

MPB GSA NEWSLETTER

Winter 2011

The purpose of this newsletter is to serve as a resource for MPB students to get to know the department better.



The new year is well on its way...
its already February!

Here's to a new year
full of great things!

Molecular Physiology & Biophysics Graduate Student Association

GREETINGS FROM THE
DIRECTOR OF GRADUATE STUDIES

It's a "New Year with New Opportunities" for all of you! I'd like to take a few moments to tell you about the new opportunities MPB is providing to you. For our 2nd year students, Anne, Roland, Roger and I have worked to add additional oral presentation and writing skills training in the Tutorials class. For our 3rd year students, I have requested the assistance of various faculty members to provide you with additional oral feedback on your Monday noon seminar presentations. For everyone else, you will note some modification to the format of our upcoming annual MPB retreat that I hope will allow you to receive constructive feedback on your dissertation projects. In addition, we will begin to have student-invited speakers in our Wednesday seminar series.

As you continue to advance in your training there are some objectives that you should be aware of that are critical to your advancement as a scientist. One of these is attending and presenting your work at local and national meetings. There are MPB and Graduate School travel awards available to all of you, so please take advantage of them. Also, you should be updating your CV regularly as you present

at meetings, become an author on manuscripts, obtain grant funding, take on leadership roles, train

others in your lab, etc. I'm happy to look at your CV for you if you'd like suggestions.

Now, for the fun stuff. Thanks to the MPB Graduate Student Association, the final months of 2010 were filled with several activities for MPB students and I trust you have more events planned for the coming year. And, of course, we will have our annual MPB relay race this summer!

I wish you all a Happy and Productive New Year.

Alyssa



UPCOMING EVENTS

March 1st : Happy Hour at Sam's in Hillsboro Village to watch the Vandy vs. UK basketball game

March 3rd : Student lunch with Nobel Prize winner Dr. Roger Tsien at 11:45- 1:00 in 736 RRB

March 31st : 25th Graduate Student Research Symposium in SLC (Abstracts due Feb. 25)

Ode to 2010: MPB GSA Happenings

Just a few pictures from the MPB GSA Holiday Party and the Tailgate Party...

Don't miss out on the fun!

Join us for our next MPB GSA sponsored event: Happy Hour at Sam's!



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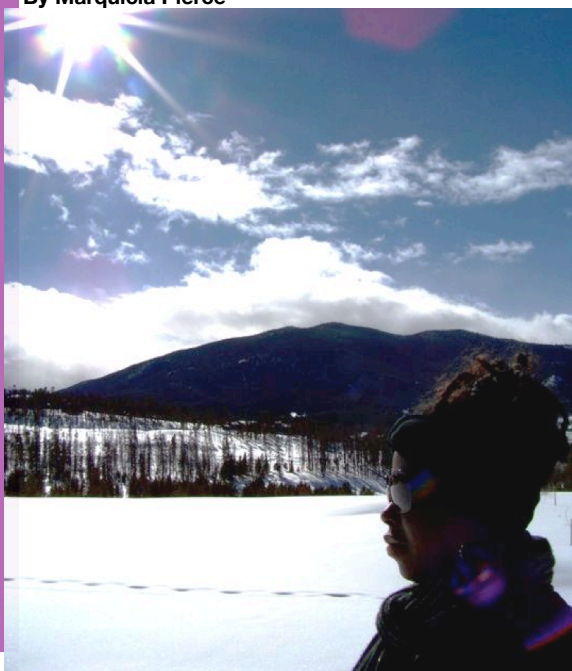
Student Spotlight: Kimberly Mulligan

By Marquicia Pierce

Kimberly Mulligan

Currently working in Owen McGuiness' Lab.

Her work focuses on the effect of inflammation on the process of muscle glucose uptake



THE NEW YEAR BRINGS NEW MOVES FOR KIMBERLY MULLIGAN...

What goals (professional or personal) do you have for the new year?

My number one goal for the new year is to finish graduate school! I have really enjoyed my time here at Vanderbilt and have learned so much not only about science but also about who I am as a person. However, I am really excited to begin a new chapter in the Life and Times of Kimberly Mulligan.

What was your most memorable science moment?

I think one of my most memorable science moments was being able to attend the Glucose Transporter Meeting in Luca, Italy. This was the first time that I attended a small meeting that was tailored specifically to my field of interest. It was great to be able to network in a very intimate setting with scientists whose work you're interested in and have them give you feedback and a different perspective about the work you're doing. It also didn't hurt that the meeting was in such a beautiful setting.

“

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”

What influenced you to pursue a scientific career and stay within academics?

Originally I started out with plans to pursue a career in medicine because I wanted to help people get better just like my pediatrician Dr. Cory. However, I had a professor my sophomore year of college, Dr. Ollapalay, who gave me the opportunity to work in his lab. I hadn't considered research as a career option but I really enjoyed being in the lab. I realized that instead of administering the cure, I could actually be a part of discovering it. My focus shifted and here I am.

What advice would you give to new graduate students?

I think the most important decision that you will make during your graduate career is choosing a mentor. Yes, you have to be interested in the work you're doing but the purpose of graduate school is to teach you to become an independent thinker. At the end of the day you can take the skills you learn in MPB and go do a post-doc in Cancer Biology and you will be just fine. But if you are not happy in your lab environment, if you don't have a PI who you can talk to and who looks out for your best interest, then this can be a miserable experience. You are with the people in your lab more than anyone else, choose wisely.

What do you like to do in your free-time? Hobbies?

One of my favorite things to do is eat. I am a true foodie and love trying new restaurants and foods, although I am not much of a cook. I also love to travel, read (I have a very long book list that I am slowly but surely working my way through), and I love to shop. «»

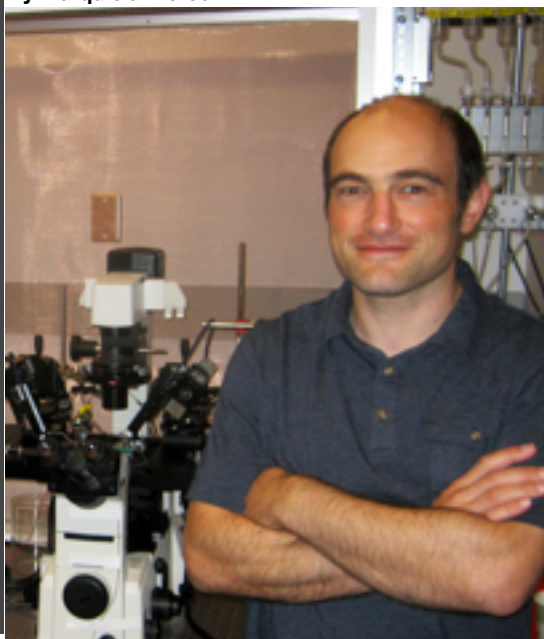
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Faculty Spotlight: David Jacobson, Ph.D.

By Marquicia Pierce

David Jacobson

His research focuses on the regulation of islet electrical activity by Cav channel phosphorylation and the modulation of islet membrane potential by K2P potassium channels.



NEW YEAR, NEW FACULTY SPOTLIGHT WITH DR. JACOBSON

What goals (professional or personal) do you have for the new year?

My primary goal of the new year is to promote excitement; professionally this includes the excitement of growing a productive and strong lab, personally this includes the excitement of experiencing Tennessee such as visiting Graceland and hiking in the Smoky Mountains.

What was the most interesting trip you have taken?

I spent a few weeks of 2008 in Peru and Bolivia where I was fascinated by the Inca Empire and the Inca ruins including Machu Picchu. I also enjoyed the wildlife of Peru such as the Andean Condors and Vicuña.

“Learn how to utilize collaborations to boost productivity and build connections. Scientific discovery grows stronger and faster through well coordinated teamwork.”

What was your most memorable science moment?

The thrill of obtaining a clean novel result drives me as a scientist and I love these moments. An example of this type of moment occurs when I get my first recording from an electrophysiology rig with new capabilities (and I hear the echo “it’s alive”).

What influenced you to pursue a scientific career?

My career path emerged from the impact of diabetes on my life and my scientific excitement about the ion channel.

What advice would you give to new graduate students and/or post-docs?

Learn how to utilize collaborations to boost productivity and build connections. Scientific discovery grows stronger and faster through well coordinated teamwork. But if you really want my personal advice you should think about joining Team Jacobson. ;)

What do you like to do in your free-time? Hobbies? Excursions to enjoy music, hiking, skiing, bike riding, or just sitting by the campfire are a few of the things that help ground me. «»

Coming Soon: Vicarious Living

A Column by Dave Wasserman

From the mind that brings MPB Jeopardy questions to a whole new level...

In each article Dave will share thoughts and observations as he lives vicariously through another scientist or colleague.

Look for it in our next issue!



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Congratulations Lynley!

Lynley Pound, from the O'Brien lab, was selected to attend the 61st Meeting of Nobel Laureates. One of the Nobel prizes this year will be awarded in the field of Physiology or Medicine. The meeting will take place June 26th - July 1st, 2011 in Lindau Germany. About 25 Nobel Laureates and 550 young researchers from 70 countries will attend this unique forum. She was selected as one of the 80 students attending on behalf of Oak Ridge Associated Universities (ORAU).

Top 10 Signs

that you just might be a graduate student:

- 1| you look forward to taking some time off to do laundry.
- 2| you wonder if APA style allows you to cite talking to yourself as "personal communication."
- 3| you have ever brought a scholarly article to a bar.
- 4| you rate coffee shops by the availability of outlets for your laptop.
- 5| you have ever discussed academic matters at a sporting event.
- 6| you look forward to summers because you're more productive without the distraction of classes.
- 7| you find the bibliographies of books more interesting than the actual text.
- 8| you have given up trying to keep your books/papers organized and are now just trying to keep them all in the same general area.
- 9| you have accepted guilt as an inherent feature of relaxation.
- 10| you start referring to stories like "Snow White et al."

We want to hear from you!

Don't forget to send in your nominations for the student-invited speaker for next fall!

MPB students know how to get things done! Let us know of recent grants, awards and publications so we can feature it in the newsletter. Also, if you would like to contribute to the newsletter just let us know. You can submit articles to mpbgsa@gmail.com. It's a great way to improve your writing skills and would look great on your CV. Comments and suggestions are encouraged as well.



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