



The BMB Weekly Vol. 40, No. 3, January 15-19, 2007

Please send submissions to: Katie Gallagher at galla134@msu.edu or 302B Biochemistry (mailbox on 2nd floor)

Calendar

Monday, January 15

Martin Luther King, Jr. Day – Classes Canceled

Human Genetics Faculty Candidate Seminar: RNAi therapy for Huntington's disease. Scott Harper, University of Iowa, 9:00 a.m., 1400 Biomedical and Physical Sciences.

Plant Systems Biology Faculty Candidate Seminar: Integration of metabolomics, proteomics, and multivariate data analysis for plant systems biology. Wolfram Weckwerth, Max Planck Institute for Molecular Plant Physiology, 11:45 a.m., 247 Plant Biology.

Pharmacology and Toxicology Seminar: Health and Biomedical Colleges Presentation of Candidates for Cardiovascular Scientist in Inflammation Position: Oxidative stress and inflammation: Cohorts in vascular disease? Patrick Pagano, Wayne State University, 12:00 noon, B448 Life Sciences.

Chemistry Seminar: Functional macromolecules in bioorganic chemistry: From enzyme models to glycoproteins. Lei Liu, The Scripps Research Institute, 4:10 p.m., 136 Chemistry.

Tuesday, January 16

Statistics and Probability Seminar: Inverse probability weighted estimation for general missing data problems. Jeffrey Wooldridge, 4:05 p.m., A405 Wells.

Chemistry Seminar: Secondary structure analysis of proteins by circular dichroism. Xin Zhu, Michigan State University, 4:10 p.m., 136 Chemistry.

Wednesday, January 17

Thursday, January 18

Biochemistry and Molecular Biology Seminar: Active site of the hammerhead ribozyme. John Burke, University of Vermont, 11:30 a.m., 101 Biochemistry.

Plant Systems Biology Faculty Candidate Seminar: New advances in genomics and proteomics techniques and their application to plant biology. Curtis Wilkerson, Michigan State University, 11:45 a.m., 247 Plant Biology.

Neuroscience Program Seminar: Multiregional high-throughput gene expression profiling in Parkinson's disease: The process of novel pathway and target identification. Spyridon Papapetropoulos, University of Miami, 12:15 p.m., 1425 Biomedical Physical Sciences.

Chemistry Seminar: Efficiency through transition metal catalysis: Application and development of synthetic methods. Brandon L. Ashfeld, Stanford University, 2:45 p.m., 136 Chemistry.

Agilent Technologies Seminar: Genome tiling microarrays for studying DNA-protein interactions and epigenetics. Christopher Brown, Senior Applications Consultant, 3:15 p.m., 1279 Anthony Hall.

Chemistry Seminar: Toward single cell proteomics. Lloyd Smith, University of Wisconsin, Madison, 4:10 p.m., 136 Chemistry.

Calendar continued

Thursday, January 18

Microbiology and Molecular Genetics Seminar: Syntrophy through starvation: Do the general rules of ecology apply under extreme nutrient limitation? Hazel Barton, Northern Kentucky University, 4:10 p.m., 1415 Biomedical and Physical Sciences.

Friday, January 19

Human Genetics Faculty Candidate Seminar: TBA. James Friedman, University of Michigan, 9:00 a.m., 1400 Biomedical and Physical Sciences.

Science at the Edge: Interdisciplinary Physics Seminar: Coherent nonlinear optical spectroscopy of proteins: Femtosecond analogues of multidimensional NMR. Shaul Mukamel, University of California, Irvine, 11:30 a.m., 1400 Biomedical and Physical Sciences.

Transcription Journal Club: Presentation by **Jianjun Luo**, 12:00 noon, 502 Biochemistry.

Genetics Program Comprehensive Examination Seminar: Elucidating the role of UL41 and US10 gene for Marek's disease virus of chickens. Weifeng Mao, 1:00 p.m., 1425 Biomedical and Physical Sciences.

Announcements

BMB Research Store: Pricing for many items purchased through MSU Purchasing, University Stores, and BMB Research Store will be increased this year. This is due to increased vendor pricing for 2007 as well as increases in fuel charges. We continue to strive to keep costs down. Please contact us at 353-0813 if we can be of assistance in providing for your research needs.

USDA Grants.gov Training: Hands on training opportunities targeted for faculty and staff on USDA submissions, **Friday, January 19, 2007, 1:30-3:30 p.m., Location TBA.** The course will cover how to search for Funding Opportunities Announcements (FOA), download the free PureEdge software, download the application, and complete and submit the application form to CGA for approval. Tips and typical errors will be covered. **Registration is required.** E-mail Betty Crowell at crowell@cga.msu.edu to sign up or to ask any questions regarding the training.

The Graduate School – Conflict Resolution Workshop: “Setting expectations and resolving conflicts between graduate students and faculty.” Presented by Dr. Tony Nunez, Associate Dean, The Graduate School; Dr. Julie Brockman, Program Coordinator, The Graduate School; and Dr. Janet Lillie, Department of Communications, **Friday, January 19, 2007, 9:00 a.m. - 2:30 p.m., Room 103AB Kellogg Hotel and Conference Center.** Graduate students will learn effective negotiation and communication strategies to resolve conflicts and also to prevent them from occurring. To allow for more interaction, the workshop is limited to 30 graduate students. Check-in begins at 8:30 a.m. with the workshop beginning promptly at 9:00 a.m. **Registration is required.** To register, please send an e-mail to gradwrsp@msu.edu and include your name, department, e-mail address, and the name of the workshop.

The Graduate School – Ph.D. Job Search Series Workshop: “The academic job search.” Presented by Dr. Matt Helm, **Thursday, February 1, 2007, 5:00-7:00 p.m., Big Ten C, Kellogg Hotel and Conference Center.** In order to be successful and efficient in the academic job search process it is essential to understand the diversity of opportunities in American academia. This workshop will provide an overview of the different types of academic institutions and expose students to the perspectives and constraints faced by search committees. Students will also learn how to find academic job listings, how to evaluate opportunities, and how to prepare application materials. This workshop is designed for Ph.D. students who are within two years of graduating. **Registration is required.** To register, please send an e-mail to gradwrsp@msu.edu and include your name, department, e-mail address, and the name of the workshop.

MSU Libraries Workshop: Wednesday, January 17, 3:00-4:30 p.m., Main Library, Basement Instruction Room (EG2). This workshop is designed specifically for graduate students. This introductory class will show you how to save time, work smart, and start researching like an expert at the MSU Libraries. Discover the secrets of a successful literature search: Selecting databases most useful for your topic, keyword selection, finding full text for journal articles, and how to navigate the MSU Libraries' website efficiently from on and off campus. RSS feeds and alerts to new literature in your field will also be presented. **Registration is required.** Please register online at <http://classes.lib.msu.edu>. If you have any questions, please call 432-6123 ext. 213.

Announcements continued

The Graduate School Workshop: Saturday, January 27, 2007, 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m., Big Ten C, Kellogg Hotel and Conference Center. “Where to look for federal and non-profit positions and how to land them.” Presented by Mary Malaspina, Governmental Affairs Research Officer, MSU Washington, D.C. Office; Amy Rosewarne, Communications Analyst, Government Accountability Office; and Dianne Witt, Program Director, National Science Foundation. This workshop is aimed at doctoral students at all levels in their program; from those just beginning their coursework and planning ahead to acquire the skills they need to those starting on their job searches. This workshop will focus on how the skills you’ve developed in your degree program can prepare you for employment in a wide range of agencies, and on how employment in such venues may make you more competitive for future job opportunities in and out of academia. Panel members who represent backgrounds in science, business, and the humanities, and who have been or are currently employed in agency or non-profit positions, will talk about how they got where they are, what life in such organizations is like, and what they have learned about negotiating transitions between academia and the public sector. Afternoon sessions will focus on negotiating federal job applications and deciphering the structure of federal and non-profit employment. **Registration is required.** To register, please send an e-mail to gradwrsp@msu.edu and include your name, department, e-mail address, workshop name, and workshop date.

Travel

University Meal Per Diems: Effective January 1, 2007, the University meal per diems were increased to bring them in line with the Federal continental United States per diem rates. There are substantial changes to the per diem levels and classifications of cities therein. The following link provides a listing of the 2007 meal per diem rates by U.S. city: <http://ctrl.msu.edu/travel/mealrates07.htm>. There are now four per diem levels. Some counties are included so that University travelers conducting business in the suburbs of major metropolitan areas receive meal per diems in line with current costs. The following are the 2007 meal per diem allowances:

Standard: Breakfast (\$7); Lunch (\$11); Dinner (\$21); Total (\$39)

Key: Breakfast (\$8); Lunch (\$12); Dinner (\$24); Total (\$44)

Special: Breakfast (\$10); Lunch (\$16); Dinner (\$28); Total (\$54)

Major: Breakfast (\$12); Lunch (\$20); Dinner (\$32); Total (\$64)



Position Vacancies (copies of notices are in maroon binder in Room 302A)

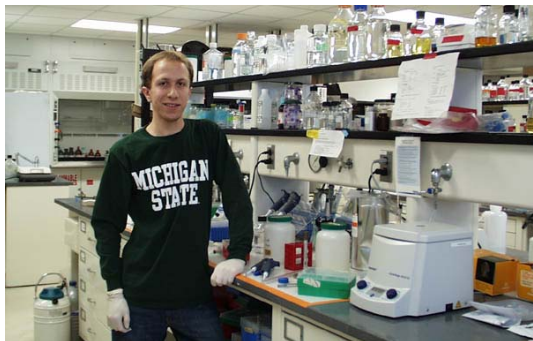
A **postdoctoral research associate position** is available immediately with the Center for Microbial Pathogenesis in the Department of Micro & Molecular Genetics at **Michigan State University**. The research will involve the genetics of host specificity in the opportunistic pathogen *Burkholderia cenocepacia*. This research will include development of a transposon mutagenesis system for this pathogen and testing of mutants in a variety of host models as well as analysis of the roles of specific genes in virulence in various hosts. The successful candidate should possess a Ph.D. in molecular biology, microbiology, or a closely related field, and strong research experience in construction of vectors, transposon mutagenesis, gene expression analysis, and other routine molecular biology protocols. This is a team-based project, and applicants must be capable of working with and maintaining connections between several research groups. Strong written and oral communication skills are required. **Application due date is January 12, 2007.** For more information, please contact Dr. Martha Mulks at mulks@msu.edu.

A **postdoctoral position** is available in the Department of Biology at **Duke University**. The successful candidate will study molecular genetics in plant defense. The applicant must possess a Ph.D. in molecular biology, biochemistry, genetics, or a related field. Prior experience with plant biochemistry, Arabidopsis genetics, transformation, and other genomics methods is desirable. The research project involves functional characterization of loci controlling the biochemistry of plant defense. For more information about the laboratory, please visit <http://fds.duke.edu/db/aas/Biology/faculty/tmo>. Funding is available for two years beginning immediately, with the possibility of further extension. For more information on the position, please contact Dr. Thomas Mitchell-Olds at tmol@duke.edu.

Position Vacancies continued

A **Chair position** is available with the Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology (BMB) at **Wright State University**. The successful candidate will have the opportunity to lead and expand a department that contributes to the research and educational missions of the College of Science and Mathematics and the Boonshoft School of Medicine. Applicants should have a Ph.D., M.D., or equivalent doctoral degree, qualify for a tenured appointment as Professor, be a nationally recognized scientific leader in an area that complements departmental strengths, and have an on-going record of competitive research funding. Candidates must have excellent interpersonal, communication, and administrative skills and a strong commitment to research and education. Major research interests in the department include protein and DNA structure and function, molecular genomics, and NMR-based metabolomics. The department houses the Center for Genomics Research, the Center for Cellular Dynamics, and the Magnetic Resonance Laboratory. For more information about the department, the university, and the Dayton area, please visit <http://www.med.wright.edu/bmb/chair>. **Application deadline is March 1, 2007.**

Spotlight



Michael Dittmer, Professorial Assistant, has been with the Ekstrom lab for four months. His lab work mainly focuses around expressing EZH2 1-183/1-195 pRSF in E. Coli cells by transforming their plasmids and then isolating the EZH2. Michael performs plasmid isolations and transformations, run gel electrophoresis, and also use various ways of filtering and isolating EZH2.

Michael is originally from Grand Rapids, Michigan. He is currently a second year undergraduate student. Outside of the lab, Michael enjoys ultimate Frisbee, golf, Web design, and programming. Michael is a CHE major, but he plans on going into Biochemical Engineering,

hopefully focusing in the area of pharmaceuticals.

Quote for the Week

Treat your friends as you do your pictures, and place them in their best light. – *Jennie Jerome Churchill*