division of Pulmonary Medicine, the department has initiated the recruitment of an epithelial cell biologist. The Center will have members in Cell Biology and Physiology, along with a number of clinical departments, to bring together basic and clinical investigators to focus on the response of the respiratory epithelium to inherited diseases, such as cystic fibrosis, as well as environmental insults, such as smoking and asbestos. The department has offered this position to Elizabeth Smith, an Associate Professor at Dartmouth, who is a rising star in the structure and function of cilia. We hope to be able to convince Beth to relocate to Emory this coming Spring.

This past year we also enjoyed an excellent retreat in the Georgia mountains, thanks to the efforts of Ken Moberg, Subhabrata Sanyal, and Ping Chen, as well as our ongoing Wednesday seminar series and monthly B&G presentations. My thanks to all who organize and participate in these events, which are crucial for enriching the scholarly atmosphere in the Department. Similarly, this past year saw the implementation of the new medical school curriculum, for which we owe much to members of this department for taking the lead in organizing many of the new modules. Special thanks to Win Sale and Victor Faundez, both of whom were awarded the Dean’s Award for Excellence in Medical Education in recognition of their efforts in implementing and directing portions of the new curriculum.

Finally, this year saw the appointment of two new joint faculty members; Michael Koval (Pulmonary Medicine) and Sho Ono (Pathology), who join Guy Benian (Pathology), Steven Wolf (Rehab), and Erick Lin (Otolaryngology) as joint appointees in the Department. All of these individuals have maintained very close collaborative ties with the Department, which we recognize by appointing them as joint faculty in Cell Biology. Please join me in welcoming them to the Department.

With my best wishes for another prosperous year for the Department and Institution.
LABS:

- BASSELL LAB (415)
- CHEN LAB (555)
- DUNLAP LAB (415)
- ENGLISH LAB (425)
- FAUNDEZ LAB (455)
- HARTZELL LAB (535)
- JOSHI LAB (455)
- KOWALCZYK LAB (465)
- LIN LAB (535)
- LUSKIN LAB (555)
- MCKEON LAB (535)
- MOBERG LAB (435)
- POWERS LAB (455)
- SALE LAB (465)
- SANYAL LAB (435)
- SCOTT LAB (425)
- SHUR LAB (475)
- ZHENG LAB (555)

NEW HIRES IN CELL BIOLOGY:

David Anderson, Embalming Asst. – PB89 SOM
Samuel Beckerman, Research Spec. – McKeon Lab
Mallory Bowers, Research Spec. – Sanyal Lab
Emilie Dinh, Post-Doc Fel. – Lin Lab
Jocasta Gates MBA Student & Technician – Bassell Lab
Liang Han, Grad Student – Zheng Lab
Sara Jones, Grad Student – Moberg Lab
Chi Wai Lee, Post-Doc Fel. – Zheng Lab
Rachel Lynn, Research Spec. – Zheng Lab
Dan Pong, Grad Student – Bassell Lab
Yu Sun, Post-Doc Fel. – Lin Lab
Pat Whitworth III, Research Spec. – Hartzell Lab

Richard Anderson, Research Spec. – Chen Lab
Kinsley Belle, Research Spec. – Bassell Lab
Dorothy Brown, Admin. Asst./Special Events Mgr.
Yanjie Fan, Grad Student – Zheng Lab
Jiaping Gu, Grad Student – Zheng Lab
Maria Heszle, Grad Student – Chen Lab
Drew Kohlhorst, Post-Doc Fel. – Kowalczyk Lab
Wendy Lo, Research Spec. – Bassell Lab
Amy Pierce, Sr. Research Spec. – Powers Lab
Masataka Saito, Post-Doc Fel. – Kowalczyk Lab
Wenxue, Tang, Assistant Professor – Lin Lab
AWARDS/ACHIEVEMENTS:

-Congratulations to Kinsley Belle who successfully defended his combined BS/MS thesis “The use of cell-penetrating peptides to deliver SMN protein to neuronal cells” on May 5th, 2008, working under the direction of Dr. Wilfried Rossoll and Dr. Gary Bassell.

-Congratulations to Viji Nalavadi, Ph.D., postdoctoral fellow in Gary Bassell's lab recently received a fellowship from FRAXA entitled Regulation of dendritic mRNA transport and translation at the synapse by FMRP phosphorylation

-Congratulations to Sharon Swanger, Neuroscience graduate student in Gary Bassell's lab, who was recently appointed to Emory’s Training Grant in Translational Research in Neurology. The title of her proposal is “Regulation of CPEB1-mediated dendritic mRNA localization and translation during seizures".

-Congratulations to Kristy Welshhans, Ph.D., postdoctoral fellow in Gary Bassell's lab, who recently received a 1.7% score on her NRSA fellowship application, entitled “ZBP1-mediated transport and local translation of beta-actin mRNA in growth cones.”

-Congratulations to Yukio Sasaki, Ph.D. (Instructor) on receipt of the Emory University Research Council award entitled “Identification and analysis of axonal microRNA”.

-Congratulations to Emma Delva, grad student in Andrew Kowalczyk’s lab – for being one of 250 graduate students selected to attend the National Institutes of Health Annual Graduate Student Research Festival, September 11-12, 2008.

FELLOWSHIPS:

- Christine Chiasson (Kowalczyk lab): American Heart Association
- Qinghuan Xiao: American Heart Association
- Subhabrata Sanyal: NARSAD Young Investigator
Letter from the EVP:

Dear Colleagues,

There’s no doubt among our own faculty, staff, students, and constituents that the Woodruff Health Sciences Center is one of the premier academic health centers in the country as well as a terrific place to work. But it’s always nice to have our high standards and excellence confirmed by objective, independent sources. That’s just what’s happened in the past week – when *U.S. News & World Report* and *The Chronicle of Higher Education* released their prestigious annual rankings and scored Emory among the best nationwide in several critical areas.

*U.S. News & World Report* released its annual ranking of the best hospitals in America. It should come as no surprise that Emory University Hospital is among the Nation’s best – with eight specialties scoring rankings, including seven in the top 20:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Speciality</th>
<th>Rank</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ophthalmology</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Geriatrics</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Psychiatry</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Heart</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neurology/Neurosurgery</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ear, Nose, Throat</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kidney Disease</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cancer</td>
<td>47</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

This outstanding showing was followed by the release of *The Chronicle of Higher Education*’s “2008 Great Colleges to Work For” rankings, which again scored Emory among the best in the country in several key areas. We achieved top five status in the “large universities” category in several measures, including:

- Healthy faculty-administration relations
- Teaching environment
- Facilities and security
- Job satisfaction
- Work-life balance
- Confidence in senior leadership
- Internal communications
- Connection to institution and pride
- Physical workplace conditions
- Supervisor or department chair relationship
- Perception and confidence in fair treatment
- Respect and appreciation
- Engagement index

Impressive achievements like these don’t happen in a vacuum. It takes the expertise, passion, and commitment of each of us to excel to this degree. Please accept my enthusiastic congratulations and my heartfelt thanks for all that you do to make Emory and the Woodruff Health Sciences Center so successful. You are truly helping us make progress toward our vision of transforming health and healing…together.

Thank you.

Fred

Fred Sanfilippo, MD, Ph.D.
Executive Vice President for Health Affairs, Emory University
CEO, Woodruff Health Sciences Center
Chairman, Emory Healthcare
PUBLICATIONS:


Bassell GJ and Gross C. Reducing glutamate signaling pays off in fragile X. Nature Medicine, 2008, 14(3);249-250.


ABSTRACTS:

Emma Delva:
My paper entitled, "Pemphigus Vulgaris IgG-induced Desmoglein-3 Endocytosis and Desmosomal Disassembly Are Mediated by a Clathrin- and Dynamin-independent Mechanism" is published in the Journal of Biological Chemistry
GRANTS AND CONTRACTS NEWS

New Awards

Ritu Aneja ‘Metastatic Prostate Cancer Therapy by a Novel Sing-Agent, DOD
Total Costs: $344,250 (3 years)

Gary Bassell “Baylor Fragile X Center”, Baylor/NIH
Total Costs: $824,846 (5 years)

Gary Bassell “Imaging of the Fragile X Protein and Role in mRNA Translation” National Fragile X Foundation
Total Costs: $9,000 (1 year)

Gary Bassell “Regulation of Dendritic Transport and Translation at the Synapse by FMRP

Gary Bassell “Mechanisms of Desmosome Regulation and Disassembly in the Skin Disease Pemphigus”

V. Nalavadi Phosphorylation”, FRAXA Fellowship
Total Costs: $40,000 (1 year)

Ping Chen “Morphogenesis of the Organ of Corti”, NIH
Total Costs: $386,250 (1 year)

Ping Chen March of Dimes research grant: “Planar cell polarity signaling in vertebrates” DC: ~ Total Costs: $270,000 (3 years)

Victor Faundez “Mechanisms of Endosome Trafficking in Neurons”, NIH
Total Costs: $342,000 (1 year)

Criss Hartzell “Retinal Degeneration and Chloride Channels”, NIH
Total Costs: $1,549,175 (4 years)

Criss Hartzell “Bestrophin 3 Regulates Calcium Channels in Heart”, AHA Fellowship

Q. Xiao Total Costs: $87,272 (2 years)

Andy Kowalczyk “Regulation of Ve-Cadherin Endocytosis by P120-Catenin”, AHA Fellowship

C. Chiasson $19,000 (1 year)

Subhabrata Sanyal “Molecular Mechanisms of Drug Addiction Ap-1 and NFAT Regulate, NARSAD Total Costs: $60,000 (2 years)

James Zheng “Mechanisms of Growth Cone Turning in Diffusible Gradient”, NIH
Total Costs: $1,077,075 (4 years)

James Zheng “Directed Growth Cone Migration by Calcium Signals”, NIH
Total Costs: $848,000 (4 years)

Upcoming NIH Receipt Dates:

R01 (New): October 5, February 5
R01 (Renewal, Resubmission) November 5, March 5

R03, R21 (New): October 16, February 16
R03, R21 (Renewal, Resubmission): November 16, March 16

K Series (New): October 12, February 12
K Series (Renewal Resubmission): November 12, March 12

F Series – All (Individual NRSA): December 10, April 10
Internal Deadlines: Proposal forms with a draft of the research plan are due to the Medical School 10 working days (2 weeks) ahead of the dates noted above. The final version of the entire grant is due to the OSP electronic drop box 5 working days (1 week) ahead of the dates noted above. Final hard-copies of grants which cannot be approved online are also due to OSP five days ahead of the deadline.

Other Research News (From OSP Newsletter, March, 2008)

As of April 7, 2008, a new federal law requires scientists to submit journal articles that result from NIH funds to the digital archive PubMed Central upon acceptance for publication. Full texts of the articles will be publicly available and searchable online in PubMed Central no later than 12 months after publication in a journal. This policy applies to you if your peer-reviewed article is based on work directly funded by an NIH grant or cooperative agreement active in Fiscal Year 2008 (10/1/2007 – 9/30/2008) or beyond or directly funded by a contract signed on or after April 7, 2008. Compliance with the new law includes the following three steps:

1. **Address Copyright.** Before you sign a publication agreement or similar copyright transfer agreement, make sure the agreement allows the article to be submitted to NIH in accordance with the Public Access Policy.

2. **Submit the article to NIH.** Deposit a copy of the peer-reviewed manuscript in the NIH Manuscript Submission System (NIHMS).

3. **Cite.** As of May 25, 2008, NIH application, proposals and progress reports must include the PubMed Central reference number when citing an article that falls under the policy and is authored or co-authored by the investigator, or resulted from the investigator’s NIH award.


The following web sites provide important information regarding electronic submission of NIH grants:

- Power Point presentation used for Emory’s training classes
  [http://www.osp.emory.edu/proposals/esubmit/esubinfo.cfm](http://www.osp.emory.edu/proposals/esubmit/esubinfo.cfm)

- NIH’s information and formats

- **Research Administration News**, a monthly newsletter which provides timely information about various aspects of research at [www.or.emory.edu/newsletter.cfm](http://www.or.emory.edu/newsletter.cfm).
ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

GRADUATES

Kinsley Belle – graduated May 12, 2008

Wendy Lo is a pre-med graduate of Emory University

WEDDING

Christine Chiasson was married on Saturday, June 21, 2008.

NEW ARRIVAL

Ravi Muddashetty, Ph.D. and Viji Nalavadi, Ph.D.
Baby girl, June 6, 2008. Inchara Muddashetty
6 pounds, 3 ounces, and 18 inches.
**EVENTS:**

**HIGHLIGHTS**

**Apr. 23, 2008** Goodwin and Rose Helen Breinin Lectureship in Basic Sciences

**May 2 – 3, 2008** Retreat (Ken Moberg) – Forest Hills Mountain Resort, Dahlonega, GA

**Jul. 21, 2008** Reception: Department of Cell Biology for Dr. Elizabeth Smith, Cory Ahonen, and Erin Dymek from Dartmouth College, Hanover, NH

**Sep. 27, 2008** Diabetes Walk – Windward Concourse Alpharetta, GA

**Oct. 25, 2008** Relay / Life Kick-Off, Breast Cancer Awareness White Hall, Emory

**B & G SCHEDULE**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Speaker</th>
<th>Institution</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Oct 13</td>
<td>Sanyal</td>
<td>Emory Physics</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nov 10</td>
<td>Powers</td>
<td>GA Tech</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dec 8</td>
<td>Scott</td>
<td>Univ. Indiana</td>
</tr>
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**SEMINAR SCHEDULE**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Speaker</th>
<th>Institution</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Oct. 1</td>
<td>Keith Berland</td>
<td>Emory Physics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct. 8</td>
<td>Andres Garcia</td>
<td>GA Tech</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct. 15</td>
<td>Claire Waleczak</td>
<td>Univ. Indiana</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oct. 22</td>
<td>Asma Nusrat</td>
<td>Emory Pathology</td>
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<td>Oct. 29</td>
<td>Vic Rafuse</td>
<td>Dalhousie Univ.</td>
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<td>Nov. 5</td>
<td>Jennifer Darnell</td>
<td>Rockefeller Univ.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nov. 12</td>
<td>Maureen Wirschell</td>
<td>Emory Cell Bio.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nov. 19</td>
<td>Julie Brill</td>
<td>Hospital for Sick Children</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dec 3</td>
<td>Henri Tiedge</td>
<td>Suny Brooklyn</td>
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**Holiday Schedule**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Holiday</th>
<th>2008</th>
<th>2009</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>New Year's Day</td>
<td>Tuesday 01/01/08</td>
<td>Thursday 01/01/09</td>
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<tr>
<td>Martin Luther King Jr.'s Birthday</td>
<td>Monday 01/21</td>
<td>Monday 01/19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Memorial Day</td>
<td>Monday 05/26</td>
<td>Monday 05/25</td>
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<tr>
<td>Independence Day</td>
<td>Friday 07/04</td>
<td>Friday 07/03</td>
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<tr>
<td>Labor Day</td>
<td>Monday 09/01</td>
<td>Monday 09/07</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thanksgiving</td>
<td>Thursday 11/27</td>
<td>Thursday 11/26</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Friday 11/28</td>
<td>Friday 11/27</td>
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<tr>
<td>Christmas</td>
<td>Wednesday 12/24</td>
<td>Thursday 12/24</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Thursday 12/25</td>
<td>Friday 12/25</td>
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<tr>
<td>New Year's Eve</td>
<td>Wednesday 12/31</td>
<td>Thursday 12/31</td>
</tr>
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In addition to these holidays, employees who are eligible for paid holidays will be eligible for one or two floating holidays per year, depending on their date of employment.

**FEEDBACK REQUESTED:** Send to: Dorothy W. Brown

Department of Cell Biology
Emory University School of Medicine
Whitehead Biomedical Research Bldg.
615 Michael Street, 4th Floor
Atlanta, GA 30322-3030

Call 404-727-3640