DEPARTMENT NEWS

CANCER BIOLOGY & PHARMACOLOGY

Grants
Christopher Gondi, Ph.D., was awarded a one-year grant totaling $100,000 from the American Cancer Society, Principal Investigator, “Role of uPAR and uPA in pancreatic cancers.”

Seminars/Presentations
Dr. Shao-yu Chen presented a poster entitled “The Nrf2 inducer, tert-butylhydroquinone, prevents ethanol-induced apoptosis in cultured cranial neural crest cells” at the annual scientific meeting of the Research Society on Alcoholism held in San Diego, California on June 20-24, 2009. Co-authors on this poster are: D. Yan, J. Dong and K. K. Sulik (Bowles Center for Alcohol Studies, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill).

Dr. Shao-yu Chen presented a poster entitled "Stabilization of Nrf2 protein by D3T confers protection against ethanol-induced apoptosis in PC12 cells” at the annual scientific meeting of the Research Society on Alcoholism held in San Diego, California on June 20-24, 2009. Co-authors on this poster are: J. Dong, D. Yan and K. K. Sulik (Bowles Center for Alcohol Studies, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill).

Dr. E. Antonio Chiocca of The Ohio State University Medical Center, an invited speaker of Dr. Jasti Rao, will present Neurosurgery Grand Rounds on Friday, July 17, from 8:00 - 9:00 a.m. at the Branch Lecture Room, St. Francis North Building. The title of Dr. Chiocca's lecture is "Translational Therapies for Malignant Gliomas."

Publications


Awards and Honors

Dr. Shao-yu Chen has been appointed to the 2010 Research Society on Alcoholism Program Committee, a committee that plans the program for the 2010 annual national scientific meeting of this society.

Employee News

Congratulations to Kate Pastucha, who had a baby girl, Amelia Ann Pastucha, born on Saturday, May 9. Congratulations to Jinghong Kou, who had a baby girl, Tiffany Shuqi Zhang, born on Saturday, June 13.

Congratulations also to Mike Dobbs who was recently awarded a Graduate Fellowship for the 2009-2010 academic year from Chicago-based FMC Technologies, Inc. Mike is currently pursuing an MBA from University of Illinois Springfield.

We are pleased to welcome Haijing Sun, Ph.D., Visiting Scholar, who is working in Dr. Shao-yu Chen’s laboratory.

We are pleased to welcome Jeongeun Lim, Ph.D., Postdoctoral Research Associate, who is working in Dr. Ken-ichiro Fukuchi’s laboratory.

The department benefits from partnerships with the community in a significant way each summer through internship programs. We welcome the following summer volunteers:

In Dr. Lasley’s laboratory: Joshua Newman (Bradley University)

In Dr. Fukuchi’s laboratory: Danling Yu (University of Michigan) Siddharth Narayanan (Illinois Mathematics and Science Academy)

In Dr. Rao’s laboratory: Emily Sandall (American Cancer Society) Clayton Goggil (American Cancer Society)
DEPARTMENT of SURGERY

AUTHORS DINNER

On June 3, the Department of Surgery congratulated and encouraged Surgery residents and attendings who had peer-reviewed publications or book chapters published in the last two years with an Authors Dinner. Those recognized included nine attendings in addition to residents Franziska Huettner, Paul Pacheco, Arthur Rawlings, Steven Tsoraides, and Jay Woodland. This was the second Authors Dinner held by the department in the hope that it will be a continuing tradition. The dinner was held at Mackinaw Valley Vineyard in Mackinaw, Illinois and included a tour, wine tasting and dinner. The guest speaker for the evening was J. Roland Folse, MD, Professor and retired Chair of the Department of Surgery at Southern Illinois University School of Medicine. The title of his presentation was ‘Creativity’. Dr. Folse is currently a working artist in the media of woodworking and ceramics.

ANNOUNCEMENT of DIRECTOR of the SURGERY CLERKSHIP

Beginning July 1, 2009, Dr. Richard C. Anderson will serve as Director of the Surgery Clerkship. Dr. Anderson is a graduate of Loyola University Stritch School of Medicine. He completed general surgery training at the University of Illinois College of Medicine in 1998. He then completed a thoracic surgery fellowship at Washington University/Barnes Hospital in St. Louis in 2000. Dr. Anderson is a full-time faculty member and also serves as our Section Chief of Cardiothoracic Surgery. He has won numerous department and University teaching awards, including the prestigious Raymond B. Allen Instructorship (Golden Apple) Award in 2003 and 2008. He is highly qualified for this new responsibility.

Dr. Lorin D. Whittaker, Jr. has served as Director of the Surgery Clerkship since 1991. Dr. Whittaker retired from his clinical practice in 1999 and as a full-time faculty member of the University in 2007. He has done a tremendous job in elevating the stature of our surgical training, and he has established himself nationally as a known expert in surgical education. We will continue to benefit from Dr. Whittaker’s contribution to our program as he will serve as Associate Director of the Surgery Clerkship. I feel certain that Dr. Whittaker’s retirement as full-time Director will neither lessen his enthusiasm nor his presence with our educational efforts. We are most appreciative for all he has done for the University.

DES

D.E.S. has created PowerPoint presentation templates that are now available for your convenience on the Public Drive: “UICOMP PPT Presentation Templates”. These templates are consistent with the templates on the UIC website, but our logo, colors, and photos have been substituted. Please feel free to use the templates for your PowerPoint presentations.

Division of Educational Services presents the new E-Lab

The Division of Educational Services proudly announces the opening of the new E Lab! We have created a place where people can sit, relax, and get some technical support from the DES staff on Benware and Blackboard. We welcome and encourage anyone who needs this support to stop by or call for an appointment.

An official open house will take place on July 15 from 3:00 to 3:30 PM, just before the CCIA meeting. Stop in and say hello and check out this newly designed space!
Please welcome new civil service employees…
Tammi Miller, Program Administrative Assistant, Neurology

The Holiday Schedule is located on the UIC HR website:
http://www.uic.edu/depts/hr/quicklinks/holidayschedule.shtml

Shared Benefits  What is Shared Benefits?  A pool has been established which will provide eligible employees who have exhausted all accumulated sick leave and, if applicable vacation leave, with the opportunity to receive additional leave days when a disability claim is pending before the State Universities Retirement System (SURS) or when experiencing a catastrophic injury or illness (depending on the type of employee).  If you donate a sick day (and/or vacation), you may qualify to receive time from the pool.

Eligibility: Civil Service, Faculty, and Academic Professional employees are eligible to participate in the Shared Benefits Program if they meet the following requirements:

- Civil Service, Faculty, or Academic Professional employee who participates in SURS or the Federal Retirement System.
- Appointed at least 50 percent time to a position for which service is expected to be rendered for at least nine continuous months.
- Have a cumulative balance of at least 11 days of leave.

Postdoctoral research associates, medical residents, graduate assistants, and annuitants in SURS or the Federal Retirement System are not eligible to participate.

Withdrawal Requirements: requests for withdrawal of shared benefits are subject to the following requirements. You are eligible to apply for time if you have donated a day to the Shared Benefit Pool.

- Application to withdraw leave from the pool may be made within five days of exhausting all sick leave if only sick leave was used to participate in the pool. If a combination of sick leave and vacation or vacation only was used to participate in the pool, the employee must be within five days of exhausting all sick and vacation leave.
- The amount approved cannot exceed one-third of the balance in the pool or 45 working days, whichever is less.
- Employees may apply for leave from the pool once per academic appointment year.
- Employees or their designee must complete a Shared Benefits Request form requesting leave from the pool.
- The number of leave days needed must be specified.
- For Academic Staff a written physician's statement containing the beginning date of the condition, a description of the illness or injury, and a prognosis in justification of the request is required to complete the request. Information regarding pending SURS disability claims must be included with the request. You must be eligible for SURS disability in order to apply (at least two years of service credit).

Policy Notes…. for complete Shared Benefits information or to donate a day, please review the Leave section of NESSIE; click on Shared Benefits.  If you have additional questions please contact Human Resources at 671-8518.

NESSIE:  https://nessie.uihr.uillinois.edu
NOTE: The prescription deductible was first introduced on January 1, 2009. This is a “per person per plan year” deductible and July 1, 2009 begins a new plan year. Please review the CMS Benefit Choice Booklet for information regarding the prescription deductible. CMS mailed Benefit Booklets to all benefit-eligible employees (at end of April). If you did not receive a copy, the booklet is also available on the website, or call Human Resources at 671-8518 for a copy:
CMS: [http://www.state.il.us/cms/3_servicese_ben_choice/defaultFY07.htm#Programbooks](http://www.state.il.us/cms/3_servicese_ben_choice/defaultFY07.htm#Programbooks)
Scroll down to select FY2010 Benefit Choice Options Booklet

Check your paycheck! Please review your paystub…to ensure accuracy of your payroll and deductions. This is especially important in the new fiscal year – review to make sure the new premiums for the new fiscal year are processed. And, review to make sure changes made during open enrollment processed correctly (for example, if you enrolled in flex spending, check for the deduction).

LIBRARY OF THE HEALTH SCIENCES

Construction has begun on a new reference and consultation office in the Library. Please be patient with the temporary noise and disturbance.

We will soon transform the “old” reference and interlibrary loan offices into a digital lab that will offer students, faculty, and staff a computing and learning facility equipped with computers, production software and equipment, and laptop work areas. The facility will be accessible after library hours to UIC personnel via a card-access door.

Thanks for your patience and support.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

NEWS RELEASES

Contact: Jim Burwitz
309-671-8404

Ten physicians from the University of Illinois College of Medicine at Peoria (UICOMP) have been named to the “Best Doctors in America” list for 2008-2009:

- Dr. Pedro A. de Alarcon, William H. Albers Professor and Chair of the Department of Pediatrics
- Dr. Norman C. Estes, Professor and Chair of the Department of Surgery
- Dr. Thomas L. Gross, Clinical Associate Professor in the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology
- Dr. John G. Halvorsen, Thomas and Ellen Foster Professor and Chair of the Department of Family and Community Medicine
- Dr. Mark T. Jennings, Professor in the Department of Pediatrics and Neurology
- Dr. Jorge C. Kattah, Professor and Head of the Department of Neurology
- Dr. Brian T. Maurer, Clinical Assistant Professor in the Department of Surgery
• Dr. Sara L. Rusch, Regional Dean-Peoria and Professor of Clinical Medicine in the Department of Medicine
• Dr. Lisa E. Snyder, Clinical Assistant Professor in the Department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation
• Dr. Joyce E. Wise, Associate Professor of Clinical Pediatrics in the Department of Pediatrics

Founded in 1989, Best Doctors, Inc., compiles national databases of elite physicians in more than 400 subspecialties. The organization’s annual listing represents the top five percent of American physicians and is the result of a comprehensive nomination and election process.

The Department of Graduate Medical Education at the University of Illinois College of Medicine at Peoria (UICOMP) honored 58 residents and fellows during the 2009 Residency Graduation and Dinner Celebration.

The annual event was held on June 5, 2009, at Embassy Suites Hotel and Riverfront Conference Center in East Peoria, Illinois. Dr. Thomas J. Santoro, UICOMP’s Associate Dean for Graduate Medical Education, served as Master of Ceremonies.

“This important event celebrates a milestone in the career of a physician,” says Dr. Santoro. “It commemorates the transition from student to practitioner.”

In addition, 13 UICOMP faculty members received Faculty Teaching Awards from graduating residents and fellows. The following individuals were recognized for outstanding ability and interest in personal and professional growth:

- Combined Medicine-Pediatrics: Dr. Matthew Mischler
- Emergency Medicine: Dr. Jim Brown
- Family Medicine: Dr. Keith Knepp
- Internal Medicine: Dr. John Rogers
- Internal Medicine, Volunteer Faculty: Dr. Sudhir Mungee
- Medicine-Pediatrics Subspecialty: Dr. Tony Horinek
- Neurology: Dr. Gregory Blume
- Neurosurgery: Dr. Julian Lin
- Obstetrics/Gynecology: Dr. Yolanda Renfroe
- Pediatrics: Dr. Matthew Mischler
- Pediatrics Subspecialty: Dr. Mary Elizabeth Ross
- Radiology: Dr. Brad Johnson
- Surgery: Dr. Richard Anderson

UICOMP’s graduate medical education programs are operated in conjunction with Methodist Medical Center of Illinois, OSF Saint Francis Medical Center, and Children’s Hospital of Illinois. For more information please call 309-671-8450.

More UICOMP news releases available at: http://peoria.medicine.uic.edu/news
It’s been interesting watching the comings and goings in the H/R department. While here I had the opportunity to see many “new” faces that I hadn’t encountered yet. As Shannon prepared to deliver me to my next destination she descended down the “hidden” back staircase and started down the hallway. She walked past the “open” landscape areas, journeyed through the double glass doors as she continued on her mission. She then turned the handled and continued through the double brown doors. Hey, wait a minute, I’ve been back here before. Down the hallway of lockers and then she turned left and hung a right into the office of my fifteenth destination……Wally Hammond of the Physical Plant. Sitting on his table I watched as Wally processed orders to be shipped out, received packages from numerous outside vendors and prepared them for delivery to the individual departments, prepared requested material in the print shop and handled numerous incoming phone calls. Lots of activity goes on in the “back” of the building. When Wally isn’t here at UICOMP you can find him spending time with his family which includes his cute grandchildren. Plus, you know you can always count on Wally to discuss his favorite pastime … watching his favorite team….the Cubs! Oh that’s right, he cheers for the red team…..hmm….what’s the name of that team….oh, the Cardinals! (Sorry Wally, my fingers slipped on the keyboard and I heard through the UICOMP grapevine that this is an ongoing debate back in your area!!) Shannon gave these reasons for “Playing Me Forward” to Wally:

Wally is always courteous….when I have a shipping question; he's always there to help. He provides excellent service!

Wally is very generous and caring. He takes time to ask how others are doing and their families. A number of years ago, Wally built a "Hockey Tree" for my son. This was a complete surprise - and something my son will always treasure.

Wally is dedicated.... he is committed to making his department the best it can be. He is part of what makes UICOMP such a wonderful place.

Wally is a 'team player'... I can see that his department works well together, and they have a good time too. Wally provides excellent leadership in keeping UICOMP informed and safe as the coordinator of the Critical Incident Team.

As the days passed on it was time for me to continue on my journey through the hallways of UICOMP. Wally was ready to “Play Me Forward”. Wally traveled down the hallway of lockers, through the brown double doors and then back to the “open” landscape area. He veered to the left at the first hallway and ventured into the “maze”. Whew, not too far though. Wally continued straight into the first office which is the Dean’s Office. The first person you encounter and my sixteenth destination is with ……Kristy Bushart in the Dean’s Office. I watched as Kristy answered the phone and completed different types of changes within the Banner system plus greeted UICOMP employees and visitors alike with a friendly hello. When Kristy hangs up her hat at UICOMP you can then find her busy with her husband and kids with their many activities. In her “spare” time at home Kristy enjoys crafting. Wally gave these reasons for “Playing Me Forward” to Kristy:

Kristy always displays a friendly smile and warm and caring personality.

Kristy can always be depended upon to get the job done and is always willing to help out her fellow co-workers, faculty or staff.

Kristy has graciously volunteered her time to various groups here at UICOMP-P over the years to provide an enjoyable and positive atmosphere.

Kristy's hard work and knowledge is a true asset to UICOMP-P... Congratulations Kristy you are truly dissevering of this.
The hustle and bustle in this department makes the days fly by quickly. It was time for me to move on down the hallways. Kristy didn’t have to go far. She walked me across the office and delivered me to my seventeenth stop…...Laureen Perkins, also in the Dean’s Office. Laureen handles many administrative duties such as academic and faculty appointments/promotions, primary liaison with Chicago regarding administrative related matters and fields questions from other departments. Kristy gave these reasons for “Playing Me Forward” to Laureen:

She is a very hard worker & great at multi-tasking. She does a great job keeping the Dean's office running smoothly (not always an easy task with all that goes on in a day's time).

She is always friendly to all who enter the office whether it is faculty, staff, or students.

She will always find the answer to any problem that arises and follows through until it gets solved.

Outside of work she is a very devoted wife, mother, & dog lover. Whether she is helping her oldest figure out college courses, spending her time at the ball field with her youngest, or making sure her dear dog Digger is happy she has it all together and she is a great friend!!!

It was time once again to journey onto my next location at UICOMP. Laureen gently wrapped me up, placed me in an in-house envelope, walked me down to the mailroom and deposited me in the appropriate mail slot. Next thing you know Shelley started packaging all of the mail into the colorful mail bags. She placed me in the mail bag that was headed for my next destination. Then back into the courier van. It’s really hot when you have to ride in the back of the van inside a mail bag! We arrived at the North building where Shelley delivered me to my eighteenth stop…...the desk of Margaret Donaldson in the Department of Surgery. Sitting on the corner of Margaret’s desk I watched as she handled the administrative duties for Dr. Estes which includes making travel arrangements, working on putting together promotion packets, maintaining calendars, working on year end Eddie reports and also interacting daily with staff and faculty. Laureen gave these reasons for “Playing Me Forward” to Margaret:

Margaret is so positive about life. She always tries to see the good in people and situations.

Margaret sets high standards for herself and her department. She gives 100% each and every day.

Margaret provides fantastic leadership skills. She leads by example.

Margaret is a caring and compassionate person willing to help anyone that needs a listening ear or a helping hand. She also is a wonderful tap dancer.

Well, that’s been a summary of my adventures this month, and I continue to see why UICOMP is such a great place to work. I’m excited to visit many more individuals in the coming months and learn all I can about the people of UICOMP.

Until next time,
Play Me Forward

MISCELLANEOUS / PERSONAL

Have a safe and happy 4th of July!

July Birthdays
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<td>Debbie Granger</td>
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If your birthday is not listed, and you wish to be added, please contact Shannon at sdoerr@uic.edu

Think green… …only print when necessary

The deadline for submission of information for the August issue is July 30

Have a Nice Day