Please welcome Catherine Kovacs, our new Administrative Assistant. Catherine joined the Department on August 15th and we are happy to have her as a member of our team. Prior to moving to the Charleston area 2 years ago, she attended Bloomsburg University of Pennsylvania, where she received a BA in Psychology. She grew up in the Pocono Mountains of Pennsylvania (the Philly side of the State) and is a devoted eagle fan… in her own words GO EAGLES!

Expressions from Catherine - Although I miss my large family, I most definitely enjoy the south and plan to stay. I am pleased and proud to be working with the Regenerative Medicine and Cell Biology Department at MUSC. More specifically, I look forward to the knowledge, experience and opportunities to come! Thanks Mom and Dad.

Current plans are have the College of Graduate Studies and the Bioengineering Alliance move during the week of September 6, and the Bioengineering faculty and staff move during the week of September 12. Specific faculties who will be moving from the Basic Science Building and Children’s Research Institute to the BEB include Drs. Kay Kang, Martin Morad, Richard Swaja, Xuejun Wen, Naohiro Yamaguchi, Hai Yao, and Ning Zhang. About twenty-five graduate students and post-docs will be moving with these faculties to the new building. The Department of Regenerative Medicine and Cell Biology will continue to be the MUSC administrative home for the Clemson-MUSC Bioengineering Program.

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Research

The monthly RESEARCH NEWSLETTER is available on the Department website: http://regmed.musc.edu/newsletter.htm

Under the leadership of Senior Associate Dean for Research Craig Crosson, a Cardiovascular Working Group is being formed to review cardiovascular research across the College and develop a plan to advance these efforts. Don Menick (Medicine) and Phil Saul (Pediatrics) have agreed to serve as co-chairs of this group, and other members include Joe Blumer (Pharmacology), Rob Gourdie (Regenerative Medicine), John Ikonomidis (Surgery), Jeffrey Jones (Surgery), Frank McGowan (Anesthesiology), Andy Wessels (Regenerative Medicine), and Mike Zile (Medicine).

Josh Spruill Imaging Facility

- **Recent Maintenance:** The HeNe 633 laser of the Leica SP2 Confocal System was replaced on 8/23/2011. An intermittent problem with the potentiometers appears to have been resolved during that maintenance visit, but any problems should be reported. A new substage condensor for the SP5 system (used for DIC imaging) was also installed.

- **Users of the Gel Documentation System** must request a personal password and sign up for the new calendar system. See http://mmi.musc.edu/newcalendar.htm for more information.

- **ALL Users** of the Imaging and Histology Core resources should sign up for the new calendar system.

- **IMAGE of the MONTH:** Do you have an interesting research image? We would like to show off your work on the department lobby information displays, and include them in the Research Newsletter. Submit your image with a brief legend to Dr. Scott Argraves (argraves@musc.edu).

Students Corner

Daniel Grass, MD/PhD student in the Toole lab; just had a critical paper accepted in Journal of Cell Science. This paper establishes the central objectives of Dan’s thesis. *Regulation of Invadopodia Formation and Activity by CD147* by G. Daniel Grass, Momka Bratoeva and Bryan P. Toole

**Welcome to New Students:**

The Clemson-MUSC Bioengineering Program welcomes one new PhD graduate student for the 2011 fall term – Yu Tan. Mr. Tan will be working with Dr. Ning Zhang in areas related to tissue engineering and regenerative medicine.

Dr. Ann Ramsdell welcomes Jacqulyne Robichaux to her lab. Jackie is a 2nd year student in the MCBP program.
Education

The year-long College of Medicine first-year Integrated Curriculum has successfully completed its second year, with active participation of members of the Department of Regenerative Medicine and Cell Biology. Thierry Bacro, David Bernanke, Corey Mjaatvedt, and Titus Reaves (as well as Debra Hazen-Martin and Michael Caplan of the Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine) provided lectures and dissection laboratory teaching. Team dissection and collaborative peer teaching/learning continue as added features of anatomy teaching in the medical curriculum. Histology lectures in the medical curriculum this year were once again covered single-handedly by Tim Fitzharris. Reallocation of the Teaching Module space to conference/classroom necessitated histology slide presentations to the medical students in the lecture hall, in place of previous computer-based histology slide studies. Embryology teaching in the medical curriculum was accomplished by lectures presented entirely by Steve Kubalak, once again this past year, with a new textbook and new, revised lectures. Thierry Bacro also presented lectures on anatomy of the spinal cord and on the medulla and its function, among the favorite lectures of the med students. These neuroscience lectures were one aspect of a competitive professional development neuroanatomy fellowship awarded to Thierry in the ASGBI-AAA Anatomy Training Program jointly sponsored by the Anatomical Societies of Great Britain and Ireland (ASGBI) and the American Association of Anatomists (AAA). The fellowship included local studies mentored by David Griesemer (Neurology) and studies abroad at St. Hugh’s College at Oxford, England.

Gross anatomy, histology, and embryology are components of the Structure and Function Theme (MDCOR 824/825) and neurosciences is taught as a part of the Homeostasis and Regulation Theme (MDCOR 820/821) in the medical curriculum.

The previous first-year students, the first class in the newly revised Integrated Curriculum (2009-2010 academic year) just completed taking Step I of the USMLE board exams. The initial reports indicate improved scores, attesting to the excellence of the teaching (of course!) in the first year curriculum.

Other Education News

David Bernanke was recently appointed to the Journal Trust Fund Investments committee of the American Association of Anatomists. He is a member of the Board of Directors of the AAA, and was also recently named as a Fellow of the American Association of Anatomists.

David Bernanke is the co-chair (with Paul McDermott, Medicine) of the LCME Accreditation self-study subcommittee examining the Educational Programs Leading to the MD Degree. The MUSC College of Medicine is facing accreditation by LCME (AAMC/AMA) by the end of 2012.

Calendar

September 6   Seminar - “The impact of ice-free cryopreservation on cell viability and extracellular matrix integrity in natura and engineered tissue grafts” Kelvin G.M. Brockbank, Cell & Tissue Systems, Inc., Conference Room, BSB611, Noon-1pm

September 14  Seminar - “New insights into the contribution of epicardially-derived cells to the developing heart in the mouse” Andy Wessels, MUSC, Conference Room, BSB611, Noon-1pm

September 19  Seminar - “Human Embryonic Stem Cell-derived Cardiomyocytes for Cell Therapy and Drug Discovery” Chunhui Xu, Geron Corporation, Conference Room, BSB611, Noon-1pm

September 29  New Technologies Awareness Seminar - “Introducing OpenArray® – Nanofluidic PCR technology” Jonathan Fisher, Life Technologies, Conference Room, BSB611, 10am-Noon

September 29  Seminar - “Providing Human Model of Cardiac Arrhythmia using Induced Pluripotent Stem Cells” Masayuki Yazawa, Stanford University, Conference Room, BSB611, Sept 29th, Noon-1pm

Dates and Times subject to change. Check the website for up to date information.

Have content for the Newsletter? Send information to brownjoa@musc.edu