FROM THE DIRECTOR
Steve Simasko, Program Director in IPN

Welcome to the new iPBS newsletter! The management has decided that a bimonthly newsletter would be an excellent mechanism to keep both faculty and students informed about upcoming activities sponsored by iPBS, and new developments and accomplishments within the iPBS umbrella. Please review the newsletter for items of interest and give us feedback, both on the newsletter, but most importantly, on how the program is advancing. Remember, the primary purpose of iPBS is to make graduate education in the biomedical sciences at WSU more efficient, effective and engaging. If we are not meeting those goals, we need to know and make changes. Communication is essential and it goes both ways.

On a personal note I have greatly enjoyed engaging in this activity. Learning about what is going on across biomedical sciences at WSU has been educational and exciting. The breadth and quality of research, as well as the thoughtful character of our members, is fantastic and we have much to learn from one another. I hope you also will find future interactions energizing and feel a part of our community. And always remember, this is our community, and its success comes from what we put into it. So when asked, get involved!

Want more information or have feedback?
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WILL YOU PARTICIPATE?

THE AUGUST ORIENTATION & LEADERSHIP RETREAT

The Orientation & Leadership Retreat is scheduled for August 15-18, 2016. This year the events take place in Pullman in the BLS and VBR buildings as well as at the WSU Recreation Center and the Residence Inn Marriott.

The entering graduate students from any of the 5 PhD programs begin the week with some important basics such as Biological Safety, Laboratory Safety, Responsible Conduct of Research and Academic Integrity. Later in the week there is an opportunity to hear lab presentations from 10 research faculty across the CVM.

Take a moment and check out the agenda.
graduate.vetmed.wsu.edu/advance-professional-growth/orientation-leadership-retreat

SEMINAR & PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

One of the goals for the iPBS has been the organization and communication of a leadership and professional development series. This effort was designed to work within the requirements in each degree program, add efficiency, and add value to aspects that are in place. Finally, this efforts strives to identify and fill-in aspects that are missing from the current leadership and professionalism training opportunities. The framework for the 2016-17 series and future directions are scheduled for roll-out during the iPBS Orientation & Leadership Retreat. In the coming weeks we will post updates to Advanced Professional Growth.
http://graduate.vetmed.wsu.edu/advance-professional-growth
SUMMER WRITING

During the month of June, the College of Veterinary Medicine and the WSU English department collaborated to develop and improve the writing skills of 17 graduate students. The program chairs nominated students from their units. The majority of the participating students had just finished their first year but more than a few more advanced students were able to participate. The Summer Writing Workshop lasted four weeks and really pushed the students to both prepare a draft of a pertinent paper and to provide feedback and comments on the work of their peers.

“The summer writing workshop helped me focus and summarize ideas that I have always struggled to communicate. I learned that sometimes less is more, and that some notions benefit from concise statements that flow naturally from one idea to the next. This lesson will be useful to write my PhD proposal, improve my writing skills and provide a platform to review scientific writing in general.” - Kim Chiok, PhD student in Immunology & Infectious Diseases

Student participants: Zoe Campbell, Kim Chiok, Erik Contreras, Duncan Ithinji, Roberta Koku, Liz Zamora (from IID); Liam Caven, Andrea Connor, Amber Hughes, Estella Jauregui, Victoria Ortega, Nick Pokorzynski, Angel Thalhofer, Alex Woychek (from SMB); Andrea Perkins (from Vet Science); Christal Clements, Alisha Massa (from VMP).
NEW COURSE APPROVAL

In the Spring of 2014 the first of two new courses, Deconstruction of Research, was pilot tested. The goals were to offer coursework that would benefit the students in each of the CVM graduate programs and move away from a didactic (lecture-base) delivery to a more active, discussion-based delivery which required more critical thinking. To date Deconstruction of Research and the second new course, Topics in Biomedical Experimentation have both been approved through the faculty senate process. The courses are cross listed: 564 Topics in Biomedical Experimentation and 563 Deconstruction of Research. We have worked with the talented team in Veterinary Information Systems to create a simple web-page that can help current students and faculty as they plan course enrollment and schedules.

Visit the Integrated Common-Core Curriculum on the iPBS website.
http://graduate.vetmed.wsu.edu/academic-features/integrated-common-core-curriculum

Look for more about the recent graduate course revisions and design in the future newsletters.

BYLAWS

iPBS to develop new bylaws. Is iPBS a graduate program? The simple answer is no, as currently structured it is an umbrella that serves several existing programs. The official programs (approved by the Graduate School) that currently participate in iPBS are Neuroscience, Molecular Biosciences, and Veterinary Sciences. Within Veterinary Sciences there are several variations, all traditionally based in different CVM departments, which are Immunology and Infectious Disease (IID), Integrative Physiology and Neuroscience (IPN), Veterinary Clinical Sciences (VCS), and the residency programs in VMP. However, these variants have never functioned as a single entity and go about their business in their own unique ways.
To be an official program of the Graduate School, a program must develop a set of bylaws, and be approved by the Faculty Senate and Regents. Through a series of discussions with the Dean and Chairs, as well as the Graduate School, it has been decided that the cleanest way to eliminate the current confusing state of affairs is to move forward with establishing iPBS as an official graduate program with its own set of bylaws and independent approval. Under this structure the existing programs, regardless of their current structure, will become separate tracks within iPBS, and thus can retain their current unique identities. This will require much work and review, and is likely to take over a year to accomplish. However, the first step is to write a new set of bylaws. This process is currently underway, and the goal is to produce a draft set of bylaws for general comment by September. It is anticipated that the bylaw review process will take until the end of the Fall semester. Once a set of bylaws have been accepted, iPBS can move forward with asking for official recognition. Keep in tune to developments on this front. Your feedback will be welcomed.

DEPARTURES

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE RECENT GRADUATES

Summer 2015

Zulema Garcia, MS Molecular Biosciences; DI-2 Ethylhexyl Phthalate Antagonizes the Action of Retinoic Acid During Neonatal Development; mentor: Dr. Kwan Hee Kim

Petronella Magunda, PhD Immunology Infectious Diseases; The Role of Linear Plasmid 28-1 in the Pathogenesis of Infection by Borrelia Burgdorferi; mentor: Dr. Troy Bankhead

Stacy Martin, PhD Molecular Biosciences; Development of Suicide Enzyme-Based Therapeutics for Cancer Therapy; mentor: Dr. Margaret Black

Chromewell Mojica, MS Molecular Biosciences; mentor: Dr. Margaret Black

Marcella Oonk, PhD Neuroscience; The Effects of Sleep Loss in Animals; mentor: Dr. Christopher Davis

Yang Xu, PhD Molecular Biosciences; Human MUTS Homologues HM SH4 and HM SH5: From Protein Degradation to DNA Damage Response and Repair; mentor: Dr. Chengtao Her
DEPARTURES
RECENT GRADUATES - CONTINUED

Yangmiao Zhang, PhD Neuroscience; A Mechanistic Study of Hyperbaric Oxygen-Induced Antinociception in a Rat Model of Neuropathic Pain; mentor: Dr. Raymond Quock

Fall 2015

Kent Bloodsworth, PSM Molecular Biosciences; mentor: Dr. Susan Wang

Alexis Campbell, MS Veterinary Science; A Study on the Physiology of Early Pregnancy in Alpacas; mentor: Dr. Ahmed Tibary

Michael Gonzalez, PhD Immunology Infectious Diseases; The Identification and Characterization of a Genome-Wide Significant Region Associated with Erythrocyte Phenotypes in Domestic Sheep; mentor: Dr. Stephen White

Siddra Hines, PhD Immunology Infectious Diseases; In Vitro Drug Susceptibility of Theileria Equi and the Role of ABC Transporters in Resistance to Imidocarb Dipropionate; mentor: Dr. Robert Mealey

Sarah Ho, MS Molecular Biosciences; mentor: Dr. Alan Goodman

Kristina Hoffman, PSM Molecular Biosciences; mentor: Dr. Philip Mixter

Travis Kent, PhD Molecular Biosciences; Retinoic Acid Synthesis and Degradation: Implications for Proper Germ Cell Development; mentor: Dr. Michael Griswold

Rithy Meas, PhD Molecular Biosciences; Excision Repair and DNA Damage Tolerance in the Context Nucleosomes; mentor: Dr. Michael Smerdon

John Michael, PhD Integrative Physiology and Neuroscience; Functional Effects of the H1-Helix and the Flexible-Linker of Cardiac Troponin in Health and Disease; mentor: Dr. Murali Chandra

Wendi Russac, PSM Molecular Biosciences; mentor: Dr. Jennifer Watts

Jacquelyn Stone, PhD Immunology Infectious Diseases; The Role of the Nipah Virus G Head and Stalk Regions in Modulating Viral Fusion; mentor: Dr. Hector Aguilar-Carreno

Leanne Whitmore, PhD Molecular Biosciences; Understanding Germ Cell Regulation Using Bioinformatic Approaches; mentor: Dr. Ping Ye
DEPARTURES
RECENT GRADUATES - CONTINUED

Spring 2016

Karlie Bagan, PSM Molecular Biosciences; mentor: Dr. Norah McCabe

Sai Batra, PhD Immunology Infectious Diseases; Immunization Strategies for the Control of Mannheimia Haemolytica Pneumonia in Bighorn Sheep; mentor: Dr. Subramaniam Srikumaran

Diana Browning, PhD Molecular Biosciences; Development of a Clinically Relevant Insulated Foamy Viral Vector for Hematopoietic Stem Cell Gene Therapy; mentor: Dr. Grant Trobridge

Kevin Church, PhD Molecular Biosciences; Investigation of the Therapeutic Potential of Novel Hepatocyte Growth Factor and Macrophage Stimulating Protein Antagonists for the Treatment of Pancreatic Cancer; mentor: Dr. Joseph Harding

Elyse Donaubauer, PhD Molecular Biosciences; YBI: A New Player in FSH Regulation of Gene Expression in Granulosa Cells; mentor: Dr. Mary Hunzicker-Dunn

Megan Duffy, MS Veterinary Science; mentor: Dr. Janean Fidel

Taheer Elmeshreghi, MS Veterinary Science; Comparison of Enterprise Point of Care (EPOC) and Nova CCX Analyzers for Determination of Arterial pH, Blood Gas, and Electrolyte Values in Dog and Horse Blood; mentor: Dr. Stephen Greene

Cory Gall, PhD Immunology Infectious Diseases; Functional Characterization of the Bacterial Microbiome of the Dermacentor Andersoni Tick Exhibits Interactions with Pathogen Acquisition; mentor: Dr. Kelly Brayton

Margaret Highland, PhD Immunology Infectious Diseases; Comparative Investigation of the Immune Systems of Two Ovine Species (Ovis Aries and Ovis Canadensis); mentor: Dr. Donald Knowles

Simon Newkirk, PhD Molecular Biosciences; A Mouse Model for Studying Line-1 Regulation in Vivo; mentor: Dr. Wenfeng An

Jennine Ochoa, PhD Combined Anatomic Path Rsdnyc; Protective Effects of an Experimental Sporozoite-Based Immunization Strategy Against Theileria Equi; mentor: Dr. Robert Mealey

Amos Peterson, MS Veterinary Science; Public and Animal Health Needs for Backyard Poultry and Small-Scale Livestock Production; mentor: Dr. Dale Moore

Megan Slaker, PhD Neuroscience; Caught in the Net: Perineuronal Nets and Cocaine Memory; mentor: Dr. Barbara Sorg

Melissa Tropf, MS Vet Sci Veterinary Science; mentor: Dr. O Lynne Nelson