



UNIVERSITY of  
**ROCHESTER**  
MEDICAL CENTER  
MEDICINE of the HIGHEST ORDER

## The School of Medicine & Dentistry

### Notes from the NGP Director



Dear colleagues

Best wishes for 2013! I am very excited to take over as the new Director for the Neuroscience Graduate Program. We

have a very strong and broad neuroscience community here at the University of Rochester. The program is a great resource that brings us all together with the goal of educating new scientists but also gives us the opportunity to build an interactive and collaborative community interested in many aspects of neuroscience. I am looking forward to interacting with all of you to continue to make the program and our community as strong as it can be.

Our program has 41 current students that are distributed among 22 of the 58 labs representing 17 departments that are part of the program. We have now integrated our two PhD programs: Neuroscience as well as Neurobiology and Anatomy. Students in these two tracks come into a single program and have common requirements aside from second year course work. Currently we have 13 students in the NBA track, 22 students in the Neuroscience track and 6 first year students who will pick their track this summer. Our students continue to excel. You can read about their many publications, presentations and awards below.

As a community we are a very talented bunch –the news section shows some examples of our talents.

As our program continues to evolve please check out our website at [www.urmc.rochester.edu/education/graduate/phd/neurosciences.aspx](http://www.urmc.rochester.edu/education/graduate/phd/neurosciences.aspx) where you can find lots of information about the program. We are constantly updating the website and welcome any suggestions for further improvements. We also have a Facebook page which has listings of upcoming and recent events. Click on the icon on our webpage to get there. I also encourage everyone to participate in the events that we sponsor including the weekly student seminar session, which is held in K-307 at 4 pm on Mondays.

We are looking forward to a great admissions season. We received 60 US and 24 international applications this year. I am pleased to report that our applicant pool was excellent and the admissions committee had a difficult job identifying the top 14 applicants for us to bring in for interviews. Seven interviewees arrived for our first interview weekend (January 31st – February 3rd) and six will interview on February 28th – March 3rd. One applicant will interview outside these dates. Recruiting the best applicants is critical for our success as a program. The students and faculty work very hard to make the interview experience memorable and to show off the great

program that we have built. Thank you all for putting time and energy into making these students welcome during their visit.

We are also looking forward to having an active Society for Neuroscience chapter in Rochester (thanks to Krystal Huxlin for spearheading this effort!). The chapter will be a great resource for enhancing our current activities, providing new opportunities and bringing the neuroscience community together. Please look out for Krystal's e-mails and support this effort.

Lastly, I would like to encourage you all to share your views and offer advice on how to improve the program and build our community further. To facilitate this on a faculty level we will have a faculty meeting on Thursday, March 21 at 3:30 pm in the NBA Conference Room (5-7432). Please make time in your busy schedules to attend. I also encourage everyone affiliated with the program to contact me with ideas for program improvements— your input is important! Many of you have already shared your views with me and I am grateful for your suggestions. Please feel free to e-mail, call or talk to me in person. I am looking forward to hearing your thoughts.

Ania Majewska, PhD

#### Did you know.....

Students in both the Neuroscience and NBA track of the Neuroscience Graduate Program are required to pass a two part qualifying exam. By August 1<sup>st</sup> of the start of their third year, students are expected to complete the Preliminary Exam. This exam serves as a tool for helping students prepare for the thesis proposal which is the second part of the qualifying exam. The student must convene a preliminary committee (advisor plus two program faculty) and work closely with them to develop a reading list of a minimum of 50 papers from the literature. The student then has 2 months in which to thoroughly familiarize him/herself with this literature and propose five questions based on the readings to the committee. The committee can alter these questions to ensure that the answers have the necessary focus or breadth as appropriate. The student then has seven calendar days to answer these questions in writing (2-4 single-spaced pages for each question is recommended) and return their answers to their committee. The exam evaluates the student's ability to read, interpret, and critique the scientific literature most important to the student's specific area of research. The second part of the qualifying exam must be completed by the end of the 5<sup>th</sup> semester of study and takes the form of a thesis proposal consisting of a written portion (in the form of an NRSA application), a formal presentation to the neuroscience community, and a closed oral examination with the committee. To find out more go to: <http://www.urmc.rochester.edu/education/graduate/phd/neurosciences/program/qualifying-exam.cfm>

# Neuroscience Graduate Program Newsletter - Winter 2013



# Neuroscience Graduate Program Newsletter - Winter 2013



## Students Entering in 2012

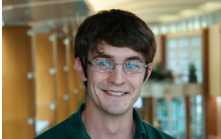
We hope you have had a chance to meet our students who entered the Neuroscience Graduate Program last fall. If not, you can take a glance at their profile below. This year's class consists of five Ph.D. students and one M.D./Ph.D. student.



**Matthew Cavanaugh** completed his undergraduate degree at SUNY Geneseo where he received a bachelor's degree in biology, as well as minors in psychology and cognitive science. His research was focused on studying the distribution of a novel serotonin receptor in *Aplysia californica*, which was presented at the Society for Integrative and Comparative Biology Annual Conference in 2012. His current research interests are varied across the field of neuroscience.



**Lauren Cummings** graduated from Rochester Institute of Technology with a degree in Electrical Engineering. Her past research has included two projects in the area of robotics, one of which focused on developing a control system for visual servoing with an omni-directional vehicle and the other aimed at improving wheelchair design to allow users increased independence. She also spent time conducting reliability testing for Lexmark and developing radio communications systems for Harris Corp. Her interest in neuroscience developed when discovering the difficulty of programming biological processes.



**Colin Lockwood** graduated from Vanderbilt University. He joins the program after his first two years of the University of Rochester Medical School. He has been involved in several projects in Dr. Duffy's lab through the years working on how the higher order visual system encodes self movement cues and competing stimuli. He is currently interested in incorporating several neurophysiological methods to elucidate the biological underpinnings of characteristic EEG changes in Alzheimer's disease.



**Heather Natola** completed her undergraduate degree at the University of New Hampshire where she worked on microbial genetics. She also spent a summer at Dartmouth where she studied sodium channel properties in a Dravet syndrome model. This experience weighed in on her decision to pursue neuroscience.



**Rebecca Rausch** graduated from the University of Michigan where she was a member of two labs. Her research in one examined sex differences involved in the susceptibility to cocaine addiction. In the other, she studied the role of circadian clock genes in normal metabolism and type II diabetes models. The latter resulted in her first publication in the *Journal of Biological Chemistry*. Her current interests lie in development and neurotoxicity.



**Aleta Steevens** graduated from the University of Minnesota. Her undergraduate research mentor was Dr. Walter Low of neurosurgery; there she developed a transgenic mouse model of neurodegeneration and won a competitive research grant entitled "Investigation of selective degeneration of basal forebrain cholinergic neurons in the basal ganglia during Alzheimer's disease". She has spent time in the field of clinical psychology and has participated in numerous research projects in this area; of note she designed the current study "*Spatial Abilities and Social/Emotional Development in Children*". Currently, her interests at the University of Rochester include cellular and molecular signaling cascades in ischemic brain injury.



## **Milestones - Year 2011 - 2012**

### **Qualifying Exams**

- Kimberly Fernandes**, "The JNK pathway is a critical regulator of retinal ganglion cell death in glaucoma"
- Dan Marker**, "MLK3 inhibition protects the murine CNS from the effects of HIV-1 Tat"
- Fiona Dubuss**, "Chronic IL-1beta overexpression drives spontaneous seizures in mice: addressing the role of blood-brain barrier disruption"
- Imran Punekar**, "Impulsivity in Parkinson's Disease"
- Michele Saul**, "Cell proliferation and migration into the amygdala during adolescence. Is it impacted by stress?"
- Danielle DeCampo**, "The paralaminar nucleus of the amygdala: substrate for effects of early life stress"
- Revathi Balasubramanian**, "The role of Lhx9 in the development of mouse retinal cell subtypes and their laminar specification"
- Ethan Winkler**, "Vascular-mediated neuronal injury: the role of blood-spinal cord barrier disruption in the pathogenesis of amyotrophic lateral sclerosis"
- Phillip Rappold**, "Role of mitochondrial dynamics in Parkinson's disease processes and therapeutics"
- Wei Sun**, "Astrocyte Transcription Factor SOX9 in the regulation of inhibitory Extracellular Matrix Components following Stroke"
- Adam Pallus**, "Examining Head-Movement Control and Coordination during Visual Orientation and Pursuit"
- Shiona Biswas**, "The roles of Lmo3 in the specification of neuronal subtypes in the globus pallidus"
- Fatima Rivera-Escalera**, "The contribution of mononuclear phagocytes in IL-1beta mediated amyloid beta clearance in a mouse model of Alzheimer's disease"
- Julianne Feola**, "The Role of Astrocytic Transglutaminase 2 on Mediating Ischemic Stroke Damage"
- Grayson Sipe**, "P2Y12 and purinergic signaling in non-pathological microglia"
- Kelli Fagan**, "Using sex differences in C. elegans to understand neural modulation of behavior"
- Rebecca Lowery**, "Microglia and Fractalkine Signaling in Synaptic Plasticity"

### **PhD Thesis Defenses**

- Susan Lee** (PhD), "Audiovisual Integration During Language Comprehension: The Neural Basis of Social Communication in Autism and Typical Development"
- Michael Jacob** (PhD), "The Active Control of Self-Movement Perception: Neuronal Mechanisms and Cognitive Aging"
- Kathleen McAvoy** (PhD), "The Von Hippel-Lindau Protein Regulates Developmental Cell Death in Sympathetic Neurons"
- Cory Hussar** (PhD), "Representation of speed and direction in prefrontal cortex during motion discrimination tasks"
- Zhuoxun Chen** (PhD), "Identification of Molecular Determinants of Testosterone-induced Angiogenesis and Neurogenesis in Adult Songbird Brain"
- Crystal McClain** (PhD), "Pleiotrophin Maintenance of PDGFR $\alpha$ -defined Fetal Human Oligodendrocyte Progenitor Cell Fate"
- Sally Duarte** (PhD), "Neuronal and Network. Mechanisms of Ictogenesis"



# Neuroscience Graduate Program Newsletter - Winter 2013



## Milestones - Year 2011 - 2012

### PhD Thesis Defenses

- Youngsun Cho** (PhD), "Defining Limbic Subsystems: Examining a Functional Reward Network and Cortico-Amygdala-Striatal Anatomic Circuits"
- Ethan Winkler** (PhD), "Blood-Spinal Cord Barrier Dysfunction in Neurodegeneration"
- Katherine Selzler** (PhD), "Subthalamic Nucleus Stimulation and Basal Ganglia Circuits: Dissociable Neurophysiological and Behavioral Effects"
- Maria Diehl** (PhD), "Neuronal activity and connections of face and vocalization processing in the primate prefrontal cortex"
- Sarah McConnell** (PhD), "Methamphetamine-induced Neuroinflammation and Neurotoxicity: a Role for Interleukin-1beta"
- Phillip Rappold** (PhD), "Pathogenic mechanisms and novel therapeutic strategies in Parkinson disease"

## Student Publications

**Sun W, McConnell E**, Pare JF, Xu Q, Chen M, Peng W, Lovatt D, Han X, Smith Y, Nedergaard M (2013 Jan 11). Glutamate-dependent neuroglial calcium signaling differs between young and adult brain *Science*. 339, 197-200.

Ilen JL, Conrad K, Oberdörster G, Johnston CJ, **Sleezer B**, Cory-Slechta DA (2013 Jan 01). Developmental Exposure to Concentrated Ambient Particles and Preference for Immediate Reward in Mice. *Environ Health Perspect*. 121, 32-38

Gundemir S, Colak G, **Feola J**, Blouin R, Johnson GV (2013 Jan 01). Transglutaminase 2 facilitates or ameliorates HIF signaling and ischemic cell death depending on its conformation and localization. *Biochim Biophys Acta*. 1833, 1-10.

Bekar LK, **Wei HS**, Nedergaard M (2012 Dec 01). The locus coeruleus-norepinephrine network optimizes coupling of cerebral blood volume with oxygen demand. *Cereb Blood Flow Metab*. 32, 2135-45.

**Marker DF**, Puccini JM, Mockus TE, Barbieri J, Lu SM, Gelbard HA (2012 Nov 29). LRRK2 kinase inhibition prevents pathological microglial phagocytosis in response to HIV-1 Tat protein. *J Neuroinflammation*. 9, 261.

Martin T, **Das A**, Huxlin KR (2012 Nov 01). Visual cortical activity reflects faster accumulation of information from cortically blind fields. *Brain*. 135, 3440-52.

**O'Donnell J**, Zeppenfeld D, **McConnell E**, Pena S, Nedergaard M (2012 Nov 01). Norepinephrine: a neuromodulator that boosts the function of multiple cell types to optimize CNS performance. *Neurochem Res*. 37, 2496-512.

Harder JM, Ding Q, **Fernandes KA**, Cherry JD, Gan L, Libby RT (2012 Aug 01). BCL2L1 (BCL-X) promotes survival of adult and developing retinal ganglion cells. *Mol Cell Neurosci*. 51, 53-9.

Tong X, Buelow K, Guha A, **Rausch R**, Yin L (2012 Jul 20). USP2a protein deubiquitinates and stabilizes the circadian protein CRY1 in response to inflammatory signals. *J Biol Chem*. 287, 25280-91.

**McConnell S**, Alla J, Wheat E, Romeo R, McEwen B, Thornton J (2012 Apr 01). The role of testicular hormones and luteinizing hormone in spatial memory in adult male rats. *Hormones and Behavior*. 61,479-486.

Tong J, Liu W, **Wang X**, Han X, Hyrien O, Samadani U, Smith DH, Huang JH (2012 Sep 11). Inhibition of Nogo-66 Receptor 1 Enhances Recovery of Cognitive Function after Traumatic Brain Injury in Mice. *J Neurotrauma*. In press.

Wang F, **Smith NA**, Xu Q, Fujita T, Baba A, Matsuda T, Takana T, Bekar L, Nedergaard M (2012 Apr 03). Astrocytes modulate neural network activity by Ca<sup>2+</sup>-dependent uptake of extracellular K<sup>+</sup>. *Science Signaling*. 1-15.



## Student Publications

Fudge JL, **deCampo DM**, Becoats KT (2012 Jun 14). Revisiting the hippocampal-amygdala pathway in primates: association with immature-appearing neurons. *Neuroscience*. 212, 104-19.

**Fernandes KA**, Harder JM, Fornarola LB, Freeman RS, Clark AF, Pang IH, John SW, Libby RT (2012 May 01). JNK2 and JNK3 are major regulators of axonal injury-induced retinal ganglion cell death. *Neurobiol Dis*. 46, 393-401.

**Das A**, Demagistris M, Huxlin KR (2012 Apr 18). Different properties of visual relearning after damage to early versus higher-level visual cortical areas. *J Neurosci*. 32, 5414-25.

Lovatt D, Xu Q, Liu W, Takano T, **Smith NA**, Schnermann J, Tieu K, Nedergaard M (2012 Apr 17). Neuronal adenosine release, and not astrocytic ATP release, mediates feedback inhibition of excitatory activity. *Proc Natl Acad Sci U S A*. 109, 6265-70.

**Saul ML**, Tylee D, Becoats KT, Guerrero BG, Sweeney P, Helmreich DL, Fudge JL (2012 Apr 01). Long-term behavioral consequences of stress exposure in adolescent versus young adult rats. *Behav Brain Res*. 229, 226-34.

Vandermark ER, Deluca KA, Gardner CR, **Marker DF**, Schreiner CN, Strickland DA, Wilton KM, Mondal S, Woodworth CD (2012 Mar 30). Human papillomavirus type 16 E6 and E7 proteins alter NF- $\kappa$ B in cultured cervical epithelial cells and inhibition of NF- $\kappa$ B promotes cell growth and immortalization. *Virology*. 425, 53-60.

Matousek SB, **Ghosh S**, Shaftel SS, Kyrkanides S, Olschowka JA, O'Banion MK (2012 Mar 01). Chronic IL-1 $\beta$ -mediated neuroinflammation mitigates amyloid pathology in a mouse model of Alzheimer's disease without inducing overt neurodegeneration. *Neuroimmune Pharmacol*. 7, 156-64.

**deCampo DM**, Fudge JL (2012 Jan 01). Where and what is the paralaminar nucleus? A review on a unique and frequently overlooked area of the primate amygdala. *Neurosci Biobehav Rev*. 36, 520-35.

Harder JM, **Fernandes KA**, Libby RT (2012 Jan 01). The Bcl-2 family member BIM has multiple glaucoma-relevant functions in DBA/2J mice. *Sci Rep*. 2, 530.

Fujita T, Williams EK, Jensen TK, **Smith NA**, Takano T, Tieu K, Nedergaard M (2012 Jan 01). Cultured astrocytes do not release adenosine during hypoxic conditions. *J Cereb Blood Flow Metab*. 32, e1-7.

Liu W, Ren Y, Bossert A, **Wang X**, Dayawansa S, Tong J, He X, Smith DH, Gelbard HA, Huang JH (2012 Jan 01). Allografted neurons used to repair peripheral nerve injury do not elicit overt immunogenicity. *PLoS One*. 7, e31675.

**Rappold PM**, Cui M, **Chesser AS**, Tibbett J, Grima JC, Duan L, Sen N, Javitch JA, Tieu K (2011 Dec 20). Paraquat neurotoxicity is mediated by the dopamine transporter and organic cation transporter-3. *Proc Natl Acad Sci U S A*. 108, 20766-71.

Baisley SK, **Cloninger CL**, Bakshi VP (2011 Oct 24). Fos expression following regimens of predator stress versus footshock that differentially affect prepulse inhibition in rats. *Physiology & Behavior*. 104, 796-803.

Romanski LR, **Diehl MM**, (2011 Aug 21). Neurons responsive to face-view in the primate ventrolateral prefrontal cortex. *Neuroscience*. 189, 223-235.

**Ganeshan VR**, Schor NF (2011 Aug 01). Pharmacologic management of high-risk neuroblastoma in children. *Paediatr Drugs*. 13, 245-55.

**Pritchard SM**, Dolan PJ, Vitkus A, Johnson GV (2011 Aug 01). The toxicity of tau in Alzheimer disease: turnover, targets and potential therapeutics. *J Cell Mol Med*. 15, 1621-35.

Lu SM, Tremblay M-E, King IL, Qi J, Reynolds HM, **Marker DF**, Varrone JP, Majewska AK, Dewhurst S, Gelbard HA (2011 Jan 01). HIV-1 Tat-Induced Microgliosis and Synaptic Damage via Interactions between Peripheral and Central Myeloid Cells. *PLoS One*. 6, 1-15.

Lim S, **Chesser AS**, Grima JC, Rappold PM, Blum D, Przedborski S, Tieu K (2011 Jan 01). D- $\beta$ -hydroxybutyrate is protective in mouse models of Huntington's disease. *PLoS One*. 6, e24620.

**Sipe GO**, Dearworth JR, Selvarajah BP, Blaum JF, Littlefield TE, Fink DA, Casey CN, McDougal DH (2011 Jan 01). Spectral sensitivity of the photointrinsic iris in the red-eared slider turtle (*Trachemys scripta elegans*). *Vision Res*. 51, 120-30.

# Neuroscience Graduate Program Newsletter - Winter 2013



## Student Awards

**Nathan Smith**, F31 NIH (NRSA) Individual Predoctoral Fellowship, "Astrocytes Role in Lipid Mediated Synaptic Activity" (July 2011 - June 2013)

**Adrienne Chesser**, NIEHS F30 Individual Predoctoral Fellowship, "Mitochondrial Dynamics Underlie Gene-Environment Interactions in Parkinson's" (July 2011 - June 2015)

Neuroscience Training Grant, T 32NS07489, current appointees: **Matthew Cavanaugh, Lauren Cummings, Heather Natola, Ryan Dawes, Jennifer Stripay, Laura Yunes-Medina** (September 2012-August 2013)

**Adam Pallus, Rebecca Lowery, and Brianna Sleezer**, Visual Science (CVS) fellowship for research support (January - June 2013)

**Phillip Rappold**, F30, NIH Individual Predoctoral Fellowship, "Role of mitochondrial dynamics in Parkinson's disease processes and therapeutics" (August 2011 - July 2014)

**Julianne Feola**, F31 NIH (NRSA) Individual Predoctoral Fellowship, "The Role of Astrocytic Transglutaminase 2 in Mediating Ischemic Stroke Damage" (September 2012- September 2015)

**Revathi Balasubramanian**, predoctoral NYSTEM training grant (July 2012-June 2013)

**Wei Sun**, Individual Predoctoral Fellowship from the American Heart Association (July 2012-June 2014)

**Brandon Bader**, appointed to the training grant in Hearing, Balance, and Spatial Orientation, 5T 32DC009974 (July 2012-June 2013)

**Danielle deCampo**, F30, NIH Individual Predoctoral Fellowship, "An extended amygdala path implicated in early life stress" (July 2012-July 2016)

**Daniel Marker**, F30, NIH Individual Predoctoral Fellowship, "MLK3 inhibition protects the murine CNS from the effects of HIV-1 Tat" (July 2012 - July 2015)

**Jennifer Stripay**, 2011 recipient of the Irving L. Spar Award for outstanding credentials and the unusual potential for future meritorious contributions in neuroscience, URM, Rochester, NY (October 2011)

**Stephen Raiker**, 2011 recipient of the Robert Doty Award of Excellence in recognition of outstanding dissertation research in neuroscience, Rochester, NY (October 2011)

**Michael Wu**, 2011 recipient of John Barlett award for best poster at 2011 Neuroscience Retreat, Rochester, NY (October 2011)

**Michele Saul**, 2012 recipient of a travel award to the International Society for Developmental Psychology Annual Meeting, New Orleans (October 2012)

**Danielle deCampo** recipient of travel award to the 2012 Annual Meeting of the American College of Neuropsychopharmacology, Hollywood, FL (December 2012)

**Cory Hussar** recipient of the 2012 Wallace Fenn Commencement Award, Rochester, NY (May 2012)

**Heather Natola** recipient of the 2012 Merritt and Marjorie Cleveland Fellowship Award, Rochester, NY (September 2012)

**Ethan Winkler** recipient of the 2012 Robert W. Doty Award for excellence in neuroscience dissertation research, Rochester, NY (November 2012)

**Nathan Smith** 2012 URM GSS People Choice Award and a travel award to attend 7th Annual NIH National Graduate Student Research Conference, Bethesda, MD (September 2012) and the 2013 Glia Gordon Conference, Ventura, CA (March 2013)

**Anasuya Das** received a travel award to present her work at ECVF (the European Conference on Visual Perception) in Alghero, Italy (September 2012)



# Neuroscience Graduate Program Newsletter - Winter 2013



## News & Other Events

2010 IGPN alumna, **Carolyn Tyler** got married this summer to Mark Bauter. Congratulations Carolyn! You can see some familiar faces in this picture.



Current NGP student, **Irina Statnikova** and her family. Mila is 2.5 years old and Lily is 1.



**Simantini Ghosh**, NBA student, got married in summer 2011.



Little Grace, daughter of NGP student, **Wei Sun**, is 2 years old now.



MD/PhD students in NBA, Danielle deCampo and Youngsun Cho at the Society for Biological Psychiatry Conference, San Francisco, May 2010. Youngsun defended her PhD in June 2012 and returned to medical school.



**Aaron Cecala**, PhD, 2009, NBA, Assistant Professor of Physiology at the Elizabethtown College, Elizabethtown, PA. Aaron is in his third year at Elizabethtown College where he teaches comparative mammalian and human anatomy and physiology, and behavioral neuroscience. He is currently the director of the nascent cognitive science minor which draws upon courses and faculty expertise from the departments of biology, mathematics and computer science, physics and engineering, psychology, and philosophy.

**Mike Pesavento**, NBA, 2010 alum, has been working for the Intellis Corporation in San Diego, CA. He works on speech processing and speaker recognition, utilizing neurally inspired algorithms and machine learning. In his free time, Mike does rock climbing, sailing, growing bonsai, and starting some personal robotics projects.



2011 NGP Students & Faculty



In the picture **Veena Ganeshan**, NGP student, teaching summer pre-college program - Rochester Scholars Jr., titled - 'The Heart-Brain Connection'. It is her 3rd year teaching for the program.

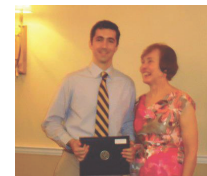


**Former NBA student Sarah McConnell** leading a hands-on class on stem cells with a group of middle school and high school-aged students from a homeschool science club in the Life Sciences Learning Center at the University of Rochester Medical Center.



**Aleta Stevens** brought in the New Year on the island of Bonaire, scuba diving. Considered the mecca for divers, she spent a couple days looking at breathtaking corals, schools of colorful reef fish, and even spotted a great manta ray.

2012 Wallace Fenn Commencement award for PhD research went to Cory Hussar, an NGP student in Dr. Pasternak's Lab. In the picture: Cory Hussar and Dr. Edith Lord, Senior Associate Dean.



# Neuroscience Graduate Program Newsletter - Winter 2013



## News and Other Events



### Greetings from Tim Mhyre

Tim Mhyre graduated with a PhD degree from NBA in 2000. He was recently an assistant professor for 5 years in the Department of Neuroscience at Georgetown University, where he currently is an adjunct assistant professor. Just this past year, he moved to Washington State and has moved to the administrative side of research working as an analyst in the Office of Sponsored Programs at the University of Washington. Tim has two cats (Jack & Cassi) and a partner (Brian), and they live in Woddinville, WA. They enjoy hosting their family and friends and exploring the Pacific Northwest. The University of Washington is a great place to work, although he misses many of the trappings of western New York (Wegmans, white hots, and even the snow). In the picture Tim is in the middle. It was a recent vacation to the New River gorge in West Virginia (3rd longest arch bridge and 5th highest vehicular bridge according to Wikipedia).



### Mike Moravan in his new role

Mike Moravan was an MD/PhD student in NGP. He received a PhD degree in Neurobiology and Anatomy and returned to University of Rochester Medical School as a resident physician in radiation oncology.



### KyungHwa Lee says Hello from NYC!

KyungWha Lee graduated from Neuroscience Graduate Program in 2009 with a PhD in Neuroscience. After doing a short postdoc with Coleen Murphy at Princeton University, KyungHwa joined the laboratory of Itzhak Mano at the City College of New York as a Postdoctoral Fellow. She moved to NYC in September 2011 and is having a great time living and working in the city.

## Neuroscience Plays Softball



Recreational softball continues to be popular among the Rochester Neuroscience community as the Myoclonic Jerks once again fielded a large team to compete in the URMC/River Campus softball league. The team consists of more than 20 players, including post-docs, students and technicians from neuroscience labs as well as friends from outside of science. With a team this large, games are often raucous and lively; and something not to be missed. The "Jerks" have consistently ranked in playoffs due to hard work and team spirit! New players are always welcome.



# Neuroscience Graduate Program Newsletter - Winter 2013



## Past Events

### 2012 Neuroscience Holiday Party



Relaxing in a holiday spirit

2012 Neuroscience Retreat was held at Memorial Art Gallery on Friday, November 16, 2012. This year the keynote speaker was Dr. Lorna Role. On the right Dr. Role with NGP students.



## Future Events



### Interview Weekend:

February 28 - March 2, 2013

**NGP Faculty Meeting - Thursday, March 21  
3:30 PM, NBA Conference Room  
(5-7432)**



UNIVERSITY of  
**ROCHESTER**  
MEDICAL CENTER

**Neuroscience Graduate Program**  
601 Elmwood Avenue  
Rochester, NY 14642  
Box 603  
Phone: 585-275-5788  
Fax: 585-442-8766

# Neuroscience Graduate Program Newsletter - Fall 2011



## Alumni Updates

We are asking your assistance with updating our alumni database. Information we need is marked in **RED**. Please contact Ania Dworzanski at [ania\\_dworzanski@urmc.rochester.edu](mailto:ania_dworzanski@urmc.rochester.edu) with updates.

**David Gooler**, PhD, 1982, NSC, Professor, Dept. of Speech and Hearing Science, University of Illinois at Urbana-Campaign, 901 S. Sixth Street, Campaign, IL

**Caroline Little, PhD, 1998, Anatomy, email**

**Scott Ng-Evans, PhD, 1999**, Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences. University of Washington, Seattle, WA

**Russel Ferland Jr.**, PhD, 2000, NSC, Associate Professor, Center for Neuropharmacology and Neuroscience: Albany Medical College, The Albany Medical College, 47 New Scotland Avenue, MC-136, Albany, NY

**Tim Mhyre**, PhD, 2000, NBA, Assistant Professor, Dept. of Neuroscience, Georgetown University, Washington, DC

**Nikolaus McFarland**, MD/PhD, 2001, NBA, Assistant in Neurology in the MGH Department of Neurology and Instructor in Neurology at Harvard Medical School, Boston, MA

**Jay Nierenberg**, PhD, 2001, NBA, Assistant Professor, Dept. of Psychiatry, NYU Longone Medical Center, New York, NY

**Mary Maida**, PhD, 2001, NSC, Medingen Group, LLC, Clerisy Corp., Rochester, NY

**Randall Hayes**, PhD, 2001, NSC, Assistant Professor, University Studies at North Carolina A&T University, Greensboro, NC

**Tina Huang**, PhD, 2001, NSC, Director of Research, Transparent Corporation, Columbus, OH, 43202; Scientist III, Nutritional Immunology Laboratory, Jean Mayer USDA HNRCA at Tufts University, Medford, MA

**Adnan Siddiqui**, MD/PhD, 2003, NBA, Assistant Professor of Neurosurgery, University at Buffalo Neurosurgery, Assistant Professor of Radiology, State University of New York, Fredonia

**Andrew Custer**, PhD, 2003, NSC, Associate, Foley & Lardner LLP, San Diego, CA; J.D., University of Florida, Levin College of Law (2009)

**Michael Froehler**, PhD, 2004, NSC, Clinical Assistant Professor, Dept. of Neurology, University of Iowa, Iowa City, IA

**Michael Hanna**, PhD, 2004, NSC, Assistant Professor, Dept. of Biological & Environmental Sciences, Texas A&M University-Commerce, Commerce, TX

**Seth Perry**, PhD, 2004, NSC, Research Assistant Professor, Biomedical Engineering, URM, Rochester, NY

**Luisa Scott**, PhD, 2004, NSC, Research Fellow, Section of Neurobiology, University of Texas, Austin, TX

**Patricia Sheridan**, PhD, 2004, NSC, Research Assistant Professor, Dept. of Nutrition, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, NC

**Renee Miller**, PhD, 2004, NSC, Post-doctoral Research Associate, Center for Neural Development & Disease, URM, Rochester, NY

**Rebecca Sappington**, PhD, 2005, NSC, Assistant Professor of Ophthalmology & Visual Sciences, Vanderbilt University Medical Center, Nashville, TN

**ChiaWen (Kitty) Wu**, PhD, 2005, NSC, Post-doctoral Fellow, UPENN School of Medicine, Philadelphia, PA

**Zhenhua Wu**, PhD, 2005, NSC, Senior Research Scientist, Merck, Boston, MA, **email**

**Chiayu Chiu, PhD, 2005, NSC**

**Jill Weimer**, PhD, 2005, NSC, Assistant Professor, Department of Pediatric at University of South Dakota Sanford School of Medicine

**Min Zhu**, PhD, 2006, Dept. of Neurology, Albert Einstein College of Medical of Yeshiva University

**Kuei-Cheng Lim**, MD, PhD, 2006, NSC, 3rd year resident, New York University, Neurology, New York, NY

# Neuroscience Graduate Program Newsletter - Fall 2011



## Alumni Updates

**Zhiyong Yang**, PhD, 2006, NSC

**Jason Hamilton**, PhD, 2007, NSC

**Charles Wuertzer**, PhD, 2007, NSC, Post-doctoral Fellow, Mayo Clinic, Jacksonville, FL, [email](#)

**Roberto Fernandez-Romero**, PhD, 2007, NBA, Resident, URM, Neurology, Rochester, NY

**Solomon Shaftel**, PhD, 2007, NBA, Resident, Ophthalmology Dept., University of California in San Diego, CA

**Xiaohai Wang**, PhD, 2007, NSC, Senior Research Biologist, Dept. of Neuropharmacology, Merck Research Laboratories, Boston, MA

**Daniel Zaksas**, PhD, 2007, NSC, Post-doctoral Fellow, Dept. of Neurobiology, Harvard Medical school, Boston, MA

**Ziye Sui**, PhD, 2007, NSC, Post-doctoral Fellow, Peking University, Peking, China

**Karthik Venkatesh**, PhD, 2008, NSC, Post-doctoral Fellow, University of Michigan, Dept. of Neurology, Ann Arbor, Michigan,

**Erin Johnson**, PhD, 2008, NSC, Post-doctoral Fellow, University of Michigan Medical School, Molecular and Behavioral Neuroscience Institute, Ann Arbor, MI

**Yasser Elshatory**, PhD, 2008, NSC, Resident in Ophthalmology, University of Oklahoma

**Pushkar Joshi**, PhD, 2008, NSC, Post-doctoral Fellow, Stanford University, Dept. of Biology, Stanford, CA,

**Ling Pan**, PhD, 2008, NSC, Post-doctoral Fellow, MIT, Dept. of Brain and Cognitive Sciences, Cambridge, MA,

**Xiaoyan Lin**, PhD, 2008, NSC, Post-doctoral Fellow, University of California in San Francisco, Dept. of Neurology, San Francisco, CA

**Matthew Belizzi**, PhD, 2008, NSC, Resident, Dept. of Neurology, URM, Rochester, NY

**Yanan Guo**, PhD, 2009, NSC, Post-doctoral Fellow, Harvard Medical School, Brigham and Women's Hospital, Boston, MA

**Onanong Chivatakarn**, PhD, 2009, NSC, Post-doctoral Fellow, The Salk Institute, La Jolla, CA

**Laurie Robak**, PhD, 2009, NSC, Resident, Medical Genetics/Pediatrics, Baylor College of Medicine, One Baylor Plaza, Houston, TX

**Nancy Oberheim Bush**, PhD, 2009, NSC, Neurology Resident, Class of 2015, UCSF, San Francisco, CA

**Irah King**, PhD, 2009, NSC, Post-Doctoral Fellow, Trudeau Institute, 154 Algonquin Avenue, Saranac Lake, NY

**Grace Vangeison**, PhD, 2009, NSC, Millipore, Billerica, MA, [email](#)

**Virginia Cuzon**, PhD, 2009, NSC, NIH, Bethesda, MD, [email](#)

**Aaron Cecala**, PhD, 2009, NBA, Assistant Professor of Physiology, Elizabethtown College, PA

**Bernard Gee**, PhD, 2009, NSC, Assistant Professor of Psychology, Hobart and William Smith Colleges, Geneva, NY

**Sarita Kishore**, PhD, 2009, NBA, 2010-internship through University of Washington in Boise, Idaho, 2011-residency in Ophthalmology in Louisville, KY

**Qi Cui**, MD/PhD, 2009, NBA, Ophthalmology Resident, UCSF, San Francisco, CA



# Neuroscience Graduate Program Newsletter - Fall 2011



## Alumni Updates

**Qi Cui**, MD/PhD, 2009, NBA, Ophthalmology Resident, UCSF, San Francisco, CA

**Carolyn Tyler**, 2009, NSC, Post-doctoral Fellow, Princeton University, Dept. of Molecular Biology, Washington Rd., LTL 123, Princeton, NJ

**Ditte Lovatt**, PhD, 2009, NSC, Post-doctoral Fellow, University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine, Dept. Pharmacology, 37 John Morgan Building, 3620 Hamilton Walk, Philadelphia, PA

**KyungWha Lee**, PhD, 2009, NSC, Post-doctoral Fellow, City College of New York, Itzhak Mano lab, NY, NY

**Yuriy Shapovalov**, PhD, 2010, NSC, Post-doctoral Fellow, Majewska Lab, URM, Rochester, NY

**Lynette Desouza**, PhD, 2010, NSC, Post-doctoral Fellow, Tata Institute of Fundamental Research, Mumbai, India

**I-Chen Yu**, PhD, 2010, NSC, Post-doctoral Fellow, Pfizer Inc., Cambridge, MA

**William Mowrey**, PhD, 2010, NSC, Post-doctoral Fellow, HHMI, Anthony Leonardo's lab at Janelia Farm, Chevy Chase, MD

**Sarah Bliss Matousek**, PhD, 2010, NBA, Post-doctoral Fellow, Center for Neurologic Diseases, Brigham and Women's Hospital, 77 Avenue Louis Pasteur, New Research Building 636, Boston, MA

**Deborah Ryan**, PhD, 2010, IGPN, Post-doctoral Fellow, Portman Lab, Box 645, URM, Rochester, NY

**Michael Moravan**, MD/PhD, 2010, Resident physician in radiation oncology, URM, Rochester, NY

**Marina Dobрева**, PhD, 2010, NBA, Bulgaria

**Michael Pesavento**, PhD, 2010, NBA, Intellis Corporation, San Diego, CA

**Arnulfo Torres**, PhD, 2011, NSC, Medical Writer at [Freelancer - Medical Communications](#) [e-mail](#)

**Stephen Raiker**, PhD, 2011, NSC, research fellow in Thomas Schwarz's Lab affiliated with Children's Hospital Boston/Harvard Medical School, Boston, MA

**Susan Lee**, MD/PhD, 2011, NSC, medical school, URM, Rochester, NY

**Michael Jacob**, MD/PhD, 2011, NBA, medical school, URM, Rochester, NY

**Kathleen McAvoy**, PhD, 2011, NSC, Post-doctoral Fellow, Harvard Stem Cell Institute, Amir Fahay Lab, Boston, MA

**Cory Hussar**, PhD, 2012, NSC, Post-doctoral Fellow, Mark Churchland Lab, Columbia University, NY, NY

**Zhuoxun Chen**, PhD, 2012, NSC, Post-doctoral Fellow, Johns Hopkins Hospital, Baltimore, MD, [e-mail](#)

**Crystal McClain**, PhD, 2012, NSC, Research Associate, University of Cambridge, UK, [e-mail](#)

**Sally Duarte**, PhD, 2012, NBA, Post-doctoral Fellow, Max Planck, Institute, Jupiter, FL, [e-mail](#)

**Youngsun Cho**, MD/PhD, NBA, 2012, 4th year medical school, URM, Rochester, NY

**Katherine Selzler**, PhD, 2012, NBA, Postdoctoral Associate, URM, Rochester, NY

**Maria Diehl (Faryna)**, PhD, 2012, NSC, Postdoctoral Fellow, University of Puerto Rico, Quirk Lab, San Juan, PR, [e-mail](#)

# Neuroscience Graduate Program Newsletter - Fall 2011



## Alumni Updates

**Michael Wu**, MD/PhD, 2012, medical school, URM, Rochester, NY

**Ethan Winkler**, MD/PhD, 2012, medical school, URM, Rochester, NY

**Sarah McConnell**, PhD, 2012, Adjunct Faculty, Monroe Community College, Rochester, NY, [e-mail](#)

**Phillip Rappold**, MD/PhD, 2013, medical school, URM, Rochester, NY