Faculty Honors

Congratulations to MMBio faculty who were notified of advancements in their status this spring. Dr. Donald P. Breakwell was promoted to Teaching Professor. Dr. Sandra Burnett was awarded continuing faculty status and promoted to Associate Teaching Professor. And Dr. Eric Wilson was awarded continuing faculty status and promoted to Associate Professor. We appreciate the excellent work and strengths they bring to our department.

Kudos to Bill Zundel who has been named the President of the American Society for Clinical Laboratory Sciences (ASCLS), Utah Chapter.

Congratulations to Dr. Shauna Anderson Young, who has been appointed to serve a 4-year term and assume chairmanship for the national ASCLS Professional Standards Review Committee.

Publications


Grants

Cancer Research Grants were awarded to four MMBIO students to do full-time cancer research this summer.

- David Griffin (molecular biology) will be studying microenvironments and their interaction with the immune system, particularly macrophages. His area of focus will be on breast and colon cancers.
- Nick Candelaria (molecular biology) is working on the effects of phytoestrogens and SERMs (breast cancer therapeutics) on the down-regulation of Estrogen Receptor Alpha target genes.
- Fialka Grigorova (molecular biology MS program) is studying whether the loss of nBmp2 causes a statistically significant increase in the occurrence of myeloblastic leukemia.
- Trina Loos (molecular biology PhD program) is working to determine how nBmp4 induces cell death.

Conferences

Faculty and students attended and presented at conferences this year.

American Association for the Advancement of Science, Pacific Division (AAAS) 91st annual meeting, held June 15 in Ashland, Oregon.

Morgan Hardy presented the paper “Localization of Thymidine Kinase 1 in Human Lymphoma Cells through Immunogold Labeling Transmission Electronic Microscopy.” Jason Loong presented a poster, “Can drinking tea prevent cancer?”

American Association for Cancer Research (AACR) 101st annual meeting held April 17 in Washington DC.

Dr. Kim O’Neil attended. Poster presentations were made by Jason K. Loong “Can drinking tea prevent cancer?”, Gaytri Gupta “Antioxidant studies on the Peruvian cherimoya fruit give an insight into the healthy lifestyle of the Incas”, Jon Whitaker “Changes in Antioxidant capacities of isolated radish components during growth ”, and Rylie A. Enz “Inhibition of M1 Macrophages may aid the conversion process to M2, which may aid tumor survival”. Mary Keller also attended.

American College of Rheumatology (ACR) Conference held on October 16-21 in Philadelphia, PA.

Dr. Brian Poole presented a poster on “Host B Cell Gene Expression Responses Following Epstein-Barr Virus Exposure Differ Based Upon IRF5 Genetic Risk Haplotype”
American Fisheries Society (AFS) Western Division Annual Meeting held April 19-23 in Salt Lake City, UT.

Dr. Paul Evans attended.

American Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology (ASMBM) Conference held April 24-28 in Anaheim, CA.

Dr. Laura Bridgewater and Dr. Brent Nielsen attended.

Michael Baldwin received an Honorable Mention Award in the undergraduate poster competition. His poster was “Identification of a Consensus DNA Binding Sequence for Nuclear Gdf5 (nGdf5).” Poster presentations by other students were Trina J. Loos “Nuclear Bmp4: a novel ROC1 and ROC2 binding partner”, Ryan D. Corder and Julia Ventura “Mice bearing a targeted mutation of nBmp2 display decreased memory capabilities”, Broc McCune “Binding of nBmp2 to PLSCR1 suggests a possible mechanism for nBmp2 regulation of calcium-modulating proteins”, Brad Evanson “Nuclear bone morphogenetic protein 2 mutant mice exhibit slowed skeletal muscle relaxation and decreased tetany in the gastrocnemius plantaris, soleus muscle complex”, John Cupp “The Arabidopsis Twinkle homologue is targeted to mitochondria and has both DNA primase and DNA helicase activity that control mtDNA copy number”. Ashley Wright also attended.

American Society of Microbiology (ASM) 110th General Conference held May 23-27 in San Diego, CA.

Drs. Don Breakwell, David Erickson, Julianne Grose, John Lee, and Rich Robison attended.

Teri Bills presented a paper titled “Improved recovery of spores from coated carriers used in the AOAC Sporicidal Activity of Disinfectants (Method II) spore enumeration method, by addition of a surfactant to the rinse solution”. Jordan Meyers presented the paper “Susceptibility of native and synthetic HPV 16 virions to clinical disinfectants”. Chris Johnson also attended.

American Society of Microbiology Conference for Undergraduate Educators (ASMCUE) 17th Annual Conference held May 20-23 in San Diego, CA

Drs. Don Breakwell and Julianne Grose attended. They presented a paper titled, “Using baker’s yeast to teach life cycles of eukaryotic microbes.” Students Teri Bills, Chris Johnson, and Jordan Myers also attended.

American Society of Microbiology, Intermountain Branch Conference, held April 10 in Provo, UT

Numerous faculty and students attended this conference, held on campus. Details on students who won awards for their presentations are listed in the March/April MMBIO Department Newsletter.

Analytical Genetics Conference held in October in San Diego, CA.

Dr. Julianne Grose presented a paper titled “Passing glucose: the role of yeast PAS kinase in glucose partitioning.”

Biological Sciences Undergraduate Research 35th Annual Conference held June 15 in Santa Clara, CA

Paper presentations were made by B.S. Hendriksen, “Release of MIF by aggressive Adenocarcinoma cell lines may be an initial step in the polarization of macrophages;” and Rylie A. Enz, “A novel target for cancer immunotherapy.”

Chloroplast Genomics and Genetic Engineering 2nd International Symposium, held June in Ireland.

Dr. Brent Nielsen gave an invited talk on “Chloroplast DNA replication: ori-binding protein and dual-targeting DNA polymerases.”

Howard Hughes Medical Institute (HHMI) Symposium held June 11-14 in Ashburn, VA

Drs. Don Breakwell and Sandra Burnett attended.

Keystone Symposium on Nuclear Receptors: Development, Physiology and Disease, held March 21-26 in Keystone, CO

Dr. Chin-Yo Lin and student Nic Candelaria attended.


Daniel Lindsay and Ryan VanYperen also presented papers.

Texts & Curriculum

Bill Zundel has completed the revision of a textbook chapter titled “Pretransfusion Testing” in the textbook, Modern Blood Banking and Transfusion Practices by Denise Harmening.

Bill Zundel also completed a consulting job with DeVry University, helping to write their associate-level immunohematology course. Well done!