

Chair's Column

Dr. Mariano
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Spotlights

Justin Drake received the Blue Waters Graduate Fellowship.

Talha Ijaz received a National Research Service Award- F30 fellowship from the NIH.

Tom Wood, Steve Widen, Allan Brasier and Yingxin Zhao were issued a US Patent 9,018,367 issued April 28, 2015 entitled "Single Stranded DNA Aptamers Binding NF-kB/RelA."

[Photos from the BMB retreat](#)

Dear BMB colleagues,

The BMB faculty search for 2014-15 is now concluded and, in addition to Dr. Pei-Yong Shi who has already accepted our offer, an offer has been extended to Dr. Eric Wagner (UT Houston) and I foresee that within days we will be extending offers to Drs. Michael Harris (Case Western Reserve Univ.) and Andrew Routh (Scripps). Any RNA-bias must be coincidence.

The BMB External Advisory Committee has been constituted and its three members will come give talks during our BMB seminar series (save the dates for these distinguished speakers):

Jack Johnson (Scripps) Dec. 10th 2015
Lynne Maquat (Rochester) February 11th 2016
Patrick Sung (Yale) March 10th 2016

I thank Dr. Wlodek Bujalowski for organizing these talks and visits.

I want to thank everyone that participated in the BMB retreat – I thoroughly enjoyed it! On behalf of the department I thank Tom Smith for leading the organization and to Maga Rowicka-Kudlicka and Marc Morais for helping Tom. Also want to thank Margie Wronski and Betty Sordahl for their efforts. We are also very grateful to [Mike Sheetz](#) and [Linda Kenney](#) – our guests from the Mechanobiology Institute in Singapore - for their participation and for sharing their exciting science with us. Finally, [photographs](#) will be available on the BMB website (thanks to Levani and other photographers).

Newsworthy:

This month we celebrated the 20th anniversary of the Sealy Center for Structural Biology and Molecular Biophysics with a symposium and visits by internationally recognized scientists. Happy birthday to the center and many more years of excellence ahead!

A very special note – Dr. Regino Perez-Polo, previous chair and currently the Kempner Professor in the department has announced he will retire on December 31 of this year. Save the date for a symposium to be held in his honor on Friday December 4, to be followed by a party to celebrate his many contributions to BMB and UTMB.

Congratulations to BMB MD/PhD student Talha Ijaz, who was awarded an F30 fellowship from the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute for a project entitled "NFkB/RelA Signaling in Fibroblasts in the Development of AAA and Aortic Rupture." He works with Dr. Allan R. Brasier and Dr. Ronald G. Tilton.

Congratulations to BMB PhD student Justin Drake, in Dr. Monte Pettitt's group, who received a Blue Waters Graduate Fellowship. Blue Waters is a supercomputer that is supported by the NSF and University of Illinois and managed by the National Center for Supercomputing Applications.

Manuscripts accepted are listed below – congratulations to all authors

Best wishes

Mariano

SCSB Symposium Poster Winners

Alexandre Esadze — Postdoc, UTMB
Sekhar Manukonda — Postdoc, UTMB
David Marciano — Postdoc, Baylor College of Medicine

Premila Samuel — Student, Rice University
Arijit Dutta — Student, UTMB
Anisha Perez — Student, Rice University



Drs. Rudenko and Morais with the Postdoc Poster winners.

Publications

Desai P., Yang J., Tian B., Sun H., Kalita M., Ju H., Paulucci-Holthausen A., Zhao Y., Brasier A.R., and **Sadygov R.G.**, Mixed-Effects Model of Epithelial-Mesenchymal Transition Reveals Rewiring of Signaling Networks. *Cellular Signalling* 27 (2015) 1413–1425

Molecular classification of outcomes from dengue virus -3 infections. Brasier AR, Zhao Y, **Wiktorowicz JE**, Spratt HM, Nascimento EJ, Cordeiro MT, **Soman KV**, Ju H, Recinos A 3rd, Stafford S, Wu Z, Marques ET Jr, Vasilakis N.; *J Clin Virol.* 2015 Mar;64:97-106.

Inferring Genome-Wide Functional Modulatory Network: A Case Study on NF-κB/RelA Transcription Factor Li Xueling, Zhu Min, Brasier Allan R., and **Kudlicki Andrzej S.** *Journal of Computational Biology.* April 2015, 22(4): 300-312. doi:10.1089/cmb.2014.0299

Correcting positional correlations in Affymetrix® Genome Chips, Dirar Homouz, Gang Chen & **Andrzej S. Kudlicki** *Scientific Reports* 5:9078 doi:10.1038/srep09078

May Research Seminars

May 14	Thu	4:00pm - 5:00pm Biochemistry Seminar Sang Jun Han "TBA"
May 15	Fri	11:00am - 12:00pm Biochemistry Seminar Petr Leiman "Structure and function of contractile injection systems"
May 18	Mon	12:00pm - 1:00pm NIEHS Seminar Terumi Midoro-Horiuti "Early exposure to an environmental estrogen promotes allergic asthma by altering innate immune cells"
May 19	Tue	12:00pm - 1:00pm Infectious Disease Colloquium Hongbo Chi "mTOR and metabolic control of T cell quiescence and suppression"
May 20	Wed	12:00pm - 1:00pm NCB Seminar Norman Haughey 12:00pm - 1:00pm PHTOX Student Seminar Tahani Alshammari "Genetic deletion of <i>Fqf14</i> recapitulates molecular, cellular and circuit alterations underlying cognitive impairment associated with human psychiatric disorders"
May 21	Thu	4:00pm - 5:00pm Biochemistry Seminar Kimberly Orth "Black Spot, Black Death, Black Pearl: The Tales of Bacterial Effectors"
May 22	Fri	12:00pm - 1:00pm PHTOX Seminar TBA
May 25	Mon	All Day Holiday Memorial Day
May 28	Thu	4:00pm - 5:00pm Biochemistry Seminar Jere McBride "TBA"
May 29	Fri	12:00pm - 1:00pm PHTOX Student Seminar Christopher Wild "Targeting the Serotonin 5-HT _{2C} Receptor: Rational Design and Synthesis of Positive Allosteric Modulators as Novel Therapeutics"