

# Cell and Molecular Physiology

NEWSLETTER

Volume 1, Issue 2

April 2008

## Physiology Meets With The Hamner Institutes for Health Sciences

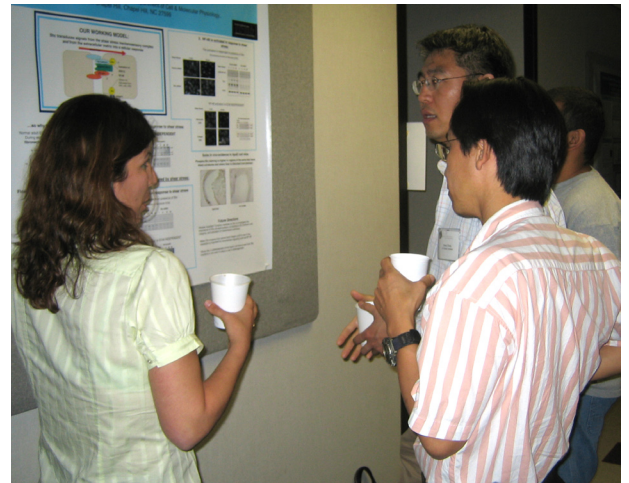
On April 18, Physiology department faculty met with researchers and administrators at **The Hamner Institutes for Health Sciences** in RTP to learn about their respective programs and begin discussions about possible new collaborations. Our faculty represented the first group to meet following the establishment of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between The Hamner and UNC schools of medicine, public health, and pharmacy as well as the Kenan-Flagler Business School. Common areas of study between C&M Physiology and The Hamner include reproductive and developmental biology and respiratory biology.

Opening remarks by Drs. Charles Hamner, Richard Greenlee, and James Anderson were followed by a poster session where 17 faculty and postdocs from Physiology and 24 Hamner researchers presented their work. The day concluded with a reception where discussions continued over refreshments.



At The Hamner: (left to right) Dr. James Anderson, Chair, Department of Cell & Molecular Physiology; Scott Forrest, Assistant Director of the UNC Office of Technology and Development; Dr. Charles Hamner, Chair of The Hamner Board of Directors

[Link to The Hamner press release here.](#)



Dr. Eleni Tzima, Assistant Professor of Cell & Molecular Physiology, presents her work to Hamner researchers.

## Upcoming Department Seminars

May 5

Noon • G202 MBRB

“Cortical control of proprioceptive signaling”

Presented by physiology graduate program alumnus, **Adam Hantman, PhD**. Dr. Hantman conducted his doctoral research with Dr. Edward Perl and is currently a postdoctoral fellow in the Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biophysics at Columbia University Medical Center in [the lab of Thomas M. Jessell, PhD](#).



May 7

Noon • 1131 Bioinformatics

Research In Progress Seminars (RIPS)

First-year graduate students will present their Spring 2008 lab rotation research.



Maggie McCormick  
Tzima lab



Thorfinn Riday  
Philpot lab



Brooks Scull  
Lund lab



Brett Rollins  
Tzima lab



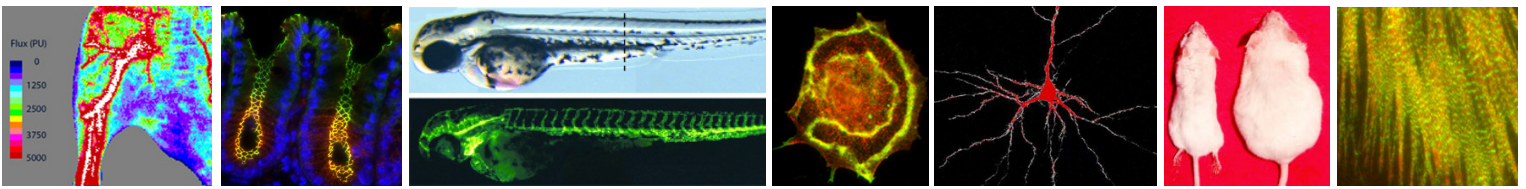
Rylan Larsen  
Philpot lab

Mark your calendars: 2008 SUMMER RIPS will begin June 2nd and be held Mondays at noon in 124 Taylor Hall.

The Perl/UNC Neuroscience Award presentation and lecture will be held on **Tuesday, May 27th at 3:00 pm** in G202 MBRB (ground floor auditorium). This year's prize will be awarded to **Huda Zoghbi, MD**, from Baylor College of Medicine for her “Discovery of the Genetic Basis of Rett Syndrome.”

Please RSVP by email to [megan\\_murphy@med.unc.edu](mailto:megan_murphy@med.unc.edu) if you plan to attend the reception that will follow the presentation.





## GRADUATE PROGRAM & ALUMNI

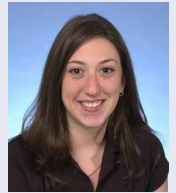


Sushmita Jha

Graduate student **Sushmita Jha** (Ting lab) received the **Hulka Innovators Award** for her presentation on “Cryopyrin(CIAS1): a novel regulator of IL-1beta production and its role during neuroinflammation and demyelination” at the 2008 Women’s Health Research Day, sponsored by the Center for Women’s Health Research at UNC. This award is given “in honor of Dr. Jaroslav F. Hulka in recognition of innovation in methods, population, study design, or study content area, with an emphasis on having made a novel contribution to advancing science.”

Congratulations to **William Dunforth**, a Caron lab graduate student (Genetics curriculum), for his marriage on April 25th to Soumya Vemuganti in Asheville, NC. Soumya is also a UNC graduate student, conducting her thesis work in Debbie O’Brien’s lab in the department of Cell and Developmental Biology.

**Nicole Ramocki** (PhD, Lund lab, 2007) has won a **2008 Impact Award**. Given annually by the *Graduate Education Advancement Board*, Impact Awards honor graduate students whose research provides special benefits to the citizens of North Carolina. Nicole completed her doctoral studies in December 2007 and is currently a medical writer with MedErgy Marketing in Yardley, PA.



Nicole Ramocki

## ADDITIONAL SEMINARS

**May 6** **11:00 am • 2020 Bondurant Hall**  
**“The Human Oral Microbiome”**  
 Floyd E. Dewhirst, DDS, PhD (The Forsythe Institute)  
*Sponsor: Center for Oral & Systemic Diseases, UNC Dentistry*

**May 7** **Noon • 124 Taylor Hall**  
**“Stem Cells, Small RNAs and Self-Renewal”**  
 Dr. Haifan Lin (Yale University)  
*Sponsor: Cell & Developmental Biology*

**May 9** **Noon • G202 MBRB**  
**“The energy landscape for protein folding and function”**  
 Jose Onuchic, PhD (UC-San Diego)  
*Sponsor: Carolina Center for Genome Sciences*

**May 14** **3:30 pm • 2204 MBRB**  
 The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and Americans for Medical Progress (AMP) will host a special presentation given by Tom Holder of \*Speaking for Research\*. Holder will speak about animal rights extremism in the United States and what students can do to counter the climate of fear for scientists and defend lifesaving biomedical research. Additional information: <http://www.speakingofresearch.org/>

**May 15** **12:30 pm • 1131 Bioinformatics**  
**“Novel role of TRPV1 in long-term synaptic depression in hippocampus”**  
 Julie Kauer, PhD (Brown University)  
*Sponsor: Neuroscience Center*

**May 22** **12:30 pm • 1131 Bioinformatics**  
**Title TBA**  
 Lisa Tarantino, PhD (UNC-CH)  
*Sponsor: Neuroscience Center*

### Notices for Department Employees:

If you’re thinking about taking a Continuing Education class this summer, please don’t delay!

**Classes start on May 13.**

For on-campus classes, apply online at:  
<http://www.fridaycenter.unc.edu/cp/cs/index.htm>

For online classes, register now at:  
<http://www.fridaycenter.unc.edu/cp/cco/index.htm>

For tuition waiver forms, go to:  
<http://hr.unc.edu/Data/SPA/training/tuitionprograms/tuitionwaiver>

Please send feedback and submissions to the newsletter to Adriana Tavernise at [adrianat@med.unc.edu](mailto:adrianat@med.unc.edu)

Your tax-deductible gift to the UNC Department of Cell & Molecular Physiology will foster research, innovative teaching, and support a wide range of activities.

Contact Rich Lotstein at 843-6190 or via email at [richlot@med.unc.edu](mailto:richlot@med.unc.edu) for information.

Department of Cell & Molecular Physiology  
 5200 Medical Biomolecular Research Building, CB #7545  
 University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill  
 Chapel Hill, NC 27599-7545

(919) 966-5241  
 (919) 966-6927 fax  
<http://www.med.unc.edu/physiology>