



## The BMB Weekly Vol. 41, No. 15, April 7-11, 2008

Please send submissions to: Katie Gallagher at [galla134@msu.edu](mailto:galla134@msu.edu) or 105B Biochemistry (mailbox on 2<sup>nd</sup> floor)

### Calendar

#### Monday, April 7

**Physics and Astronomy Seminar:** Josephson interferometry in superconducting Sr<sub>2</sub>RuO<sub>4</sub>: Evidence for chiral order parameter domains. Francoise Kidwingira, Stanford University, 4:10 p.m., 1400 Biomedical and Physical Sciences.

**Plant Biology and Plant Research Lab Seminar:** Small RNAs and epigenetic regulation in abiotic stress. Jiankang Zhu, University of California, Riverside, 4:10 p.m., 101 Biochemistry.

#### Tuesday, April 8

**Patent Endowed Professorship in the Life Sciences Seminar:** Wild-type BRCA1, but not mutated BRCA1, acts as a sensor regulating beta-catenin activation and beta-catenin/ FOXO interaction during oxidative stress responses. Hava Avraham, Harvard Medical School and Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center, Boston, 9:00 a.m., 1425 Biomedical and Physical Sciences. Research Discussion to follow at 10:00 a.m. in 1425 Biomedical and Physical Sciences.

**Statistics and Probability Seminar:** Tapered empirical likelihood for time series data. Daniel Nordman, Iowa State University, 10:20 a.m., A-405 Wells Hall.

**Animal Science Seminar:** The effect of methoxychlor on the mammalian ovary. Jodi Flaws, University of Illinois, 2:30 p.m., 1425 Biomedical and Physical Sciences.

**Microbiology and Molecular Genetics Seminar:** Translation of the genetic code, quality control and the cost of accuracy. Michael Ibba, Ohio State University, 4:10 p.m., 1415 Biomedical and Physical Sciences.

#### Wednesday, April 9

**Statistics and Probability Seminar:** Using the results of genome-wide association studies to form predictive genetic tests. Qing Lu, Case Western Reserve University, 11:40 a.m., A-405 Wells Hall.

**Physics and Astronomy Seminar:** Presentation by **Puneet Batra, Columbia University**, 12:00 noon, 3239 Biomedical and Physical Sciences.

**Ecology, Evolutionary Biology, and Behavior Program Seminar:** Rising atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub>, forest productivity and C sequestration: The role of nitrogen limitation in forest-carbon uptake and storage. Adrien Finzi, Boston University, 3:30 p.m., 247 Plant Biology.

**BMB Graduate Student Research Forum:** Presentation by **Jie Deng, Tiedje Lab**, 4:30 p.m., 208 Biochemistry.

#### Thursday, April 10

**Biochemistry and Molecular Biology Seminar:** Using normalized spectral abundance factors to visualize protein complexes and protein interaction networks. Michael Washburn, Stowers Institute for Medical Research, 11:30 a.m., 101 Biochemistry

**Neuroscience Seminar:** Sexual differentiation: Steroid receptors and sex chromosomes. Emilie Rissman, University of Virginia, 12:30 p.m., 1425 Biomedical and Physical Sciences.

## Calendar continued

### Thursday, April 10

**Physiology Seminar:** The characterization of human adipose-derived stem cells. Jeffrey Gimble, Louisiana State University, 3:00 p.m., 1425 Biomedical and Physical Sciences.

**Horticulture and Crop & Soil Sciences Seminar:** The role of green roofs in sustainable development. Brad Rowe, Michigan State University, 4:10 p.m., A149 Plant and Soil Sciences.

**Physics and Astronomy Seminar:** Our miserable future. Lawrence Krauss, Case Western Reserve University, 4:10 p.m., 1415 Biomedical and Physical Sciences.

**Epidemiology Seminar:** Depression and risk of cardiovascular and metabolic disorders: Exploring potential mechanisms. Briana Mezuk, University of Michigan, 4:30 p.m., C102 East Fee Hall, Patenge Room.

**Biochemistry and Molecular Biology Department Banquet:** Honoring Undergraduate Student, Graduate Student, and Faculty awardees, as well as the John A. Boezi Memorial Alumnus. Eagle Eye Golf and Banquet Center, 15101 Chandler Rd., East Lansing. Cocktail Hour: 6:00 p.m., Dinner Buffet: 7:00 p.m. Dinner pricing: Undergraduate and Graduate Students - \$5; Academic and Research Staff - \$10; Faculty - \$15. Please RSVP to Teresa Vollmer ([vollmer@msu.edu](mailto:vollmer@msu.edu), Rm 210).

**Physics and Astronomy Distinguished Lecture Seminar:** Science, non-science and nonsense: From aliens to creationism. Lawrence Krauss, Case Western Reserve University, 8:00 p.m., Kellogg Hotel and Conference Center Auditorium.

### Friday, April 11

**Science at the Edge:** Engineering Seminar: Engineering the next generation of therapeutic proteins. George Georgiou, University of Texas at Austin, 11:30 a.m., 1400 Biomedical and Physical Sciences.

**Transcription Journal Club:** Presentation by **Nitin Raj**, 12:00 noon, 502 Biochemistry.

**Chemistry Seminar:** Quantitative determination of G6PD and its potential in diabetic complications. Wasanthi Subasinghe, Michigan State University, 12:40 p.m., 136 Chemistry.

### Saturday, April 12

**The Graduate School – Navigating the Ph.D.: A Writing Workshop:** Demystifying the dissertation, personal management, forming committees, working with committees, and comprehensive exams. Series 2, Part 1, 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m., The Writing Center, 300 Bessey Hall.

## Congratulations

### BELL RECEIVES 2008 NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION GRADUATE RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP



Second Year Biochemistry Graduate Student, **Shannon Bell**, has been selected to receive a 2008 National Science Foundation (NSF) Graduate Research Fellowship (GRF) award based on her abilities and accomplishments as well as her potential to contribute to strengthening the vitality of the U.S. science and engineering enterprise.

### PREISS RECEIVES FELLOW OF ASPB AWARD



**Jack Preiss**, University Distinguished Professor in the Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, has just received the American Society of Plant Biologists', Fellow of ASPB award. Granted in recognition of distinguished and long-term contributions to plant biology and service to the Society in areas that include research, education, mentoring, outreach, and professional and public service; this award is given to current members of ASPB who have contributed to the Society for at least 10 years.

## Congratulations continued

### DOHERTY RECEIVES ASPB GRADUATE STUDENT PRIZE

Colleen Doherty, BMB PhD candidate, is the 2008 winner of the American Society of Plant Biologists', Pioneer Hi-Bred International Graduate Student Prize. This award recognizes and encourages innovative graduate research and innovation in areas of plant biology that relate to important commodity crops.

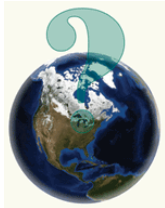
The ASPB awards will be presented June 27th at the Plant Biology 2008 Awards Ceremony in Mérida, Mexico. For more, see: <http://www.aspb.org/meetings/>.

## Publications

### Ruanbao Zhou, Michael Feig, and Lee Kroos

Imamura, Daisuke, Ruanbao Zhou, Michael Feig, and Lee Kroos. Evidence that the *Bacillus subtilis* SpoIIIGA protein is a novel type of signal-transducing aspartic protease. JBC Papers in Press. Published on March 31, 2008 as Manuscript M708962200. The latest version is at <http://www.jbc.org/cgi/doi/10.1074/jbc.M708962200>.

## Announcements



**Climate Change in the Great Lakes Region Conference:** April 9-10, 2008, Michigan State University Union. Researchers, decision makers, educators, activists and citizens will come together to examine how climate change will affect the Great Lakes region and how we can respond to it. For additional information or to register, please visit <http://environment.msu.edu/climatechange/>. This conference is free and open to the public. For more information, please contact Maya Fischhoff at [mayaef@msu.edu](mailto:mayaef@msu.edu).

**Julius Axelrod Prize:** The Julius Axelrod Prize was established to honor a scientist with distinguished achievements in the broad field of neuropharmacology or a related area and exemplary efforts in mentoring young scientists. The prize, which includes \$25,000, is presented each year at the Society's annual meeting. The recipient is invited to speak at a symposium organized by three institutes of the National Institutes of Health – the National Institute of Mental Health, the National Institute on Drug Abuse, and the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke – prior to SfN's annual meeting. Nominations must be made or endorsed by a SfN member. **Deadline for receipt of nominations is Monday, May 12, 2008.** The award recipient is notified in August and the prize formally presented by the SfN president at the Society's 38<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting in Washington, DC, November 15-19, 2008. The prize winner is invited to lecture at the Axelrod Prize Symposium on Friday, November 14, 2008. For more information, please visit <http://www.sfn.org> or call (202) 962-4000.



**LATEX Seminar:** The Department of Mathematics will offer a one credit course on LATEX in the first session of the summer semester, 2008. The course will cover some of the basics such as horizontal and vertical spacing, page styles and numbering, font families, shapes, and series, referencing, footnotes and margin notes. Some of the more advanced topics will be lists and tables, long and involved mathematical expressions, matrices and commutative diagrams. Of special interest to graduate students will be the introduction of a class file which can be used to produce a thesis in a fashion that will meet all formatting requirements of the Graduate School. The meeting time has been tentatively set for Wednesdays from 3:00-4:50 p.m. Those wishing to attend should email Clifford Weil at [weil@math.msu.edu](mailto:weil@math.msu.edu) indicating what days and times they **CANNOT** meet. To enroll, graduate students must send an email to Barbara Miller at [bmiller@math.msu.edu](mailto:bmiller@math.msu.edu) requesting an override into the course. At least 15 students must enroll in order to run the course. Any undergraduates wishing to take the course should enroll in MTH 490 106. All interested faculty and staff are also invited to attend.

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

**Boston University School of Medicine** invites applications and nominations for a **visionary leader to chair the Department of Biochemistry**. The successful applicant will lead the Department in all academic endeavors, including the education of medical, dental and graduate students and maintain a successful research program. They are seeking candidates with a distinguished record of scientific achievement, training and mentoring, grant support, and national and international professional involvement consistent with the rank of Professor. Applicants will be considered with research interests in all areas of biochemistry. An attractive recruitment package is available that will enable the new chair to lead efforts for future growth with the potential addition of several new faculty recruits and laboratory space over the next few years. For more information, please visit <http://www.bumc.bu.edu/busm/>. Contact David Atkinson at [atkinson@bu.edu](mailto:atkinson@bu.edu) or call (617) 638-4015 with any questions.

## Quote for the Week



I finally figured out the only reason to be alive is to enjoy it.

*~ Rita Mae Brown*

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