DEPARTMENT NEWS

DEAN’S OFFICE

Construction updates for the Cancer Research Expansion Project available on the website:

http://peoria.medicine.uic.edu/departments_programs/administrative_affairs/physical_plant/cancer_research_construction_updates/

CANCER BIOLOGY & PHARMACOLOGY

Grants
Jasti S. Rao, Ph.D. recently received two NIH grant awards: $1,514,138 for the project, “Cath B and muPAR siRNA constructs regressed glioma growth” and $1,628,880 for the project, “Combination therapy to inhibit neuroblastoma growth.”

Seminars/Presentations
Dr. Jasti S. Rao will make a presentation entitled “EGR-2-mediated activation of BAK expression is inhibited by the nuclear localization of uPAR in glioma cell lines” at the Ninth Meeting of the European Association of Neuro-oncology, to be held September 16-19, in Maastricht, The Netherlands.

Invited speaker, Dr. Bala Nagarajan, Professor and Head, Cancer Institute, Chennai, India, presented a seminar on August 25 entitled “Potential Prognostic Molecular Markers for Human Cervical Cancer.”
Publications


Dr. Shao-yu Chen’s recent publication entitled “Induction of the Nrf2-driven antioxidant response by tert-butylhydroquinone prevents ethanol-induced apoptosis in cranial neural crest cells,” published in the July 2010 issue of Biochemical Pharmacology, has been featured in the most recent NIH/NIAAA (National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism) Director’s Report as a representation of the quality of research conducted and supported by NIAAA.

Employee News
Congratulations to Dr. Krishna Kumar Veeravalli. Dr. Veeravalli accepted the position of Research Assistant Professor within the department.

Dr. Ken-ichiro Fukuchi’s recent promotion to Professor will be recognized at the Celebration of Excellence to be held at UICOMP on September 15, 5:30 pm. Congratulations, Dr. Fukuchi.

ACADEMIC AFFAIRS/STUDENT SERVICES
I am pleased to announce that the following members of the Class of 2011 will be inducted, as seniors, into the University of Illinois College of Medicine chapter of the Alpha Omega Alpha Medical Honor Society:
Andre Francois
Charles Tanner Hughes
Drew Kepple
Daniel Lasoff
Mark Miller
John Rago

The following members of the Class of 2011 were inducted as juniors:
Christopher Bohac
Sachin Jain
Joshua Novak

To learn more about AOA, visit the national website at http://www.alphomegaalpha.org/

Congratulations to all! Peoria is proud of you and your achievements.

Linda P. Rowe, EdD
Assistant Dean for Student Affairs

Class of 2013 White Coat Ceremony Pictures are now accessible online at http://www.flickr.com/photos/uicomp
HUMAN RESOURCES

Please welcome new civil service employees…
Colleen Mathias, Office Support Specialist, HIHAC
Suzanne Frick, Office Manager, Advancement/Community Relations

Floating Holidays cause ‘clouds of confusion’
For civil service employees (academic time is tracked on departmental records and does not appear on pay stub):
The floating holiday schedule can be a bit confusing – and even more confusing to track in payroll records! Have no
fear, H.R. is here to help answer your questions. Call us at 671-8518 if you wish to check your floating holiday
balance – the balance is NOT always correct on the paystubs (due to Banner payroll records).

Remember: if you don’t use the floating holiday time in the fiscal year, you lose it. A helpful hint: print a copy of
the holiday schedule and make a note when you use your floating holiday time. Again, we are happy to look up the
records for you – but this way, it’s at your ‘fingertips’. This is also helpful for supervisors tracking floating holiday
time for employees. The holiday schedule can be printed from the below website:
http://www.uic.edu/depts/hr/quicklinks/holidayschedule.shtml/
Other confusion with floating holidays is…. How much floating holiday time do we receive? Very confusing, I
agree. You’ll notice the holiday schedule has Group A and Group B. We receive FOUR floating holidays: Group A,
two days are designated (for day after Thanksgiving, Nov. 26 and on Dec. 27), the other two days are used “at your
leisure” in the fiscal year. Group B does not list the two designated days – this is for employees who typically have
to work on the designated days (i.e. clinic, security, LACF). If the employee works on a designated floating holiday,
they “float” the time for another day in the fiscal year. Basically, we receive four days – either two are designated
and two are used ‘at leisure’, OR all four days are used “at leisure”. Time off must be approved by supervisor.

I hope this information makes floating holiday time a little less ‘cloudy’. Please feel free to call if you have any
questions or wish to check your floating holiday balance.

NEWS RELEASES

Contact: Jim Burwitz
309-671-8404

be sure to check out the News Releases on website:
http://peoria.medicine.uic.edu/news
I enjoyed the time that I spent with Stacey in the Department of Medicine. I watch as she handled different types of tasks throughout the day but she always kept an upbeat attitude and a smile on her face. My visit came to an end and Stacey “Played Me Forward” to……. Robin Tucker, who works in the Heart of Illinois HIV/AIDS Center (HIHAC). I watch as Robin juggled several tasks at one time but stayed focused and calm. Her easy going personality is a definite asset to the department. Stacey had this to say about Robin:

*Who is this woman?* She works diligently with staff to complete testing and counseling on the caravan (rain or shine). With great detail and attention she recruits volunteers and clients to organize groups and forums and various other vital tasks. Her knowledge base is unlimited when it comes to searching for solutions to the daunting events that must be planned before the end of the quarter. She will meet the never ending task of creating curriculum for groups and social events. Does just anyone accomplish these tasks? NO!

*Who is this woman?* She faces the vital statistics that must be kept and the unwavering mounds of paperwork requested by the funders? She is committed to long work hours. Her expectation is not to only to provide the team and her hard working staff with motivation and example but provide her clients with encouragement and support. Assuming the responsibility of three people and multiple others, she pushes forward to deliver purposeful resources and higher outcomes.

*Who is this woman?* She speaks with positive confidence about the changes taking place in her department and is willing to undertake the unknown to co-write grants for continued funding. She is a fabulous team player who is reliable to ask the hard questions and willing to take the consequences. She is the person who will stay until the end of the conference to get clarification on programming, funding, or criteria for her program while cleaning up and putting away the tables and chairs from the event. She is the first to say “Hello” and last to say "until next time”.

Keep aspiring to be more & inspiring people along your journey.

My visit in the clinic flew by rapidly with all of the hustle and bustle. Robin decided to “Play Me Forward” to one of her co-workers……. Lori Bennett. Regardless of which “hat” Lori had on, I watched as she consistently had a smile on her face. Her upbeat attitude assured that the HIHAC offices ran smoothly. Robin had this to say about Lori:

*Lori Bennett adds a special touch to whatever she does. She likes to show kindness to those around her. She offers a helping hand at times of need.*

*Lori has brought our team together as our Civil Service Counsel leader. She has motivated, encouraged and challenged us to work together, to give and to see the rewards of tackling a project as a team. She doesn’t tire of reminding us of the special project at hand and even provides fun challenges with great prizes! She is often the one who offers to pick up the picnic food off site so our staff can participate in the cookouts.*
Lori works diligently to help with making serving our clients easier and doesn’t hesitate to add a smile for free (no co-pay needed). Lori is a team player who is reliable, willing to go above and beyond, committed to seeing projects through and to keeping it simple.

Lori is willing to learn a new process and in turn to help others to learn the process as well. She takes on additional responsibilities as needed to make the HIHAC offices and client billing run smoothly. Lori has definitely brought some fun, hard work and an encouraging smile to our office and she is definitely an asset to HIHAC services.

The clinic and office staff never seem to slow down. My visit with Lori was filled with many activities. Lori decided to “Play Me Forward” to yet another HIHAC staff member………..Sharon Tear. Sharon leads her team effortlessly through the daily tasks at hand. Never ceasing to amaze her staff, she always gives 150%!! Lori had this to say about Sharon:

I am passing along the Play Me Forward to a co-worker of mine, Sharon Tear. I’ve given this a great deal of thought, and I think this is the perfect person to hand this over to. She is retiring as of 9/1/2010, and our office is in turmoil that she is leaving us. But, here are my reasons for passing this onto her:

1) This woman has been a perfect mentor, friend, mother figure, coworker, supervisor, friend, and person. She has the BIGGEST heart of anyone I have ever seen. I am curious to see how our office will function without her. She’s more than an asset; she is the complete HIHAC clinic all rolled into one person.

2) She could single-handedly run HIHAC. (Cape included, at times…) I understand that she was the main reason there even IS a HIHAC, she’s the one that “started” the ball rolling on an HIV/AIDS clinic. I wouldn’t BE here if it hadn’t been for her insight and knowledge and caring.

3) She is awesome enough to look at my finger when it hurt, look in my ear if I get an earache, give me a band-aid and a hug if I need it for some reason. What an awesome job perk to have someone to help w/ your own boo-boos and ouchies.

4) And just because she just plain ‘ol DESERVES SOME KUDOS!!!! WE LOVE HER AND WE’RE GONNA MISS HER TREMENDOUSLY…

    Sharon ~ Congratulations on your retirement ~ you will be missed by all but you deserve the very best! Enjoy your retirement ~ you’ve earned it! Play Me Forward

Well, that wraps it up for another month of experiencing what makes UICOMP a great place to work. So far, I have had the opportunity to “hang around” and get to know 47 employees. But, I’m excited to visit many more individuals in the coming months and learn all I can about the people of UICOMP.

So…until next time, continue to …..

Play Me Forward
Dear Benny,

Is it true that my P-Card will no longer auto reconcile after seven days?
Debbie Doubtful

Dear Debbie,
First of all….P-Card purchases still have to be reconciled within seven days! They no longer auto-reconcile, that is true, but they will remain in your queue until they are reconciled. If you fail to have your transactions reconciled within seven days, you could have your P-Card suspended or cancelled. In addition, you will make a report that shows that you have failed to have your transactions reconciled in a timely manner. This is not just a local report. Trust me~ you don’t want to make this report.

~Benny

“Goals are dreams with deadlines”—Diana Scharf Hunt

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**MISCELLANEOUS / PERSONAL**

**September Birthdays**

1 Gayle Hidden
3 Beth Clayton
8 Angela Schroeder
9 Teresa Poshard
13 Roger Geiss
13 Peggy Mankin
16 Monica Drake
19 Gracita Edwards
19 Wally Hammond
21 Kim Garcia
22 Chris Wadle
23 Ina Ferguson
27 Michelle Shearhod
27 Sarah Vujanov
30 Lisa McCown

If your birthday is not listed, and you wish to be added, please contact Shannon at sdoerr@uic.edu
When it comes to colors…we probably worry more about what color of paint we want for remodel projects than what color to put on our plates. You see… the more colorful plate of fruits and vegetables the healthier YOU. How about some red? Up your workout beat with some beets. Eat your beets…and you just may notice an increase in your endurance. Try some ‘orange’ to get rid of those muscle cramps from your workout…eat your potassium. Bake yourself a sweet potato; this spud is high in potassium.

First day of Fall is September 23.

The deadline for submission of information for the October issue is September 28 – send to Shannon at: sdoerr@uic.edu
Think green… only print when necessary