NEWSLETTER
Department of Cell Biology

October 12, 2010

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NEW HIRES:

Ping Guo, Postdoc  Bassell Lab
Lei Xing, Postdoc  Bassell Lab
Pradeep Kumar Naik, Postdoc  Joshi Lab
Shana Kerr, Postdoc  Katz Lab
Ashley King, Research Specialist  Katz Lab
Dexter Myrick, Research Specialist  Katz Lab
Sarah Stahley, Grad Student (BCDB)  Kowalczyk Lab
Christopher Caughman, Research Specialist  Kowalczyk Lab
Seth Kelly, Postdoc  Moberg Lab
Sangwoo Shim, Postdoc  Zheng Lab
Patrick Mulligan, Postdoc  Zheng Lab
Paula Bokros, Human Resources Associate  Department Office
Brenda Williams, Research Accountant  Department Office
PROMOTIONS, RECOGNITIONS AND NEW FUNDING:

Promotions:

- Ken Moberg promoted from Assistant Professor to Associate Professor with Tenure.
- Wilfried Rossoll promoted from Instructor to Assistant Professor.
- Maureen Wirschell promoted from Postdoc to Assistant Professor.
- Jocasta Odom promoted from Research Specialist to Lead Research Specialist.

Recognitions:

- Barry Shur, Chairman of the Department of Cell Biology, will be stepping down to take a new post as founding Dean of the new Graduate School at the University of Colorado in Denver.
- Win Sale, Professor and Deputy Chair was awarded the “One in a Hundred” Mentor Award presented by the Postdoc Research Symposium Committee – May 2010.
- Rebecca Correll, former Accounting & Office Manager and HR Representative, was honored with a retirement reception, June 2010. She has been with Emory 23 years and is currently working part time in the Department of Cell Biology.
- James Cooper, Lead Embalmer, plans on retiring the end of October 2010 from the Body Donor Program. He has been with Emory 21 years.
- Jorge Arreola and Patricia Perez-Cornejo are visiting professors from Mexico who are taking one-year sabbaticals in the Hartzell lab.
- Sarah Nicholson, Ph.D., (Moberg lab) defended her Dissertation in August 2010.
- Michael Kelly, 2010 SDB travel award. Invited speaker for Jax Lab meeting: Mouse as an instrument for inner ear study - September 2010.
- Rida Padmashree, Southeast Society for Developmental Biology Annual Meeting; Regional Award for Best Oral Presentation, 2010.

New Funding:

- Criss Hartzell, Emory URC grant, 6/10 – 8/11, “Reduction of myotonia by activation of anoctamins 2 and 5”.
- Wilfried Rossoll, MDA 173851, 7/1/10 – 6/30/13, “The role of the ALS disease protein TDP-43 in motor neurons”.
- Win Sale, Emory URC grant, 6/10 – 8/11 “The molecular role of LAS1 in ciliary and non-ciliary functions”.

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Farewell to Barry

I assume everyone knows by now that Barry is officially leaving Emory on November 15, 2010. The Dean’s letter which follows provides an overview of his academic contributions to Cell Biology and Emory as well as some details about his new position at the University of Colorado Denver. On behalf of the administrative staff I would like to add a brief comment.

Some of us have worked with Barry since he came to Emory in 1996. It is often stressful and difficult to adjust to working with and for a new Chairman, but we soon came to learn that Barry was a great boss and inspiring leader. He is smart, open, kind, fair, and generous to a fault, which is surprising for a New Jersey native. He had an agenda in the best sense of the word, a selfless one which required everyone to focus on what would be best for the developing Department of Cell Biology, for the students, the faculty and the staff, and he expected us to have a good time doing it! The thing is, Barry hasn’t really changed that much – he still is smart, open, kind, fair, and generous to a fault. He still cares more about the department than himself. He continues to be passionate about science and is as energetic as the proverbial bunny. My guess is that this is the way he will always be, so the University of Colorado is very lucky. I expect that Barry will always have special and fond memories of this department, and I also expect his memories will even evoke a chuckle or two as he moves on in Colorado. Though they say that no one is irreplaceable, Barry comes pretty close and we will miss him. Barry, come visit us often. LJ

Message from Dean Lawley

It is with mixed emotions that I announce that Barry Shur, PhD, Charles Howard Candler Professor and Chairman of the School of Medicine’s Department of Cell Biology, will be stepping down to take a new post as founding Dean of the new Graduate School at the University of Colorado Denver.

I had the good fortune to recruit Barry to Emory in 1996, and he was one of the first chairs I hired. Barry helped to build the former anatomy and cell biology department into a contemporary cell biology department that focused on the intersection of cell, developmental and neurobiology. He recruited 10 of the 15 faculty in the department today.

In his new post, Barry will lead a Graduate school that was created in 2009. This was a result of University consolidating its Denver campus with the Medical Campus to comprise the University of Colorado Denver. There are currently over 2,000 students enrolled in 60 PhD and Master’s programs administered by the individual schools -- and now incorporated into the new Graduate School that Barry will lead at the Colorado institution.

Please join me in thanking Barry for his leadership, scholarship and many contributions to bettering Emory and the School of Medicine. We also want to take the time to wish him well in his new endeavors in Denver.

Warm Regards,
Thomas J. Lawley, M.D.
Dean, Emory University School of Medicine
OPPORTUNITIES AND PROGRAMS

- The SOM Staff Development Mentoring Workgroup will be working with Human Resources to determine how to partner with the existing mentoring programs. Please email Christie.Nichols.Kuropatwa@emory.edu, if you are interested in being a Mentor. No special training necessary, only a desire to share knowledge and skills with another staff member for 2 hours per month.

- The Emory Worklife Resource Center has developed a website for you at www.worklife.emory.edu, or phone 404-727-8000. It is a virtual one-stop location for programs and services that help strengthen work life at Emory. It includes workshops to help employees manage child and elder care issues.

- HR Learning Services Class Offerings website: www.hr.emory.edu/learningservices. Also, web-based classes are offered at your own pace - stop and start at your convenience. Call 404-727-7607.

- The SOM New Staff Orientation is tentatively scheduled for October 14, 2010. All new hires and temporary employees (intended length at least 3 months) should attend. Register in PeopleSoft Self Service.

Chris & Jocasta Odom’s son - Connor at 8 months

Michael Kraetz

James Cooper

Guest
CALENDAR:

October 6, 2010: Seminar Jacek Gaertig/UGA, hosted by Win Sale
October 28, 2010 Retirement Party Jim Cooper, hosted by the Department of Cell Biology
November 3, 2010 Seminar Victor Corces/Arts and Distinguished Professor and Chair, Department of Biology, hosted by Maureen Powers
November 5, 2010 Farewell Party Barry Shur, hosted by the Department of Cell Biology
November 25 & 26, 2010 Thanksgiving Holidays
December 1, 2010 Seminar Cara Gottardi/Chicago, hosted by Erica Werner
December 23 & 24, 2010 Christmas Holidays
December 30 & 31, 2010 New Year’s Holidays
B & G Hosted by Faculty the second Monday of each month.

Send Feedback to: Dorothy W. Brown, dwbrow2@emory.edu