



The BMB Weekly Vol. 40, No. 12, March 19-23, 2007

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

Calendar

Monday, March 19

Genetics Program Research Forum: Genetics of rice domestication. Tao Sang, Michigan State University, 12:30 p.m., 1425 Biomedical and Physical Sciences.

Physics and Astronomy Seminar: Probing new physics with the Higgs Boson at the LHC. Ian Low, California, 2:00 p.m., 1400 Biomedical and Physical Sciences.

Entomology Seminar: The use of phylogeny to examine warning and courtship signals in tiger moths (Arctiidae). Rebecca Simmons, University of North Dakota, 4:00 p.m., 244 Natural Science.

Plant Biology and Plant Research Lab Seminar: Genetic and epigenetic aspects of centromere specification in maize and the development of artificial chromosome platforms. James Birchler, University of Missouri, 4:00 p.m., 101 Biochemistry.

Physics and Astronomy Seminar: Dipole-dipole scattering in 1D optical lattices. Jesus Zapata, Universidad de Atlantico, Barranquilla Columbia, 4:10 p.m., 1400 Biomedical and Physical Sciences.

Cognitive Science Program Distinguished Speakers Seminar: Resolving inference in perception, memory, and action: A case study of imaged cognition. John Jonides, University of Michigan, 5:30 p.m., 116 Natural Science.

Tuesday, March 20

Statistics and Probability Seminar: Nonparametric marginal estimation in a multistate model with current status data. Somnath Datta, University of Louisville, 10:30 a.m., A405 Wells Hall.

Metabolism, Membranes, and Metalloenzymology (3M) Club Meeting: Presentation by Charlie Hoogstraten, Hoogstraten Lab, 12:00 noon, 1400 Biomedical and Physical Sciences.

Physics and Astronomy Seminar: Unification without doublet-triplet splitting - SUSY exotics at the LHC. Juergen Reuter, Carleton University, 2:00 p.m., 1400 Biomedical and Physical Sciences.

Chemistry Seminar: A) Functionalization and mechanistic studies on reactions of fullerenes and azafullerenes; and B) Synthesis and catalytic activity of ruthenium-based olefin metathesis initiators. Georgios Vougioukalakis, California Institute of Technology, 4:10 p.m., 136 Chemistry.

Microbiology and Molecular Genetics Program Seminar: A beneficial microbe from the dark side: *Aeromonas veronii*. Joerg Graf, University of Connecticut, 4:10 p.m., 1415 Biomedical and Physical Sciences.

Wednesday, March 21

Pharmacology and Toxicology Seminar: Neuroimmune interactions: Effects on the hypothalamo-pituitary-gonadal axis. Sheba M.J. MohanKumar, Michigan State University, 12:00 noon, B448-49 Life Sciences.

Neuroscience Seminar: Androgen receptor polyglutamine neurotoxicity in SBMA motor neuron degeneration. Albert La Spada, University of Washington, 12:15 p.m., 1425 Biomedical and Physical Sciences.

Calendar continued

Wednesday, March 21

Chemistry Seminar: Studies of nonactin biosynthesis show us that combinatorial biosynthesis works well only if the combinatorial and the biosynthesis are kept separate. Nigel Priestley, University of Montana, 3:00 p.m., 136 Chemistry.

Ecology, Evolutionary Biology, and Behavior Program Seminar: Understanding variation in survival and reproduction in the spotted hyena: From individual to population. Heather Watts, Michigan State University, 3:30 p.m., 247 Plant Biology Building.

Food Science and Human Nutrition Seminar: Human requirements for the nutrient choline: The importance of nutrigenomics. Steven Zeisel, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, 4:00 p.m., 101 Biochemistry.

Thursday, March 22

Biochemistry and Molecular Biology Seminar: Biology without bias: Functional insights from high resolution genetic and protein-protein interaction maps. Nevan Krogan, University of California, San Francisco, 11:30 a.m., 101 Biochemistry.

Neuroscience Seminar: Progesterone receptors in neural development: Regulation and potential function. Christine Wagner, University of Albany, 12:15 p.m., 1425 Biomedical and Physical Sciences.

Shell Oil Company and Geological Sciences Seminar: REE Incorporation in apatite: Surface structural controls and crystal chemistry. John Rakovan, Miami University, 4:00 p.m., 204 Natural Science.

Chemistry Seminar: Pfizer Distinguished Lectureship: A search for selective yet general catalysts. Eric Jacobsen, Harvard University, 4:10 p.m., 138 Chemistry.

Epidemiology Seminar: Understanding the causes and consequences of mental illness: Six challenges, questions, and approaches. Sandro Galea, University of Michigan, 4:30 p.m., Patenge Room, C102 East Fee Hall.

Friday, March 23

Science at the Edge: Quantitative Biology and Modeling Seminar: An overview of weighted gene co-expression network analysis. Steve Horvath, UCLA, 11:30 a.m., 1400 Biomedical and Physical Sciences.

Transcription Journal Club: No meeting this week.

Chemistry Seminar: Determination of norepinephrine distribution in rat heart tissue by capillary electrophoresis coupled with amperometric detection on a boron-doped diamond microelectrode. Martin Novotny, Michigan State University, 12:40 p.m., 136 Chemistry.

Chemistry Seminar: Pfizer Distinguished Lectureship: Asymmetric catalysis by chiral hydrogen-bond donors. Eric Jacobsen, Harvard University, 4:10 p.m., 136 Chemistry.

Announcements

MSU TA Programs Workshop: "Creating a Teaching Philosophy You Can Use." Presented by Kevin Johnston, **Tuesday, March 20, 2007, 5:00-6:30 p.m., International Center Spartan Room C.** Writing a teaching philosophy is one of the most rewarding and, unfortunately, often one of the hardest tasks to complete. This workshop will use writing exercises to help get you thinking and talking about the seminal points you need to address in your teaching philosophies. This workshop will give you a solid foundation from which you can start to write what will be one of the most important records you create of your teaching life. A light supper will be provided. Bring with you writing materials and a cheerful willingness to share your "teaching philosophy travails" with your colleagues. **Registration is required.** To register, send an email to kmj@msu.edu.

Announcements continued

The Graduate School Workshop: “Translating academic success into expanded career opportunities.” **Saturday, March 24, 2007, 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m., Lincoln Room, Kellogg Hotel and Conference Center.** This workshop is designed primarily for doctoral students who are considering traveling beyond the tenure-track or post doc route.

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. For details, visit <http://www.grad.msu.edu/professional.htm#tas>.

The Graduate School and TAP Workshop: Lilly Workshop: “Overcoming Apathy in the Classroom: Teaching Strategies Drawn from the Psychology of Learning.” Presented by Todd Zakrajsek, Central Michigan University, **Monday, March 26, 2007, 8:00-11:00 a.m., Big Ten C Room, Kellogg Hotel and Conference Center.** What can instructors do to facilitate learning when they encounter students who seem uninterested and even apathetic toward course content and assignments? Part of the responsibility for learning belongs to students, but as faculty, we can find new ways to motivate, inspire, and maybe even cajole students to learn. This workshop will demonstrate and explain how instructors can make classroom learning, perhaps one of the most artificial learning settings, a more meaningful experience for students. **Registration is required.** Register online at <http://www.provost.msu.edu/facdev/LillySeminar/register.asp>.

The Graduate School Workshop – Ph.D. Job Search Series Workshop: “Negotiation Skills for Nonacademic and Academic Jobs.” Presented by Dr. Matt Helm, **Tuesday, March 27, 2007, 5:00-7:00 p.m., Big Ten C, Kellogg Hotel and Conference Center.** Receiving a job offer is exciting and affirming. Before accepting the offer, however, it is important to understand the idiosyncrasies of job offers and how to negotiate for your professional needs. This workshop will discuss how to evaluate an offer, what aspects of the job offer can be negotiated, and basic strategies for conducting a successful negotiation. **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.

Goodbye Reception/Luncheon: A reception is being held for Donald Jump, Ph.D., on Friday March 30, 2007 from 12:00 noon - 2:00 p.m. in 1425 Biomedical and Physical Sciences. Please RSVP by Friday, March 23, 2007. Dr. Jump has accepted a position as Director of Bionutrition at Oregon State University in Corvallis, Oregon. Please join us to wish him good luck in his new endeavors.

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

Multiple **Ph.D. student fellowships and postdoctoral and tech positions** are available in the research groups of Dr. Dmitry Belostotsky and Dr. Julia Chekanova at the **University of Missouri** in Kansas City. Successful candidates will work on one of the following projects: functional genomics of posttranscriptional control of plant gene expression; mechanism and applications of internal ribosome entry site; and mRNA biogenesis in yeast. The positions are available immediately. Successful candidates will have an appropriate degree and solid background in molecular biology and/or genetics, biochemistry, cell biology, developmental biology, as evidenced by a strong publication record in international journals (for postdoctoral candidates). Experience in RNA biology, microarrays and/or bioinformatics is a plus. For more information, please call (816) 235-5246.

A **postdoctoral research associate position** is available with the Limnology section in the Department of Ecology & Evolution at **Uppsala University** in Sweden. The research will focus on the ecology and diversity of microorganisms involved in degradation of organic compounds in freshwater ecosystems. The position is a 2-year appointment linked to Uppsala Microbiomics Center (UMC) funded by Formas. The work will involve independent research within the field of aquatic microbial ecology and environmental microbiology. This will involve designing and carrying out microcosm-based experiments with complex microbial communities; analysis of complex microbial communities and specific populations with quantitative molecular and microscopy-based tools; statistical and bioinformatic analyses, probe design, phylogenetic analyses; and presenting the work in peer reviewed journals. The researcher is also expected to provide some practical supervision of Ph.D. students. The successful candidate must have documented experience in microbial ecology and bioinformatics. For more information, please email Dr. Stefan Bertilsson at stebe@ebc.uu.se. Application deadline is **March 1, 2007**.

Position Vacancies continued

A **postdoctoral position** is available immediately for a DOE-ERSP funded project with the Department of Biological Sciences at **Duquesne University**. The successful candidate will study nitrate enhanced CrVI reduction by dissimilatory metal reducing bacteria. The study involves aspects of microbial physiology, proteomics, biochemistry, and molecular biology. The investigation is part of an ongoing effort in microbial physiology and bioinorganic chemistry to understand the microbial transformation of metals and metalloids in mixtures. Expertise in protein purification and proteomics is preferred, but candidates with a background in molecular biology and enzymology will also be considered. The initial appointment is for one year, with a possibility of two additional years contingent on research progress and availability of funding. For more information, please visit <http://www.home.cc.duq.edu/~stolz> or email Dr. John F. Stolz at stolz@duq.edu.

Quote for the Week

We find no real satisfaction or happiness in life without obstacles to conquer and goals to achieve. – *Maxwell Maltz*
