2011 Open Enrollment

Employees are encouraged to read the 2011 Insurance Advantage to learn about plan changes, premium increases and benefit updates for the 2012 plan year. Employees will make changes to their insurance benefits through “My Benefits”, the website administered by the Employee Insurance Program, a division of the SC Budget and Control Board.

Open Enrollment is from October 1 through October 31, 2011. All premium and plan changes are effective January 1, 2012.

During Open Enrollment you may make the following changes:
- Change health insurance plan
- Add/drop health or dental
- Add/drop Dental Plus
- Add/drop the State Vision Plan
- Enroll/increase up to $50,000.00 of optional life insurance, in $10,000 increments, without medical evidence of good health*
- Decrease/cancel optional or dependent life insurance
- Enroll/re-enroll in Medical Spending or Dependent Care Accounts

*Employees may increase life insurance up to $500,000 during enrollment with approval of medical evidence.

Congratulations To:
The Annual Service Awards Ceremony for the Medical University of South Carolina was held Tuesday, September 20, 2011 at 9am. Employees from Regenerative Medicine and Cell Biology who have achieved a milestone of 10 to 30 years of service were:
- Dr. Timothy P. Fitzharris - 30 years
- Dr. Robert P. Thompson - 30 years
- Dr. Robin Muise-Helmericks - 10 years
- Dr. Titus A. Reaves - 10 years

INFORMATION TECH ADVICE

Make sure you are running the correct anti-virus protection on your computer. If you have an on-campus PC, make sure you are using Microsoft Forefront 2010. Go to: www.musc.edu/infoservices/endpointsecurity/ff2010.html to download and install.

For off-campus PC computers, go to: www.musc.edu/infoservices/endpointsecurity/Download%20Link.htm to download and install Microsoft Security Essentials.

MUSC no longer supports McAfee as anti-virus protection, so virus information updates are no longer offered for that product. If you are still using McAfee you should first download Forefront 2010 or MS Security Essentials to your computer; then uninstall McAfee; then immediately install the Forefront 2010 or Microsoft Security Essentials download.

Students Corner

Welcome to New Graduate Students:

James Atikson is a first year graduate student doing a research rotation in Steve Kubalak’s lab through the first week of December. James was born in Washington D.C. but grew up in Sumter, SC. He ventured a bit further south to University of Miami for his undergraduate studied, majoring in biomedical engineering. After graduating he took a research associate position at The Miami Project to Cure Paralysis investigating muscle spasticity following cervical spinal cord injury and treatments for uncontrollable muscle spasms. James is interested in the general areas of cardiology, bioengineering and stem cell research. Socially, he is a sports
enthusiast – especially football and basketball. When he isn’t out running or in the lab he likes to sample some to the excellent “watering holes” in Charleston!

You might remember seeing Kim Sauls around the department last year when she was working with Chip Norris and Roger Markwald. A native southerner, Kim was born in Savannah and attended Winthrop University. She is currently in the first year graduate program and doing a research rotation in Andy Wessels’ lab expanding her interest in cardiovascular disease. When Kim isn’t straining her eyes at the microscope you might find her out horseback riding, playing volleyball or relaxing on the water (preferably in a boat).

Erik Strungs has also been around MUSC for a while. He is starting his third year as an MD/PhD student in Rob Gourdie’s lab. Erik adds to the Wisconsin crowd in the department, taking is first steps in LaCrosse WI. After completing his undergraduate studies at the University of Minnesota in Minneapolis he worked for two years as a technician in a cardiothoracic surgery lab at UMN, studying cardiac remodeling following myocardial infarction. Between all the experiments that Rob can dream up and those additional responsibilities of the MSTP program there isn’t much time left for “other” activities, but seeks out opportunities to interact with K-12 students promoting character development.

Student Research Day Rehearsal

In a few weeks, a number of students & post-docs from our Department will present their work during the Student Research Day (November 4th). The students will work hard on preparing for this day and most of them have some “cool stuff” to present. Unfortunately, most of us will not be able to attend all the talks. Therefore, Dr. Andy Wessels is organizing a special departmental event on the day before (November 3rd). This will allow students to rehearse one final time (with a real life audience!) and give all members of the department the opportunity to listen to our students and appreciate their efforts. Dr. Wessels plans to make this a very informal meeting and hopes that many will attend. He will provide more information soon via the departmental lobby displays and email.
aims and how to prepare their samples to ensure optimal outcome. Services offered include: analysis/sorting using surface or intracellular markers, phenotyping, rare event sorting (including single cell deposition), side population sorting, FRET, cytometric bead arrays, cell viability, cell proliferation, apoptosis, DNA content, cell cycle analysis, and cell response kinetics. Assistance with data analysis is also available and we are always interested in collaboration to develop new assays. In partnership with Beckman Coulter, we will be able to offer some human and mouse reagents at reduced cost. Stop by to meet Chris and schedule your experiments.

Josh Spruill Imaging Facility News

- **ALL Users** of the Imaging and Histology Core resources should sign up for the new calendar system. The old schedule calendar will go out of service sometime in October.

- **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).

### Calendar

**October 5** Seminar - “Molecular Mechanisms of Heart Valve Development and Disease” Katherine Yutzey, Cincinnati Children’s Medical Center, Conference Room, BSB611, Noon-1pm

**October 12** 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

**October 19** Seminar - “Developmental Analysis of Apparently Acquired Aortic Aneurysm in Marfan Syndrome” Mark E. Lindsay, Johns Hopkins School of Medicine, Conference Room, BSB611, Noon-1pm

**October 26** Seminar - Robert B. Hinton, M.D. Cincinnati Children’s Hospital Medical Center, Cincinnati, OH, Conference Room, BSB611, 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