

Please send submissions to: Melinda Kochenderfer at [kochend2@msu.edu](mailto:kochend2@msu.edu) or 105B Biochemistry (mailbox on 2<sup>nd</sup> floor)

Vol.39, No. 8, Feb. 20-24, 2006

## Calendar

### Monday, February 20

**Center for Integrative Toxicology and National Center for Food Safety and Toxicology seminar:** Safety assessment of genetically modified crops. Brian Delaney, Pioneer Hi-Bred International, Inc., 3:30 p.m., 162 Food Safety and Toxicology.

**Genetics Program Research Forum:** From single metabolic pathways to networks using Arabidopsis functional genomics. Dr. Rob Last, 12:30 p.m., Room 1425 Biomedical and Physical Sciences.

### Tuesday, February 21

### Wednesday, February 22

### Thursday, February 23

**Biochemistry and Molecular Biology Seminar:** The mechanisms of nickel homeostasis in *E. coli*. Deborah Zamble, University of Toronto, 11:30 a.m., 101 Biochemistry.

### Friday, February 24

**Science at the Edge:** Interdisciplinary Physics Seminar, Theory and modeling of polymer-inorganic nanocomposites. Valeriy Ginzburg, Physical Science Group, Dow Chemical Co., Midland, 11:30 a.m., Room 1400 Biomedical and Physical Sciences.

**Enzyme/Metabolism Discussion Group:** Tina Mueller (Hausinger lab) Computational and experimental approaches to identify the basis of enantiospecificities in *R*- and *S*-specific phenoxypropionate/alpha-ketoglutarate dioxygenases. 12:00 noon, Room 1425 Biomedical and Physical Sciences.

**Transcription Journal Club:** Presentation by **Dean Shooltz**, 12 noon, 502 Biochemistry.

## Announcements

**The Graduate Experience: MSU Guidelines for Graduate Student Advising and Mentoring Relationships** Thursday, February 23, 6:00 pm – 8:30 pm, Big 10 B, Kellogg Center. Free for Graduate Students. Parking provided. To register, send an email to: [gradwrsp@msu.edu](mailto:gradwrsp@msu.edu) and include your name, department, e-mail address, phone number and name of the workshop.

**MSU-NSF Scholarships: Research Training Program for Undergraduate Students in Biological and Mathematical Sciences (UBM).** Successful applicants will receive financial support throughout the training period: Fall 06, Spring 07, Summer 07, Fall 07, Spring 08. Details at <http://www.math.msu.edu/ubm>  
**Deadline: March 15, 2006.**

### Need for old laboratory equipment

One of our recent BMB graduates, Josh Vanderjagt (Spring 2005), is currently teaching biology in a Chicago high school through the Teach for America program. Upon his recent visit to the department, we learned that they are sorely in need of equipment (He didn't ask, but as he talked with us, the need became apparent.) They have **no microscopes**, and could also use any old **glassware, computers, or other lab equipment**. Josh said, "We pretty much need anything we can get our hands on." If you can help, please let Melinda know and she will contact Josh.



**Please welcome** Visiting Research Associate, **Hanan Omar** who joined Jennifer Ekstrom's group in October. She is doing research on Asparaginyl tRNA synthetase and tRNA-asn synthesis to study crystallography of these compounds. These crystal structures will be used for drug design.

Originally from Cairo, Egypt, Dr. Omar worked as an Assistant Professor at Theodor Biharz Research Institute, Ministry of Scientific Research, and earned her PhD at Ain Shams University. Hanan has been a Visiting Research Associate at MSU several times and has also worked at Iowa State University.

Hanan Omar is married and has two children. Her husband and son are living and working in Egypt, both in Engineering. Dr. Omar's daughter, Amal Abdu-Hafez is a third year graduate student in the MSU Genetics program.

In her spare time, Hanan likes to read science fiction and Arabic novels and watch movies. The most recent movie she enjoyed was Ghost.

**Mystery Person** – (Each week, the first person to guess the featured mystery person, by e-mailing **the name of the person** to the editor, receives a small prize and the opportunity to select the next week's mystery person.)

This week's Mystery Person has been in the Biochemistry building since January. Originally from the Midwestern states of Wisconsin and Iowa, MP did undergraduate work at Dakota State University. MP's last vacation was a trip to Iowa to visit parents. Presumably they helped with MP's three children, a 4-year-old boy, 20-month- AND 4-month-old girls. We share MP with another MSU department, which partially explains why, people with MP's title, "...don't have time for hobbies." Who is MP?

### **Quote for the Week**

Perfection is achieved, not when there is nothing more to add, but when there is nothing left to take away.  
- *Antoine de Saint Exupery*

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