On behalf of the MCB Graduate Program, we’re pleased to share our annual Newsletter filled with insights about our students, faculty and staff. Dr. Wali Karzai started his fourth year as Director of the MCB Program. This program has nearly 100 faculty members, representing 13 different departments on the Stony Brook campus, in addition to a large number of investigators from Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory and Brookhaven National Laboratory.

This past Fall we welcomed 9 new incoming MCB graduate students. Our Admission season is now complete for 2016 and new students are appointed for the Fall.

Here’s our 2015 students:

Julie Bettke
Yixin Hu
Jessica Imperato
Muyang Li
Megan Mladinich
Padmina Shrestha
Jialin Sun
Wenbo Xu
Qian Zhang
Molecular, Cellular, and Structural Biology Training Program (MCSB)

We’re proud of our training program which was established in 1997 with another renewal just submitted. The goal of our Molecular, Cellular, and Structural Biology (MCSB) Training Program is to provide outstanding pre-doctoral training on a wide variety of topics involving basic biological and biomedical processes at the molecular and cellular level. The training program enhances the education of students from two interdepartmental Stony Brook Graduate Programs: Molecular and Cellular Biology (MCB) and Biochemistry and Structural Biology (BSB).

Students currently supported by the MCSB training grant are Matthew Elmes, Eric Paulissen, Matthew Simons and Gregory Carbonetti from the MCB program. And Johnna St. Clair and Roger Shek from the BSB program.

Andreyah Pope was chosen to be an affiliate of the training grant (a participant in the training grant activities but with financial support from other grants).

Jinelle Wint and Andreyah Pope were chosen to participate in IMSD-Merge, an NIH funded Program for underrepresented minorities.

2015 MCB/BSB Retreat

Our annual retreat was a picture perfect day in September on the beautiful waterfront at Lombardi’s on the Sound. Dr. Karzai was our M.C. and MCB and BSB faculty were invited to speak and present their research. Our speakers included Brian Sheridan, Dave Matus, Mark Bowen, Jiang Chen, and Steve Glynn. All 4th year MCB and BSB students presented their posters, which generated much interest among the attendees. Best poster awards were given to Kuan Hu and Anthony Rampello. Outstanding Service awards were given to Greg Carbonetti, Matt Elmes, Matt Simons and Johnna St. Clair. Neha Puri won Best Presentation Award.
"Although there’s a lot of information available online, it’s so much better to hear it from someone who actually went through the process in person."

"It gave me a glimpse of the career possibilities for someone with a degree in molecular biology."
2015 Student - Invited Faculty Seminar

This seminar was held at the Hilton Garden Inn with faculty and students. The speaker was Dr. Craig Townsend from Johns Hopkins University. His talk was entitled “Biosynthesis of β-Lactam Antibiotics and the Force of Convergent Evolution.” Students had an enriching interaction with him. This event was organized by Neha Puri and Michael Tramantano and was a huge success!

Student Comments:
- “Undertaking research in the area of pathways is increasingly rare and it was nice to see someone who has spent their entire career focused on elucidating a novel pathway.”
- “I learned a great deal about the fundamentals of drug development and chemistry that goes behind designing small molecule inhibitors.”

Visualization of Muscle Actin and Satellite Cell Nuclei in Two Day Old Zebrafish

A Digitized “Brainbow”

2015 MCB 2nd Year Student Symposium

Second year students had a full day with breakfast and lunch as they presented their research to their colleagues and MCB faculty. Also in attendance were a few of our newly entered 2015 students: Julie Bettke, Jessica Imperato and Padmina Shrestha.
Recent Student Publications


Appelmann I, Rillahan CD, de Stanchina E, Carbonetti G, Chen C, Lowe SW, Sherr CJ. Janus Kinase Inhibition by Ruxolitinib Extends Dasatinib-Induced Remissions in a Mouse Model of Ph+ ALL. Blood 2015.


Predicted binding poses of tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) and cannabidiol (CBD) within human

Recent Student Publications (continued)


Aaron Neiman, Professor and Chair, was elected to Fellowship in the American Academy of Microbiology.

James Konopka, Professor of Molecular Genetics and Microbiology, was also elected to Fellowship in the American Academy of Microbiology.

2015 Dr. W. Burghardt Turner Fellowship - Megan Mladinich, 1st year graduate student

2016 Dean’s Award for Excellence in Service to Graduate Education by a Graduate Program Coordinator

We’re proud to report, our very own Joann Delucia, Graduate Program Coordinator for MCB & BSB.

Jinelle Wint, 2nd year graduate student – participated in the introduction and conclusion of the video highlighting “Pathways to Undergraduate Research.” She explained the different opportunities for undergrads to be engaged in research.

Jinelle also participated in the 48-Hour Imagine Science Film Festival Competition. Her team won first place!

Hana Goto, 4th year graduate student – won 1st place award for Best Poster at NESDB (North Eastern Society of Developmental Biology)

Beth Harvey - recipient of UPenn Postdoctoral Fellowship for Academic Diversity

Welcome to our new MCB faculty: Ashley Snider – Assistant Professor, Department of Medicine; Luis Martinez - Associate Professor, Stony Brook Medicine, Department of Pathology; Patricia Thompson-Carino - Professor, School of Medicine, Department of Pathology; Jun Chung – Associate Professor, School of Medicine, Department of Pathology; Bruce Demple – Professor, School of Medicine, Pharmacological Sciences

August 2015:

Jennifer Martinez – Visiting Faculty Member at Evergreen State College, Washington

Nadia Jaber – Health Communications Fellow at National Cancer Institute, Maryland

Shriya Sahu – Scientist at Prosetta Biosciences, California

Achraf Shamseddine – Returned to Medical School

Saadat Aleem – Returned to Medical School

December 2015:

Brandon Cieniewicz – Post-doc Scholar at Stanford University, California

William Haynes – Technology Commercialization Fellow at the Center for Biotechnology, Stony Brook

Xin Zhou – Postdoctoral Fellow at Integrated Cardio Metabolic Center (ICMC), Sweden
Second Year Student Symposium – June 17th
New Student Orientation – Week of August 22nd
MCB, BSB, BCB and Genetics BBQ – August 25th (tentative)
Retreat – September 6th
Annual Christmas Party – December TBA

Genome wide Copy Number Alteration analysis, performed at single cell resolution

May 2016