Congratulations Ph.D. Graduates!

Four BMS students graduated with their Ph.D. degrees on May 2. The work they have accomplished here lays a solid foundation for them to continue building their lives upon. Although it’s sad to see them leave, the entire department is proud of their research and goals for the future. In the years these students have spent here, they have learned so many valuable skills that they will take with them as they embark on the next chapter of their lives, joining the community as prestigious Florida State University College of Medicine Graduate Alumni! We wish you all the best as you move on to the next phase of your careers!
Biomedical Sciences Spring 2014 Ph.D. Graduates:

**Janel Rodriguez Cabrera, Ph.D.**  
*Major Professor:* Dr. Jamila Horabin  
*Research Description:* Chromatin regulating complexes are necessary for the dynamic modification of genomic DNA to allow for gene activation or silencing. Janel found that two the silencing systems, driven by Heterochromatin Protein 1 and the Polycomb Group which were previously thought to work separately, actually collaborate to regulate gene transcription during early development. Their interaction is important as the two systems appear to sense and partition the genome to sort the chromatin types each will regulate.  
*What’s next?* Postdoctoral Research Fellow in the Cardiology Division, Beth Israel Medical Center, Boston, MA.

**Kelly McKnight, Ph.D.**  
*Major Professor:* Dr. Yanchang Wang  
*Research Description:* Kelly’s research involved using budding yeast as a model organism to study a totally new way to regulate gene function in response to DNA replication stress, whereby a smaller version of the *ASE1* gene is produced to block the function of the larger version of *ASE1* and stabilize spindle dynamics during DNA replication stress.  
*What’s next?* Postdoctoral Research Fellow in the Center for Human Disease Modeling, Duke University, Durham, NC.

**Brett Mulvey, Ph.D.**  
*Major Professor:* Dr. Jamila Horabin  
*Research Description:* The focus of Brett’s studies has been on a regulatory network of long non-coding RNAs that influence the *Drosophila* sex determination decision. These RNAs interact with chromatin remodeling complexes necessary for both the activation and repression of early developmental decision genes.  
*What’s next?* Postdoctoral Research Fellow in the Department of Neurobiology, St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, Memphis, TN.

**William Perry, Ph.D.**  
*Major Professors:* Dr. Susanne Cappendijk and Dr. Mohamed Kabbaj  
*Research Description:* William’s research utilized the naturally occurring song patterns of male zebra finches to investigate the effects of nicotine on memory and cognition. Normally, the produced song of male zebra finches is highly stable and shows little variation over time once the animal reaches maturity. He found that a week-long nicotine treatment resulted in long term increases in song variability, which could be indicative of changes to cholinergic signaling in the song system.  
*What’s next?* Applying for postdoctoral positions to continue his research training.
Recent Publications

McKnight K, Liu H, Wang Y. “Replicative Stress Induces Intragenic Transcription of the ASE1 Gene that Negatively Regulates Ase1 Activity” Current Biology. 2014 Apr 22. [Epub ahead of print]

http://1.usa.gov/1kLV0aL


http://1.usa.gov/1kLVltW


http://1.usa.gov/1hxpf2S

Pilli J, Kumar S. “Potentiation of Convergent Synaptic Inputs onto Pyramidal Neurons in Somatosensory Cortex: Dependence on Brain Wave Frequencies and NMDA Receptor Subunit Composition” Neuroscience. 2014. [manuscript accepted for publication]

Congratulations Scholars!

Dr. Pradeep Bhide and Melissa Martin: Melissa was awarded the 2014-15 Chateaubriand Fellowship in Science, Technology, Engineering & Mathematics (STEM), providing support for 6 months of collaborative research.

Dr. Mohamed Kabbaj and Kristin Schopfer: Kristin is a recent FSU graduate who joined the Neuroscience Program; she won the Kingsbury Undergraduate Writing Award for her Outstanding Honors Thesis and the Best Poster Award in Psychology in the same week!

Dr. Jose Pinto: 2014 Recipient of the Cardiovascular Outreach Award

Dr. Daniel Kaplan: Received a supplement to his National Science Foundation grant to support an undergraduate’s research.

Student Exchange Program: Drs. Diaz, Megraw and Levenson are participating in an Exchange Student Program with Madrid, Spain! Diaz and one CoM 4th year just completed a successful exchange while Megraw and Levenson will soon be hosting their own exchange students that are at the end of their 2nd years. Thank you, Chenelle Wester and Dr. Jose Diaz, for helping make this Student Exchange possible.
Stay Connected

If you are attending a conference/symposium/etc. tweet to @FSUBiomed so we can help spread the exciting news and research!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!
Gail Galasko—5/28
Ewa Bienkiewicz—6/20
Michael Blaber—6/30

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Seminars:
Dr. Jun Zhou 5/21
Gina O’Neal-Moffitt 5/28
Dr. Wendi Neckameyer 6/11

Deadlines:
Last day of ordering for the fiscal year is 6/20!!
Stock up on supplies now!
(Ordering resumes on 7/7)

End of the Year Reception:
June 4th
Awards to be given:
2014 Randolph L. Rill Senior Graduate Student Award & 2014 Postdoctoral Associate Award

Don’t forget to sign-up for the Potluck Lunch outside Jonquil’s office in suite 2370!

*BMS NEWSLETTER NAME COMPETITION!*

Attention all clever faculty, staff and students; BMS is holding a Naming Competition for our monthly newsletter. If you think you have the wits to play along, email your suggestions to Danae (Danae.Souders@med.fsu.edu) before June 10th. The most clever and best fitting name that is submitted wins a prize and the dignity of knowing you’re the wittiest researcher in the building!