

BGS Winter 2010/11 Newsletter



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CONGRATULATIONS!



On October 3, 2010, BGS graduates, Jeff Tsai and Danielle Murphy, got married in San Clemente, California. Danielle is a graduate of the CAMB class of 2006 and is currently a postdoc at the Sanford - Burnham Institute for Medical Research in La Jolla, CA. Jeff is a graduate of the Immunology Group of 2008 and is a postdoc at UC San Diego. Congratulations!



BGS Graduate Group Holiday Parties!

MINS/Neuroscience
December 13th, 4-6pm
BRB II/III Lobby

Genomics & Computational Biology
December 14th, 12pm
1311 Blockley Hall

EPID/CCEB
December 14th, 4-8pm
BRB II/III Lobby

Cell & Molecular Biology
December 21st, 4-6pm
BRB II/III Lobby

Pharmacological Sciences
December 21, 5-7pm
BRB II/III, 14th Floor



Penn Graduate Sells Biotech Startup to Eli Lilly and Company for \$300 Million



Daniel M. Skovronsky, M.D., Ph.D. (Neuroscience 2000), Founder and CEO of Avid Radiopharmaceuticals, is in final negotiations with pharmaceutical giant Eli Lilly to sell his company for \$300 Million. Avid Radiopharmaceuticals is a product-focused molecular imaging company which Skovronsky started in 2004. As part of the acquisition of Avid, stockholders in the company will be eligible for up to \$500 million in additional future payments. To read the full article, please visit:

http://www.avidrp.com/press_releases/Avid%20LILLY%20release%20for%20website.pdf

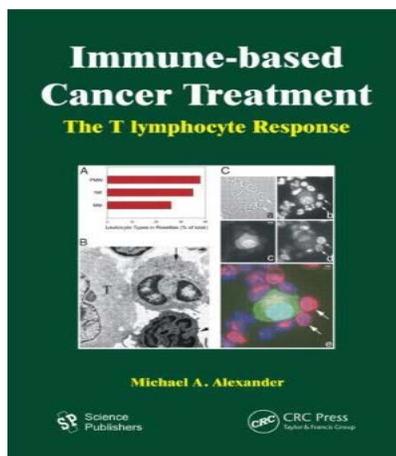
Research on Fruit Fly Genes Captures Interest in Philadelphia News

Gillian Ritson Turnbull, PhD (Neuroscience 2010) made headlines on Philly.com for her research on genes in fruit flies that may fight Alzheimer's disease. Gillian, working alongside J. Paul Taylor, Adjunct Associate Professor at Penn, is making significant progress in this study. To read the full article posted on Philly.com, please visit:

http://www.philly.com/inquirer/health_science/weekly/20100628_Fruit_fly_genes_yielding_clues_to_Lou_Gehrig_s_disease.html?viewAll=y



Penn Grad Authors *Immune-based Cancer Treatment: The T Lymphocyte Response*



Michael Alexander, PhD (Immunology 1992) recently published a book that examines how T cells may kill cancerous body cells. Based on an editorial review on Amazon.com, the book describes how the T cell immune system can be manipulated and redirected to kill resistant cancer cells by understanding and influencing the interaction of many different immune cells in the body.

Immune-based Cancer Treatment will be released on February 15, 2011, but can be pre-ordered on Amazon.com today (ISBN-10:1578087031).

BGS ALUMNI & STUDENT AWARDS

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J. Michael Sauder, Ph.D. (BMB 1998) recently received the 2010 LRL President's Scientific Recognition Award from Eli Lilly and Company.

This award recognizes Dr. Sauder's contributions to the enablement of structure-based drug design, the Laboratory Information Management System (LIMS) in use by the company's structural biology group, and his project leadership of the New York SGX Research Center for Structural Genomics (NYSGXRC).



Co-recipient of the 2010 Flexner Award for Outstanding Dissertation:

Amanda Crocker (NGG)



Recipient of the American Society of Neurochemistry Travel & Journal Award

Keither Feigenson (NGG)



Recipients of the 2010 John S. O'Brien Research Awards:

Melissa Love (PHRM) – Best Poster Presentation

Lindsay B. McKenna (PHRM) – Best Oral Presentation



Recipient of the 2010 Thomas C. Rainbow Fund for Neuroscience:

Kevin Schutsky (PHRM)

ALUMNI & FACULTY APPOINTMENTS

The following BGS graduates have moved on to promising careers, and are now working in the following positions:

~~~ ALUMNI APPOINTMENTS ~~~

Ning Chai, PhD (CAMB - 2005)

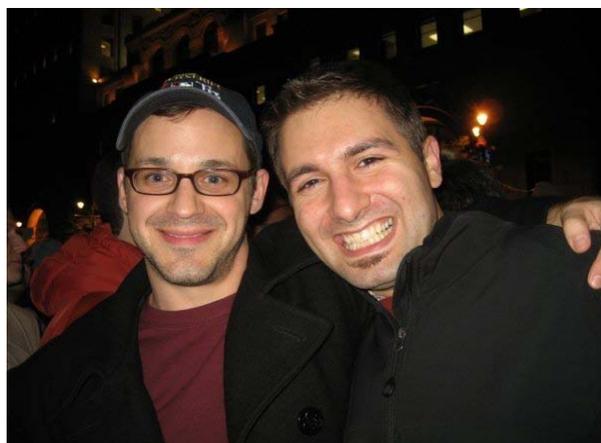
Dr. Chai is currently a Senior Research Associate at Genentech, studying the discovery and development of broad-neutralizing antibodies to treat influenza virus infection.

Yiping He, PhD (CAMB - 2002)

In April 2010, Dr. He became an Assistant Professor at Duke University Medical Center working in the Preston Robert Tisch Brain Tumor Center.

Joshua Jacobs, PhD (Neuroscience - 2008)

Dr. Jacobs recently accepted a position as an Assistant Professor of Bioengineering at Drexel University.



BGS Alumni Devon Shedlock and Andrew Rennekamp

Gary Li, PhD (CAMB - 2002)

As a Senior Principal Scientist and Head of the Cancer Models and Pharmacology Group at Pfizer, Dr. Gary Li manages preclinical research and drug discovery. His work has generated a number of clinical candidates that are in various phases of clinical trials. In addition to his work at Pfizer, Dr. Li also serves as a reviewer for several science journals and has published over 20 research articles and 2 new drug patents.

Jeffrey N. Myers, M.D., PhD (Biochemistry - 1991)

Dr. Myers is the Hubert L. and Olive Stringer Distinguished Professor in cancer research in the Department of Head and Neck Surgery at the University of Texas M.D. Anderson Cancer Center. His laboratory is interested in progression and metastasis of oral cancers.

Raga Ramachandran, PhD (CAMB - 2002)

Dr. Ramachandran recently accepted a position as an Assistant Professor and Director of Medical Education at the University of California, San Francisco, in the Department of Pathology.

Riju Ray, PhD (Pharmacology - 2007)

Dr. Ray has recently been appointed Assistant Professor in the Department of Psychiatry at the University of Pennsylvania. *He was also recently awarded the prestigious Pfizer Grand 2010 research award for Nicotine Dependence.*

ALUMNI & FACULTY APPOINTMENTS

~~~ ALUMNI APPOINTMENTS (Cont.) ~~~

Marieke van Vugt, PhD (Neuroscience - 2008)

On December 1, 2010, Dr. van Vugt started a position as an Assistant Professor in Cognitive Modeling at the University of Groningent (the Netherlands).

Daniel M. Scolnick, PhD (BMB - 2000)

After many years of working in the field of scientific research and later as a patent agent, Dr. Scolnick is now a Patent Attorney for the prestigious law firm of Pepper Hamilton LLP. He concentrates his practice in intellectual property, primarily on intellectual property transactions and counseling, with a substantial portion of his work devoted to patent prosecution and intellectual property licensing matters.



~~~ BGS FACULTY APPOINTMENTS ~~~

Biochemistry and Molecular Biophysics

- Lewis Chodosh, M.D., Ph.D., J. Samuel Staub Professor of Cancer Biology, School of Medicine
- Alan Diehl, Ph.D., Professor of Cancer Biology, School of Medicine
- Hua-Ying Fang, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Biochemistry and Biophysics, School of Medicine
- Ekaterina Grishchuk, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Physiology, School of Medicine
- Rahul Kohli, M.D., Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Medicine, School of Medicine

Cell and Molecular Biology

- Scott Hensley, Ph.D., Wistar Institute Assistant Professor of Microbiology, School of Medicine
- Rahul Kohli, M.D., Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Medicine, School of Medicine
- Carolina Lopez, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Pathobiology, School of Veterinary Medicine

Epidemiology and Biostatistics

- Susan Furth, M.D., Ph.D., Professor of Pediatrics, School of Medicine
- Bonnie Ky, M.D., Assistant Professor of Medicine at the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania, School of Medicine

Genomics and Computational Biology

- Rui Feng, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Biostatistics and Epidemiology at the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania, School of Medicine

ALUMNI & FACULTY APPOINTMENTS

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~~~ BGS FACULTY APPOINTMENTS (Cont.) ~~~

Immunology

- Antonella Cianferoni, M.D., Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Pediatric, School of Medicine
- Scott Hensley, Ph.D., Wistar Institute Assistant Professor of Microbiology, School of Medicine
- Carolina Lopez, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Pathobiology, School of Veterinary Medicine

Neuroscience

- Maria Neimark Geffen, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Otorhinolaryngology, School of Medicine
- Gordon Barr, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Psychology in Anesthesiology and Critical Care, School of Medicine

Pharmacological Science

- Gordon Barr, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Psychology in Anesthesiology and Critical Care, School of Medicine
- Eric Brown, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Cancer Biology, School of Medicine
- Xianxin Hua, M.D., Ph.D., Associate Professor of Cancer Biology
- Constantinos Koumenis, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Radiation Oncology, School of Medicine

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www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=50730274218

(must be signed in to Facebook to view)

UPCOMING EVENTS

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[April 15 - April 28, 2011](#)

Programs and exhibitions will take place throughout the city's many neighborhoods, fueled by the best scientific and educational resources the region has to offer--all geared towards making science interesting, relevant, and fun.

Science Carnival

The Festival will open with an outdoor carnival on the Benjamin Franklin Parkway on April 16, 2011. This celebration of sciences will be highlighted by hands-on exhibits, science-themed performances and demonstrations, and family-oriented science entertainment. The Free Library of Philadelphia—a Science Festival partner organization—will host its annual Book Festival on the same day, making the Benjamin Franklin Parkway an unrivaled destination for family-friendly informal learning opportunities.

Neighborhood Science

Science outreach programs will take place in every neighborhood in Philadelphia over the course of the first week of the Science Festival. Through partnerships with each of the large science centers in the city and all partnering colleges and universities, programming will take place throughout Philadelphia so that every city resident has an opportunity in his or her neighborhood to engage directly in a Philadelphia Science Festival event or activity.

Science Conversations

Focusing on direct interactions between scientists and other residents, Science Conversations will feature lecture events, panel discussion, etc. from the city's finest scientists, as well as science discussions from award-winning scientists in untraditional settings such as bars and restaurants.

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