**News**

**Faculty Meeting Rescheduled**  
The faculty meeting is now scheduled for June 20 in BSB611 at noon.

**Women and Power Workshop**  
Dr. Samar Hammad organized the workshop Women and Power for women faculty university-wide. The Speaker was Jennet Robinson Alterman, Executive Director of the Center for Women, co-sponsored by the Women Scholar Initiative, the Provost Office, the College of Medicine, and the Center for Women, May 21st 2013.

**Hurricane Season Starts June 1**  
The MUSC Emergency Preparedness website at [http://academicdepartments.musc.edu/vpfa/operations/Risk%20Management/emergency/](http://academicdepartments.musc.edu/vpfa/operations/Risk%20Management/emergency/) has useful information for what has been forecast to be a busy hurricane season.

**Thanks, Jeff!**  
The Department of Regenerative Medicine and Cell Biology would like to thank Jeff Preacher for the 3 years of dedicated service to our department. We would like to wish Jeff all the best wishes as he is taking the next step in his career at OCIO.

**Party for Dr. Fitzharris**  
A Retirement Party for Dr. Fitzharris is planned for June 27th, 2-4 pm in room 611.

**Annual CATTs Mandatory Training – Deadline June 30, 2013**  
It is the policy of the Medical University of South Carolina, MUSC Physicians/Primary Care, the Medical University Hospital Authority and our affiliates to comply with the law and to follow ethical business practices. To promote understanding of various federal and state laws, key policies and regulations, we jointly require that all employees and affiliates complete annual CATTs or Mandatory training. It is time for all employees to complete the University’s annual CATTs mandatory training modules. Completion of all modules is due by June 30. The system is easily accessed online at www.musc.edu/catts using your NetID and password.

It is very important that everyone complete the annual mandatory training process. Failure to complete the assigned training by the stated deadline may result in disciplinary action as specified in human resources policies, the faculty handbook, and the graduate medical education handbook as applicable.

**New HR Process for Volunteers**  
There have been several recent updates to HR processes involving approvals and health screening requirements that you may not be aware of:

1. All new volunteers in a lab must be approved by the Dean’s Office and the Provost’s Office before going to HR for processing.
2. Due to the nationwide shortage of TB tests, new volunteers will be responsible for arranging their own pre-employment TB tests outside of MUSC’s Employee Health Services. EHS recommends any CVS, Nason Medical Center or Doctor’s Care for these services. Volunteers will need to...
Dr. Michael Kern was awarded the 2013 “Outstanding Basic Science Professor” by the Dental Students. Dr. Kern has won this honor 3 times in the past 5 years. Dr. Kern also just completed his third year of being part of the National Board of Dental Education Part 1 Test Construction Committee for the Anatomical Sciences. This is the Board exam that dental students complete after their 2nd year of coursework. Just like the medical students, they must pass this exam in order to move on to the clinics for their 3rd and 4th years of training.

Dr. Steven Kubalak was one of two recipients selected to receive the 2013 Maralynne D. Mitcham Interprofessional Fellowship for Faculty and Staff. The fellowship period is from July 1, 2013 to June 30, 2014 and is one of several Creating Collaborative Care (C3) initiatives at MUSC. It is designed to “prepare university faculty and staff to successfully assume new roles in interprofessional education, research, practice, and/or administration”. The three major components of the fellowship are “1) acquisition of new knowledge and skills, 2) engagement in interprofessional collaboration, and 3) integration of experiences gained into everyday work”. Dr Kubalak’s proposal had two main goals. The first was to provide first-hand exposure to the clinical aspects of human embryology by shadowing various OB-GYN interprofessional teams as they provide care in a variety of clinical cases. This “hands-on” type of experience will enhance his human embryology lectures to incoming medical students in their first-year curriculum. To aid in achieving this goal he will be working with his peer mentor, Dr. Eugene Chang, Associate Professor and Director of the Maternal Fetal Medicine Fellowship Program, through the duration of the fellowship. The second goal is to develop an elective course in the College of Graduate Studies intended to provide graduate students with an interprofessional experience that will be designed to augment the basic science aspects of their dissertation work. In order to enroll in the course, a student will need to have passed their written and oral qualifying exams and be in a lab working toward their dissertation. Currently there is no formal mechanism at MUSC to provide graduate students who predominantly spend their time at the bench to acquire a first-hand clinical experience during.

### Education

**Dr. Fitzharris’ Finale**

On Tuesday, March 26, **Dr. Timothy P. Fitzharris** presented his final Histology lecture to the first-year medical students, ending many years of a distinguished career in teaching, research, and industry. Always popular and appreciated by the students, Tim received a standing ovation that lasted about two minutes. Several members of the faculty of the Department also were in attendance, joining the students in showing appreciation for Tim as a teacher and mentor through the years.

The medical students of the past several classes celebrated their appreciation of Tim as one of their favorite teachers with a surprise gathering on Friday, April 26, in the new student lounge on the second floor of the Colbert Learning Center. With a clever collaboration by Thierry Bacro, who helped to lure Tim to the Recovery Room with the promise of “free cookies”, representatives of all four of the most recent classes organized and hosted a party of cakes and soft drinks. A large banner proclaiming, “Thank you, Dr. Fitzharris!” was signed by the students, and the large crowd of students and faculty sang, “For He’s a Jolly Good Fellow!” to wish him well.
their dissertation studies. This elective course, which is projected to be in place and offered for the fall of 2014, will provide this type of valuable life experience for eligible MUSC graduate students. To oversee the entire interprofessional experience and to guide Dr. Kubalak in his interactions with the clinical faculty and staff throughout the fellowship, Dr. Donna Kern has accepted the role of his master interprofessional mentor.

**Final Defense of Dissertation**

Obaidullah Aseem, a Ph.D. Candidate in Molecular & Cellular Biology and Pathobiology, Regenerative Medicine and Cell Biology, will present the final defense of his dissertation “The Epigenetic Regulation of Cubilin and the Physiological Role of this Receptor in Maintaining the Homeostasis of Serum Albumin and HDL” at 2pm, Friday, June 14, 2013, in BSB611. Dr. W. Scott Argraves is Mr. Aseem’s mentor.

**Research**

**Hyaluronan Conference Honoree**

Congratulations to Dr. Bryan Toole, who will be honored for his outstanding work and contributions at the 9th International Conference on Hyaluronan in Oklahoma City, OK, June 2-7, 2013.

**COBRE P30 - External Advisory Committee Meeting**

On April 24, 2013, members of the External Advisory Committee for the “South Carolina Center of Biomedical Research Excellence for Developmentally Based Cardiovascular Diseases” (SC COBRE; P30GM103342) met with CDBC/COBRE personnel here at MUSC to review and discuss progress in the first year of funding. The EAC members, Tom Doetschman (University of Arizona) and Bob Price (University of South Carolina) also provided us insights into how their core facilities at their respective institutions function. The primary objective of the COBRE/CDBC in phase III is to enhance a collaborative research environment and sustain research infrastructure to eventually gain sustainability of Cores (arbitrarily defined as self-supporting at least a 50% level). The overall assessment of the EAC members was that the CDBC/COBRE is a well-managed and important component of the research for many investigators at MUSC and around the state of South Carolina and that, over the years, it has provided the resources for the successful graduation of a large number of target faculty who have received NIH RO1 level funding and has enhanced the research infrastructure for many junior and senior investigators in the state. Furthermore, the EAC members noted that the CDBC/COBRE is the most mature COBRE in South Carolina and is poised to lead the efforts to integrate the COBRE, INBRE, SCTR, NSF RII and other infrastructure cores to further enhance the interactions and research opportunities within South Carolina. The primary concerns expressed during the EAC visit were related to the implementation of a fee structure for those core elements that do not yet have one. This is critical to ensure long-term sustainability. The EAC members also suggested consolidation of some aspects of the cores to present a more unified front when requesting funding from the MUSC administration. Finally, it was recommended that the respective cores improve outreach/training opportunities to insure continued growth and maximum use of the facilities.

**Weinstein Meeting Awards**

The 2013 Weinstein Cardiovascular Development Conference was sponsored by the University of Arizona in Tucson, AZ. Vennece Fowlkes, a postdoctoral fellow in Dr. Christi Kern’s lab, and Dr. Russell “Chip” Norris, both won travel awards at the conference. Dr. Norris was also awarded the Markwald Award for the second time. This distinction marks the presentation with the most unusual clarity.

**Invited Address**

Dr. Samar Hammad was invited by The Qatar Research Foundation to participate in the unveiling of Qatar National Research Strategy, October 21-23, 2012. The Chairperson of Qatar Foundation, Her Highness Sheikh Moza bint Nasser, gave the Opening Address. Dr. Hammad gave a talk on recent research advancements in the area of diabetes and atherosclerosis.
Conference Presentations

Wound Healing Society, Denver, CO

FASEB Summer Research Conference, Mitochondrial Biogenesis and Dynamics in Health, Disease and Aging, Big Sky, MT

New Journal Launched

Dr. Andy Wessels is working with the publisher MDPI AG in Basel Switzerland to launch an new online journal and form an Editorial Board. The Journal of Cardiovascular Development and Disease can be found online at http://www.mdpi.com/journal/jcdd

Basic Confocal Workshop

The 9th Annual Workshop on Basic Confocal Microscopy will be held June 10-14, 2013 at the USC School of Medicine in Columbia, SC. Plenty of space is available. Workshop material is directed towards beginning and intermediate users of confocal microscopes and involves a series of lectures (specimen preparation, labeling strategies, proper set-up of instrument operating parameters, proper handling of 2D and 3D confocal images in programs such as Adobe Photoshop and AMIRA), hands on specimen preparation, and time on a number of different point scanning and spinning disk confocal microscopes. Cost for the entire week is $250, which covers meals and supplies for the workshop. Please register soon! For further information, please see: http://irf.med.sc.edu/

New Grants

AHA Predoctoral Fellowship award to Kimberly Sauls (Norris Lab), “Regulation of Postnatal Cardiac Growth”, Project Period: 7/1/13 - 6/30/15. [3.5% score!]
AHA Grant-in-Aid award to Andy Wessels, “The Epicardium and Atrioventricular Valve Development”, Project Period: 7/1/13 - 6/30/15. [2.78% score!]
Co-Investigator – Kyu-Ho Lee (NHLBI) “Elucidating the Phosphatase-Independent Roles of PTPN11 in the Heart”, 7/1/13-6/31/17, PI: Maria Kontaridis, Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center, Boston.

Recent Publications


Pavone LM, Norris RA. *Distinct Signaling Pathways Activated by “Extracellular” and “Intracellular” Serotonin in Heart Valve Development and Disease.* Cell Biochem Biophys. 2013 Apr 21 PMID: 23605455

Rosa AO, Yamaguchi N, Morad M. *Mechanical regulation of native and the recombinant calcium channel.* Cell Calcium 2013 Jan 25 PMID: 23357406


Wilkerson BA, Grass GD, Wing SB, Argraves WS, Argraves KM. *S1P Carrier-Dependent Regulation of Endothelial Barrier: HDL-S1P Prolongs Endothelial Barrier Enhancement as Compared to Albumin-S1P Via Effects on Levels, Trafficking and Signaling of S1P1.* J Biol. Chem. 2012 287(53):44645-53. PMID: 23135269


Yamaguchi N, Chakraborty A, Huang TQ, Xu L, Gomez AC, Pasek DA, Meissner G. *Cardiac hypertrophy associated with impaired regulation of cardiac ryanodine receptor by calmodulin and S100A1.* Am J Physiol Heart Circ Physiol. 2013 May 10 PMID: 23666671
Calendar

June 5 NSF RII Thrust Leader Meeting. BSB606, 3 pm.
June 12 NSF RII Thrust Leader Meeting. BSB606, 3 pm.
June 14 FINAL DEFENSE - Obaidullah Aseem, The Epigenetic Regulation od Cubilin and the Physiological Role of this Receptor in Maintaining the Homeostasis of Serum Albumin and HDL, 2 pm in BSB611.
June 19 NSF RII Thrust Leader Meeting. BSB606, 3 pm.
June 19 SEMINAR - Elena Tourkina, Division of Rheumatology & Immunology, MUSC, Caveolin-1 Regulation of Lung Fibrosis. BSB611, 12 pm.
June 20 Faculty Meeting. BSB611, 12 pm.
June 26 NSF RII Thrust Leader Meeting. BSB606, 3 pm.
June 26 SEMINAR - Drs. Geoffrey and Caroline Burns, Harvard Medical School, Massachusetts General Hospital, Department of Medicine, Cardiovascular Research Center, Cardiovascular Development and Regeneration in Zebrafish. BSB611, 12 pm.
June 27 Retirement Party for Dr. Tim Fitzharris, BSB611, 2-4 pm.

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