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BIOCHEMISTRY NEWSLETTER

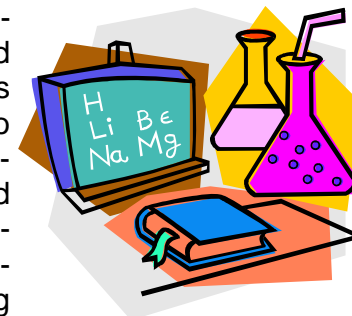
August 2007

CHAIRMAN'S CORNER

Contemporary Topics in Biochemistry

Written by William Zehring

The first session of the newly renovated non-credit elective for M1 medical students, "Contemporary Topics in Biochemistry," is scheduled to take place on Tuesday, August 28th at 6:00PM in the Sixth Floor Conference Room. The course includes ten such Tuesday evening sessions, grouped into five pairs. This August date is the first of a pair of sessions facilitated by Dr. Stock, on the topic of recent media reports on resveratrol, companioned with some of the science behind the interest in this diet-derived compound. Indeed, this topic typifies the approach being taken in the elective this year, to draw attention to topics of contemporary interest in human health and disease, with significant ties to biochemistry and molecular biology, and to expand upon them by delving into the primary literature. The other four participating faculty and their topics are: Dr. Hampsey on "Cancer, Chromatin and Chemotherapy," Dr. Nanda on "Pathogen Evolution – Drug Resistance and Host Species Jumping," Dr. Gélinas on "Inflammation and Cancer," and Dr. Habas on "Wnt Signaling During Embryogenesis." Students in Medical Biochemistry have been encouraged to apply to participate in the course. In order to receive recognition for this non-credit elective, students will be required to attend at least eight of the ten sessions as well as to give a presentation on one of the five topics during the semester. Students teaching students. I'm happy to report that there is strong interest in this course among first year medical students; I've received many applications already. Many have spoken to me and indicated that they're looking forward to the opportunity to interact with Departmental faculty, exploring interesting topics in the informal setting of this elective. Many thanks to the participating faculty.



Welcome to the Department

Yuko Komiya, a Postdoctoral Fellow who will be performing research in the laboratory of Raymond Habas.

Zhuoxin Yu, a graduate student conducting research in Masayori Inouye's laboratory.

Sen Doyel, a graduate student conducting research in the laboratory of Smita Patel.

Orly Raviv, a graduate student conducting research in the laboratory of Vikas Nanda.

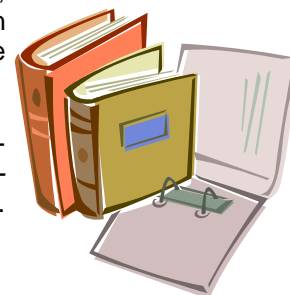
Publications

Li, Y., **Brodsky, B.** and Baum, J. (2007) NMR Shows Hydrophobic Interactions Replace Glycine Packing in the Triple Helix at a Natural Break in the (Gly-X-Y)_n Repeat. *J. Biol. Chem.* **282**(31):22699.

Suzuki, M., Mao, L. and **Inouye, M.** (2007) Single protein production (SPP) system in *Escherichia coli*. *Nat. Protoc.* **2**(7):1802-10.

Aramini, J.M., Huang, Y.J., Swapna, G.V., Cort, J.R., Rajan, P.K., Xiao, R., Shastry, R., Acton, T.B., Liu, J., Rost, B., Kennedy, M.A. and **Montelione, G.T.** (2007) Solution NMR structure of *Escherichia coli* ytfP expands the structural coverage of the UPF0131 protein domain family. *Proteins.* **68**(3):789-95.

Fan, Y., Dutta, J., Gupta, N., Fan, G. and **Gélinas, C.** (2007) Regulation of programmed cell death by NF- κ B and its role in tumorigenesis and therapy, in *Programmed Cell Death in Cancer Progression and Therapy*. R. Khosravi-Far and E. White, eds. Springer: The Netherlands, Chapter 11, pp 217-244.



In Press:

Prasad, K., Winnik, B., Thiruchelvam, M., Buckley, B., **Mirochnitchenko, O.**, and Richfield, E. (2007) Prolonged Toxicokinetics and Toxicodynamics of Paraquat in Mouse Brain. *Environ. Health Perspect.*

Simmons, M.J, Fan, G., Zong, W.X., Degenhardt, K., White, E. and **Gelinas, C.** (2007) Bfl-1/A1 functions, similar to Mcl-1, as a selective tBid and Bak antagonist. *Oncogene.*

Stock, A.M. (2007) Diguanylate cyclase activation: It takes two. *Structure.*

Mohs, A., Silva, T., Yoshida, T., Amin, R., Lukomski, S., **Inouye, M.** and **Brodsky, B.** (2007) Mechanism of stabilization of a bacterial collagen triple-helix in the absence of hydroxyproline. *J. Biol. Chem.*

Departmental News

Barbara Brodsky gave a talk entitled, "Self recognition in the assembly of collagens at the supramolecular level" at the Collagen Gordon Research Conference in New London, New Hampshire on July 22, 2007. **Karunakar Kar** (Postdoctoral Fellow), **Michael Bryan** (Graduate Student), and **Madhan Balaraman** (Postdoctoral Fellow) also attended the meeting and presented posters.

Ann Stock was appointed to the Advisory Council for the Department of Molecular Biology, Princeton University (2007-2011).

Ann Stock submitted a grant to the National Science Foundation entitled, "Sensory Transduction in Microorganisms 2008 Gordon Research Conference" in the amount of \$15,000.



Sangita Phadtare and **Rupal Parikh** (a High School student at the Academy for Allied Health Science in Scotch Plains) were featured in the August 23rd issue of the Courier News (see attached).

Congratulations to **William Schneider** (Graduate Student, Monica Roth) and **Courtney Mezzacappa** (Graduate Student, Raymond Habas) who were awarded traineeships from the graduate program training grant entitled, "Training in Cellular and Molecular Biology."