

Cell and Molecular Physiology

NEWSLETTER

Volume 1, Issue 1

March 2008

IMPORTANT NOTICES for Department Members:

Information Technology Survey

Please complete the IT survey if you have not already done so. The deadline has passed but we'd still like your input. You can access it [here](#).

5200 Redesign

A redesign of Suite 5200 MBRB (Administrative area) has begun. Renovations are planned for June. The new layout will optimize the use of space, make room for additional faculty offices, create new common areas, and improve file security.

New Voice Mail System

We are testing a new voice mail attendant system. Callers using the main Administrative number (966-5241) will be given a set of options that should streamline operations. Yvonne Cooper's new direct number is 966-8555. Other staff phone numbers are unchanged.

NEWS, HONORS & AWARDS

Kay Lund received the 2008 University Award for the Advancement of Women. This prestigious award was created in 2006 as an opportunity for our academic community to recognize and reward individuals for their contributions on behalf of women on this campus.

Dr. Kay Lund



The **Otey lab's** work on Palladin and its connections to pancreatic cancer appeared in the **New York Times**, in a March 18 interview with collaborator Dr. Terri Brentnall.

Carol Otey has also joined the **Invadosome Consortium**, an international, open network of laboratories interested in cell adhesion and tissue invasion. Their main focus is on matrix-degrading cell adhesions, so-called invadopodia and podosomes (short: "invadosomes").

Congrats to **William Dunworth** of the Caron lab for winning a Best Poster Award at this year's IVB/CCBC Symposium held on March 10.

Years of Service

Administrative staff member **Yvonne Cooper** recently celebrated 20 years of service at UNC. She began her work here in C&M Physiology in 1998.

Research technician **Bonnie Taylor-Blake** (Waldrop/Perl labs) also achieved 20 years of service at the University. Congratulations to them both!

A "Memorandum of Understanding" ("MOU") is in place between the **Hamner Institutes for Health Sciences** and the UNC Schools of Medicine (SOM), Pharmacy (SOP), Public Health (SOPH) and the Kenan-Flagler Business School. The Hamner is an independent, non profit organization with 'the mission to unite academia, the private sector and government to conduct translational research.' (<http://www.thehamner.org/>). The MOU establishes a basis for the SOM to work with the Hamner to identify research funding opportunities in the public and private sectors.

On April 18, our department will represent the first group from UNC to meet formally with researchers and administrators at the Hamner to learn about respective programs and begin discussions about possible new collaborations. If you are interested in attending this event, please contact Rich Lotstein at 843-6190 or via email at richlot@med.unc.edu, if you have not already done so.

WELCOME

Delia Barrick, a postdoctoral fellow, has joined the Caron lab. Delia is from GlaxoSmithKline and formerly a PhD student



in David Threadgill's lab in the dept. of Genetics at UNC.



Postdoc **Linh Pham** graduated from Stanford University (01/2008). She performed her doctoral research

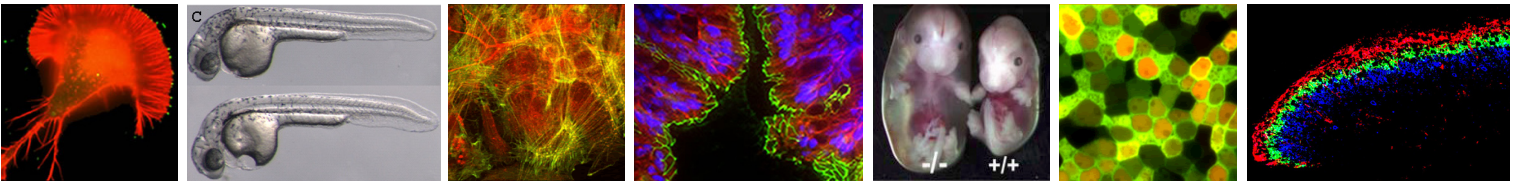
with David Schneider dealing with specificity and memory in the *Drosophila* immune response. She joined John Rawls' lab in February.

Courtney Thaxton joined the Bhat lab as a postdoctoral fellow in January 2008. A graduate of the University of Central Florida (12/2007), her doctoral research under Cristina Fernandez-Valle, Ph.D. focused on the tumor suppressor protein Schwannomin, or Merlin, which is implicated in the disease Neurofibromatosis Type 2.

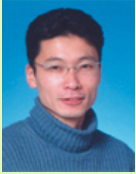


The Zylka lab welcomes **Kunjumon Vadakkan**, a postdoctoral fellow who came to the department from the University of Toronto, Canada, where he received his PhD in 2007.





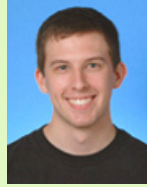
GRADUATE PROGRAM & ALUMNI



Koji Yashiro

Congratulations to **Koji Yashiro** (Philpot lab) for successfully defending his thesis on the molecular underpinnings of synaptic plasticity, most notably in a mouse model of Angelman's syndrome. A public presentation of his research will be held April 10 at 4:00 PM in G202 MBRB.

Dan Arneman (PhD, Otey lab, 2007) sends the following news about his new position: "During graduate school, I became interested in bio-inspired design and engineering and had several opportunities to work with industry professionals on their design challenges. After graduating, I wanted to continue work in the engineering sector, with a focus on environmental science. In January, I started a job in UNC's [Energy Services Department](#) where I work to track the university's impact on climate change and to develop renewable energy projects."



Dan Arneman

BEST WISHES

Best wishes to former Caron lab graduate student **Ryan Dackor** (Genetics curriculum) who successfully completed his dissertation and is now a post-doctoral fellow in Darryl Zeldin's laboratory at NIEHS.

After many years as a research specialist, **Anilkumar Pillai** has left the Bhat lab to join the lab of **Dr. Araki Marito** at the National University of Singapore.

Neurobiology curriculum student **Jingjun Li** completed her doctoral work in the Bhat lab and has taken a postdoctoral position at Duke University in the lab of **Dr. Chay Kuo** in the Department of Cell Biology.

NEW FUNDING

Caron lab awarded new RO1 on "Adrenomedullin Signaling in Vascular Development"

Faber lab awarded new RO1 on "Mechanisms of Collateral Development and Collateral Growth in Ischemia"

Ben Philpot- NARSAD Young Investigator Award- July 1, 2008-June 30, 2010

Adam Roberts- NARSAD Young Investigator Award- July 1, 2008 - June 30, 2010

Please send feedback and submissions to the newsletter to adriana_tavernise@med.unc.edu

Upcoming Department Seminars

*Noon in G202 MBRB

April 7*

Margaret J. McFall-Ngai, PhD

Univ. of Wisconsin - Madison

"The Diplomacy of Symbiosis: Defining the Molecular Language of Cooperation in the Squid-Vibrio Symbiosis"

April 14*

Kenneth D. Poss, PhD

Duke University

"Mechanisms guiding organ regeneration in zebrafish"

April 21*

Kristin Scott, PhD

UC-Berkeley

"Taste Recognition in Drosophila"

April 23 **4:00 pm - 321 MacNider Building**

Jane F. Reckelhoff, PhD

Joint Seminar with UNC Kidney Center

Maren professorship candidate

"Mechanisms Responsible for Sex Differences in Blood Pressure and Postmenopausal Hypertension"

April 24*

Holly Cline, PhD

Cold Spring Harbor

Joint Seminar with Neuroscience Center

"Synapse Elimination in Brain Development: Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde"

April 28*

Gary Bird, PhD

NIEHS/NIH

"Mechanism and Control of Ca²⁺ Oscillations"

Your tax-deductible gift to 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 for information.

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