AND THE AWARD GOES TO...

Congratulations to the following on receiving their recent NIH funding:

David Kaplan, MD, MSc was awarded a new NIH R01 grant on liver cancer immunology
Kelly Whelan, PhD (Hiro Nakagawa Lab) was awarded a new NIH F32 grant
Gary Wu, MD was awarded a new NIH R01 grant on host-microbial interactions in the gut oxygen

30 UNDER 30

Congratulations to Dr. Gregory Sonnenberg for being named to Forbes magazine's list of 30 Under 30: The Rising Stars Transforming Science and Health.

REMEMBER

Please remember to cite the Center (NIH-P30-DK050306) and its core facilities (Molecular Pathology and Imaging Core, Molecular Biology/Gene Expression Core, Transgenic and Chimeric Mouse Core, and Cell Culture Core) in your publications.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

The NIDDK Center for Molecular Studies in Digestive and Liver Diseases will be hosting their annual Center Retreat on Wednesday, June 26, 2013 at the National Constitution Center.

PROGRESS REPORT MATERIALS NEEDED

As you may already know from a prior email, we are preparing the P30-DK090306-16 “Center for Molecular Studies in Digestive and Liver Diseases” progress report, and as a current center member, we will need to collect the following information from you:

1. Significant research advances and accomplishments made possible by the presence of the DDRCC (e.g. through core use, collaborations fostered by the DDRCC)
2. Publications, including PMCID's, submitted by center members
3. Awards, honors, special recognitions earned by center members
4. A brief research interests statement

The dates of the current reporting period are: July 1, 2012 to June 30, 2013
Please email kimmeyer@mail.med.upenn.edu this information by March 15th.

SOME RECENT PUBLICATIONS BY CENTER MEMBERS


MOLECULAR PATHOLOGY AND IMAGING CORE (MPIC)

The Molecular Pathology and Imaging Core (MPIC) is now located in rooms 931, 932, and 933 BRB II/III. Please feel free to stop by and see if there is anything we can help you with. Additionally, we continue to maintain an average turn-around of 5 working days for orders. These fast turn-around times help you get your results quicker.

Beginning this summer we will add a second microscope for live cell imaging to our core. This microscope will be capable of both bright field and wide field fluorescence and will have an incubator surrounding the microscope to maintain temperature and carbon dioxide levels.

If you are interested in seeing what is available in MPIC or have any questions, please contact Adam Bedenbaugh (blakebe@mail.med.upenn.edu) for more information.

NEW INSTRUMENTATION

The MBC would like to formally announce the addition of a Thermo Fisher NanoDrop 2000 spectrophotometer and a BioRad GelDoc XR+ imaging system to the list of instruments available in room 934 BRB II/III. Both instruments arrived at the end of 2012 and are now up and running. They are user friendly, but if needed basic instructions on how to operate either instrument are hanging by the instrument. In addition, the instruction manual for the GelDoc XR+ is on the desktop of the computer and the instruction manual for the NanoDrop 2000 is in the top left drawer below the instrument. If there are any further questions about these or any other instruments in the Core please see:

Ying-Yu Chen (6-2757; yingc@mail.med.upenn.edu)
or Sue Keilbaugh (3-9571; keilbaugh@mail.med.upenn.edu).

REMEMBER

Partek Genomics Suite 6.4, a datamining bioinformatics program, is freely available in the Molecular Biology Core.

The MBC also provides support for biostatistics and bioinformatics through the Bioinformatics Core Facility (PGFI*) and the Biostatistics Core (CCEB**) by offering discounts for their services.

- The Bioinformatics Core Facility provides access to bioinformatics datamining services (Director, Dr. John Tobias, Ph.D., http://www.bioinformatics.upenn.edu)
- Biostatistical analysis and guidance is available through the Biostatistics Core (CCEB**, Ann Tierney, M.S.)

*PGFI: Penn Genomics Frontiers Institute
**CCEB: Center for Clinical Epidemiology and Biostatistics

MOLECULAR BIOLOGY CORE (MBC)

PANCREATIC CANCER TRANSLATIONAL CENTER OF EXCELLENCE

Starting July 1, 2013, the new Pancreatic Cancer Translational Center of Excellence, funded by the Abramson Cancer Center and led by Robert H. Vonderheide, MD, DPhil, Anil Rustgi, MD, and Peter O’Dwyer, MD, uses insights into pancreatic cancer biology and genetics to create a deeper understanding of both the tumor and its tendency to metastasize — unlocking new strategies for a standard pancreatic cancer care model that will change what it means to receive a pancreatic cancer diagnosis.

More specifically, this TCE will focus on:

• Utilizing genetically-engineered mouse models of pancreatic cancer that mimic the tumor’s environment and its protective “shell,” which allows researchers to assess new drugs and immunotherapies at unprecedented resolution and efficiency; and
• Isolating and characterizing biomarkers that will fuel early detection, genetic analysis and profiling, and early assessment of a patient’s response to therapy.

These laboratory resources, driven by a dynamic, expanded clinical program, will accelerate the development of new drugs and early detection methods, including immune therapies, resulting in personalized cancer treatments.