NEW DEGREE OFFERINGS FOR FALL 2013

This semester marks the beginning of two new programs in CMMB. The Ph.D. in Cell and Molecular Biology replaces the older Ph.D. in Biology and is the only such Ph.D. program in the State of Florida making CMMB a very unique department! Similarly, the old B.S. in Biology, Concentration in Cell and Molecular Biology is now replaced with the B.S. Major in Cell and Molecular Biology. The advantage to students is their diplomas will now reflect the new major. The old concentration did not appear on the diploma. We invite all students currently enrolled in the Cell and Molecular Biology concentration to transfer into the new major by going to: Declare a CAS Major.
Welcome back to USF and the CMMB Department! We have had some good news over the summer. Several of our undergraduate researchers participated in high profile research summer programs at other institutions and had a great time. More than 300 CMMB students graduated in Spring and Summer Commencement, and we had a record number of students, friends and family members at our Spring Awards Ceremony. CMMB faculty were awarded approximately $1.4 million in new research grants over the summer. These grants support faculty research, resulting in more research opportunities for both undergraduate and graduate researchers. Please welcome Dr. Bin Xue, our new assistant professor who specializes in computational biology and bioinformatics.

I am very pleased to announce the first CMMB Undergraduate Executive Council. Allison Distler, Elaina Graham, Harmony Folse, Nicholas Hernandez and Tiffany Miller were selected from an outstanding group of nominated students. These exceptional students will assist CMMB in outreach to our prospective and current students as well as to the general USF and Tampa area communities. They already have some great ideas to develop ways of helping new USF CMMB students navigate through some of the complex challenges today’s students face. You can expect to hear from them later this academic year. Again, welcome to USF and remember that your CMMB departmental offices are located on the 2nd floor of the Interdisciplinary Science Building.

- Dr. James R. Garey

**CMMB WELCOMES A NEW FACULTY MEMBER**

**Dr. Bin Xue** received his Ph.D. from Nanjing University and is an Assistant Professor in the Structural and Computational Biology Group with CMMB. The Xue lab studies computational and structural biology, protein intrinsic disorder and bioinformatics.
NEW CMMB FACULTY GRANTS AWARDED

**BRANT BURKHARDT, PH.D.**
American Diabetes Association

**CLAUDIA COOPERMAN, PH.D.**
Creating Research Experiences and Activities through Teaching Enhancement (CREATE) through the USF Office for Undergraduate Research

**MEERA NANJUNDAN, PH.D.**
Women’s Cancer Foundation, Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development

**CECILIA NUNES, PH.D.**
Walmart Foundation, Florida Strawberry Research and Education Foundation and the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Specialty Crop Block Grant

**LINDSEY SHAW, PH.D.**
National Institute of Allergies and Infectious Disease (NIAID)

**STANLEY STEVENS JR., PH.D.**
National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism (NIAAA) and the National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH)

**SAMEER VARMA, PH.D.**
Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA)

SCIENTIST SPOTLIGHT

**RONAN CARROLL, PH.D.**
CMMB Post-doctoral Scientist Ronan Carroll received a travel award to attend the 57th Annual Wind River Conference on Prokaryotic Biology in Colorado.

**STANLEY STEVENS JR., PH.D.**
CMMB Assistant Professor Stan Stevens held a three-day proteomics workshop in which participants received hands-on experience in proteomics techniques, such as protein digestion and sample processing for mass spectrometry analysis, database searching and isotope labeling demonstrations.

**SAMEER VARMA, PH.D.**
CMMB Assistant Professor Sameer Varma and his collaborators published their research findings in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences (PNAS).

Help Support CMMB

Help keep CMMB a high quality program through your generosity. We appreciate the support of generous benefactors to ensure that education and research at CMMB continue their strength now and into the future. Make an online contribution today!
CMMB Undergraduate Awards Ceremony

On May 3rd 2013, over 100 guests including families, friends and faculty were gathered at the Interdisciplinary Sciences (ISA) building to celebrate the presentation of awards to CMMB students. Every fall and spring semester, CMMB hosts the Undergraduate Awards Ceremony to honor their most outstanding undergraduate students. This spring, thirteen undergraduate students and one graduate student were recognized for their diligence, hard work and outstanding effort toward academics, research and teaching. The ceremony began with a violin performance by CMMB Assistant Professor Dr. Meera Nanjundan, followed by introductory remarks from Dr. Claudia Cooperman, Director of Health Sciences, who congratulated all graduating students in CMMB, as well as those receiving awards. Dr. James Garey, CMMB Department Chair, shared kind words with guests about the happiness that surrounds this time of year as many students graduate from their alma mater and head toward a new chapter in their lives. As the awards were presented, the students were greeted by CMMB faculty members with smiles, hugs and warm wishes for their upcoming graduation. The ceremony was followed by a reception held in the ISA atrium, wherein guests were invited to snack on fresh fruit, cheese and crackers, baked goods and light refreshments. CMMB wishes all graduating students a wonderful graduation and the best of luck for the future. Additionally, CMMB gives many thanks to the families and friends that were in attendance at the awards ceremony. We look forward to many more outstanding students in the future semesters to come.
SPRING 2013 CMMB UNDERGRADUATE AWARDS CEREMONY RECIPIENTS

Aklil Hiruy, Samuel Jalali, Jillian Taricska and Cady Welch
CMMB Outstanding Student Award

Angela Wooster
Health Sciences Outstanding Student Award

Matthew Kondoff and Andrew Schwartz
Microbiology Outstanding Student Award

Christie Campla
CMMB Outstanding Undergraduate Research Award

Alicia Nassar
Microbiology Outstanding Undergraduate Research Award

Sandra Garno and Danielle Grams
CMMB Student Excellence Award

Meredith Cornell
Health Sciences Student Excellence Award

Winter Vasquez
Health Sciences Outstanding Intern Award

Haydn Rubelmann
Outstanding Graduate Teaching Assistant Award

WANT TO SUBMIT CONTENT TO THE NEWSLETTER?

Send news or ideas to: Sasha Peers, CMMB Newsletter Editor, via email at peers@usf.edu. For CMMB Undergraduate Alumni, contact Sasha for how to be featured in the Alumni Spotlight!
CONGRATULATIONS TO THE FOLLOWING STUDENTS ON THEIR OUTSTANDING ACCOMPLISHMENTS

KENYARIA NOBLE
2013 SMART Internship Program Participant,
2013 Black Heritage Month Academic Excellence Award

SANDRA ZIVKOVIC
2013 Excellence in Undergraduate Research Award,
USF Office for Undergraduate Research Travel Award

GRADUATE STUDENT AWARDS

WHITTNEY BURDA & CHRISTINA KRUTE
Whitney and Christina received travel awards to attend the 57th Annual Wind River Conference on Prokaryotic Biology in Colorado and the Staphylococcal Diseases Gordon Research Conference in New Hampshire.

LILLIAN DOERFLER
Lillian was awarded the Ronald E. McNair Doctoral Fellowship from the USF Office of Graduate Studies for the 2013 - 2014 academic year.

WHITNEY DANSE & SHARI MOAK
Whitney and Shari received CMMB travel awards to attend the 73rd Scientific Sessions hosted by the American Diabetes Association in Chicago. Shari was also invited to give an oral presentation on her research.
UNDERGRADUATE ALUMNI UPDATE

Dawn Hunter, B.S. Microbiology 2007
MPH-JD Dual Degree Graduate and Research Assistant in Dr. Lim’s Lab

Q: Tell us about your research experience and how it led to your current profession.
A: When I decided to get a second degree in Microbiology at USF, I had developed an interest in environmental microbiology and ecology, and I was fortunate enough to do undergraduate research with Dr. Harwood (before the department split). Around the time I graduated, a position became open with Dr. Lim and I was hired. I was able to continue using many of the techniques I learned and practiced in the Harwood lab, which was a factor in my hiring, because Dr. Stephaney Leskinen was working on projects at the time involving water sampling and evaluation. Over time, I have been part of research that focuses on sample processing and preparation, and the development of assays to rapidly detect pathogens in food, water, air, and other samples.

Q: What do you love about your current job?
A: The best part of my job was having the flexibility to continue my education, by far, but almost equal was getting to travel to regional and national conferences for the American Society for Microbiology. It was through these conferences that I was really able to identify and hone my interest in the regulatory side of research. Honestly, working for Dr. Lim has been one of the best things to happen to me.

Q: When you were an undergraduate, what profession did you want to pursue?
A: Honestly, I wasn’t sure what I wanted to do long-term. I did think that I wanted to pursue a Ph.D. in Microbiology, but that changed after working in the lab, in a good way! I was exposed to alternative or non-traditional careers in science, and that led me to where I am now. I am the first person to complete the JD/MPH dual degree program between Stetson Law and USF.

Q: What’s the most influential experience you gained from CMMB?
A: I really owe credit to Dr. Vandenbergh, who was the first person to really get me thinking about alternative careers. He was incredibly influential and really helped me to figure out what direction to take.

Q: How did your CMMB experience help prepare you for graduate school?
A: Doing undergraduate research was really the most helpful, because it exposes you to people in various stages of their education and careers, so you really get a sense of what your own path can look like, how to shape it, and what you need to do. Even though I didn’t get a Ph.D., I feel like what I learned has been a part of everything I’ve done since and it definitely prepared me to be a part of the Lim lab. I have been able to work on some really interesting research projects, and gain experience writing for publication (I currently have 3) as well as in the patent application process (I finally have one!).

Q: What words of advice would you offer current undergrad students?
A: I would say to make use of your advisors and professors, they really can help guide your interests. Make time to talk to them! Also, find opportunities to work or volunteer in a lab. You don’t have to have it all figured out from the beginning of your program. I had no idea that this is what my life would look like when I started out.

with CMMB

We love to hear you! Please send career updates to: Sasha Peers, 4202 East Fowler Avenue, ISA 2015, Tampa, FL 33620 or email peers@usf.edu.
# CMMB Fall 2013 Seminar Schedule

All seminars take place in CHE 217 at 3PM.

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Speaker</th>
<th>Speaker Affiliation</th>
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<tr>
<td>August 30</td>
<td>Patrick Bradshaw</td>
<td>CMMB</td>
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<td>September 13</td>
<td>Meera Nanjundan</td>
<td>CMMB</td>
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<td>September 20</td>
<td>Michelle Danyluk</td>
<td>University of Florida</td>
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<td>September 27</td>
<td>Vrushank Dave</td>
<td>USF College of Medicine</td>
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<td>October 4</td>
<td>Tara Sabo-Attwood</td>
<td>University of Florida</td>
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<td>October 11</td>
<td>Feng Cheng</td>
<td>USF College of Pharmacy</td>
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<td>October 18</td>
<td>Xiaohong Zhang</td>
<td>USF College of Medicine</td>
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<td>October 25</td>
<td>Peter Jones</td>
<td>University of Massachusetts College of Medicine</td>
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<td>November 1</td>
<td>Ruth Nussinov</td>
<td>Tel Aviv University - NCI</td>
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<td>November 8</td>
<td>Kevin Morano</td>
<td>University of Texas College of Medicine</td>
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<td>November 15</td>
<td>Mark Shirtliff</td>
<td>University of Maryland College of Medicine</td>
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<td>November 22</td>
<td>Alexandra Sobeck</td>
<td>University of Minnesota</td>
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