



MINIM



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BIOCHEMISTRY NEWSLETTER

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CHAIRMAN'S CORNER

The Meaning of MINIM

I am sure many people are wondering what MINIM means. Recently, indeed, Vik Nanda asked this question. It stands for **M**asayori **I**nouye's **N**ews, **I**nformation and **M**emoranda. This newsletter was started in 1981 when I was asked to be Chair of the Department of Biochemistry at the State University of New York at Stony Brook (now called Stony Brook University where Ray Habas was a postdoctoral fellow under Simon Halegoua, Professor of Neuroscience, who was my first Ph.D. student). It was quite unexpected for the department to ask me to assume the role of Chair, because I served as the Chair of the Search Committee for the department. I accepted the offer from Dr. Murberger, the President of the University under the condition that I would be treated exactly in the same manner as any other external candidate. Then, I thought that it would be mutually beneficial if I circulated a monthly newsletter informing the Faculty about matters concerning the department.



Once I took over the chairmanship of this department in 1987, I simply changed the title to MINIM at Rutgers. When the name of our medical school was changed to Robert Wood Johnson Medical School, the title was changed to just MINIM. MINIM now includes news about the department and sometimes a commentary from our departmental faculty members (you are always welcome to write an article or note for MINIM anytime), most recent publications and their abstracts. I hope that MINIM continues to play an important role in the communication between the departmental faculty members by updating us on our research activity, funding and collaborations (more than at Stony Brook because our research interests are very widely spread out among various disciplines and we are also physically spread throughout the campus, from the Stage Research Building, Research Tower Building, CABM and the new SPH/Research Building). MINIM could also stand for: Motivation, Initiative, Networking, Innovation and Methodology.

Departmental News

Ray Habas presented a seminar entitled "Understanding Wnt signaling during vertebrate development" at the Conway Institute of Biomolecular and Biomedical Research, University College in Dublin on February 2, 2007.

Mike Hampsey presented a seminar entitled "Gene Loops and Transcription" on January 18, 2007 at the Wadsworth Center, NYS Department of Health in Albany, NY.

Mike Hampsey presented a seminar entitled "Gene Loops and RNA Polymerase II Transcription" at Southern Illinois University Medical School on February 9, 2007.



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Department News (continued from page 1)

Guy Montelione (Adjunct Professor) was elected as a 2006 Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS Fellow).

Guy Montelione (Adjunct Professor) presented a seminar at the International Keystone Meeting: Frontiers of NMR in Structural Biology in Snowbird, UT from January 4 – 11, 2007.

Paulette Caldwell (Biochemistry Main Office) received her second Master Degree in Human Resource Management from Rutgers University in January 2007.

Welcome to **Geetha Thiagarajan**, a Postdoctoral Fellow working in the laboratory of Barbara Brodsky.

Congratulations to **Ling Zhu** (graduate student in Masayori Inouye's laboratory) and his wife on the birth of their daughter, Cynthia on February 6th, 2007.

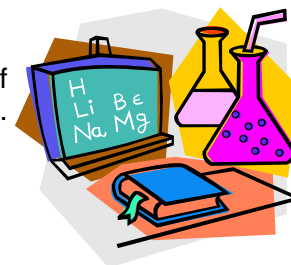
Barbara Brodsky served as a member of the panel on "Case Studies in Technology Commercialization" at the 4th Annual New Jersey Biomedical Engineering Showcase on March 9, 2007 at NJIT.

Publications

Reyes-Reyes, M. and **Hampsey, M.** (2007) Role for the Ssu72 C-terminal domain phosphatase in RNA polymerase II transcription elongation. *Mol. Cell. Biol.* 27(3):926-936.

Senes, A., Chadi, D.C., Law, P.B., Walters, R.F.S., **Nanda, V.**, DeGrado, W.F. (2007) Ez, a Depth-dependent Potential for Assessing the Energies of Amino Acid Side-chains into Membranes: Derivation and Applications to Determining the Orientation of Transmembrane and Interfacial Helices. *J. Mol. Biol.* 366:436-448.

Falzon, L., Patel, S., Chen, Y.J. and **Inouye, M.** (2007) Automatic Behavior of the Propeptide in Propeptide-mediated Folding of Prosubtilisin E. *J. Mol. Biol.* 336(2):494-503

**In Press:**

Forouhar, F., Ross Anderson, J.L., Mowat, C.G., Vorobiev, S.M., Hussain, A., Abashidze, M., Bruckmann, C., Thackray, S.J., Seetharaman, J., Tucker, T., Xiao, R., Ma, L., Zhao, L., Acton, T.B., **Montelione, G.T.**, Chapman, S.K., and Tong, L. (2007) Molecular insights into catalysis by the tryptophan and indoleamine 2,3-dioxygenases. *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA.*

Vorobiev, S.M., Neely, H., Seetharaman, J., Ma, L., Xiao, R., Acton, T.B., **Montelione, G.T.** and Tong, L. (2007) Crystal structure of AGR_C_4470p from *Agrobacterium tumefaciens*. *PROTEINS: Struct. Funct. Bioinformatics.*

Singarapu, K.K., Liu, G., Xiao, R., Bertoni, C., Honig, B., **Montelione, G.T.** and Szyperski, T. (2007) NMR structure of protein yjBR from *Escherichia coli* reveals 'double-wing' DNA binding motif. *PROTEINS: Struct. Funct. Bioinformatics.*

(Publications continued on page 3)

Publications (continued from page 2)

Bhattacharya, A., Tejero, R. and **Montelione, G.T.** (2007) Evaluating protein structures determined by structural genomics criteria. *PROTEINS: Struct. Funct. Bioinformatics*.

Yoshida, T., **Phadtare, S.** and **Inouye, M.** (2007) Functional and Structural Characterization of EnvZ, and Osmosensing Histidine Kinase of *Escherichia coli*. *Methods in Enzymology*.

Yoshida, T., **Phadtare, S.** and **Inouye, M.** (2007) The design and development of Tar-EnvZ chimeric receptors. *Methods in Enzymology*.

Phadtare, S. and **Inouye, M.** (2007) Cold shock proteins. *Psychrophiles: From Biodiversity to Biotechnology*.

Inouye, M. (2007) NBK/BIK Antagonizes MCL-1 and BCL-XL, and Activates BAK-mediated Apoptosis in Response to Protein Synthesis Inhibition. *Genes & Development*.

Andrec, M., Snyder, D.A., Zhou, Z., Young, J., **Montelione, G.T.** and Levy, R. (2007) A large data set comparison of protein structures determined by crystallography and NMR: Statistical test for structural differences and the effect of crystal contacts *PROTEINS: Struct. Funct. Bioinformatics*.

Liu, J., **Montelione, G.T.** and Rost, B. (2007) Novel leverage of structural genomics. *Nature Biotech.*

Submitted:

Nanda, V. and Schmiedekamp, A. (2007) Are Aromatic Carbon Donor Hydrogen Bonds Linear in Proteins?" *PROTEINS: Structure, Function and Bioinformatics*.