

*Message from Roger Chalkley*

This first newsletter of the new year provides an opportunity for me to let you know about the status of a number of new activities. First among these is the initiation of the unitary module structure for the Spring semester of the IGP. Details of course content are shown on page 2. An exciting aspect of the modules is that they are clearly of more general interest other than to the IGP students. Overall, 100 students from several programs have signed up for the first set of six modules, even though there are only 73 students in the IGP.

Second, we are in the process of revamping key BRET websites. Locations of the **new** IGP, MSTP, and postdoc homepages are provided on page 4. Of course these websites can be accessed directly from the BRET homepage, which itself will appear in a new format in the near future.

Immediately following this introduction is information about the new recruiting & educational initiative directed specifically towards international students. This program will support graduate students, but please note that they plan to also bring in about a dozen students into the summer research activities.

*Vanderbilt International Scholar Program (VISP)*

The Vanderbilt International Scholar Program (VISP) is a new initiative to support international students pursuing graduate education in the Biomedical Sciences. Scholars will be selected from non-U.S. citizen applications to five biomedical PhD programs: IGP, CPB, Epidemiology, Hearing & Speech Sciences, and Biomedical Informatics. VISP scholars will receive full tuition and stipend support. Scholars will have special opportunities to obtain additional training in communications, secure travel awards, and participate as a mentor for new international students.



**KATHY GOULD, PH.D.**  
DIRECTOR, VISP



**AMANDA CONNOLLY**  
VISP COORDINATOR

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**FOCUS OF NEXT ISSUE :**

- ◆ Graduating Students & Exiting Postdoctoral Fellows: Careers

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## Vanderbilt International Scholar Program

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Additional support that focuses on the needs of international students will be available. The VISP steering committee members are Roger Colbran, Ph.D., Mark Denison, M.D., Anne Kenworthy, Ph.D., and Karoly Mirnics, M.D., Ph.D.

### New Format for IGP Spring Semester

All students will take a total of six modules in the Spring semester. These six modules will replace the six hours of Bioregulation II. Students will be required to take **1 Quantitative module** and it will be **recommended they take a second Quantitative module if possible**. Minimester #1 (Jan 5-Feb 11); Minimester #2 (Feb 14-Mar 21); Minimester #3 (March 23-April 27). The meeting time of each module is noted below; all meet on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday each week.

Module Title	Faculty Team Leader	Minimester #1	Minimester #2	Minimester #3
Getting Hooked: The Biology of Addiction	Blakely			10:00 AM
Lipid Metabolism in Physiology and Disease	Seegmiller		11:00 AM	
<b>Introduction to Structural Biology</b>	Chazin	11:00 AM		
Eicosanoids and Related Lipid Mediators	Davies			10:00 AM
Genetics, Cell Biology, Biochemistry of Parkinson's Disease	Deutch / Carter	9:00 AM		
Advanced Topics in Genome Maintenance	Cortez	10:00 AM		
Immunobiology	Ballard	10:00 AM		
Angiogenesis: The Good and The Bad	Zutter			9:00 AM
Molecular Basis of Microbial Pathogens	Denison		11:00 AM	
<b>Small Molecule Design for Biologists</b>	Lindsley	9:00 AM		
<b>Applied Bioinformatics</b>	Zhang		10:00 AM	
Pathobiology: Mechanism to Research Models	Boyd / Zijlstra	11:00 AM		
<b>Studies in Ocular Genomics</b>	Haines			9:00 AM
<b>The RNA World</b>	Emeson / Patton		10:00 AM	
<b>Genetics of Neurodevelopmental Disorders</b>	Thornton-Wells		9:00 AM	
<b>Receptor Theory and Enzyme Kinetics</b>	Gurevich			11:00 AM

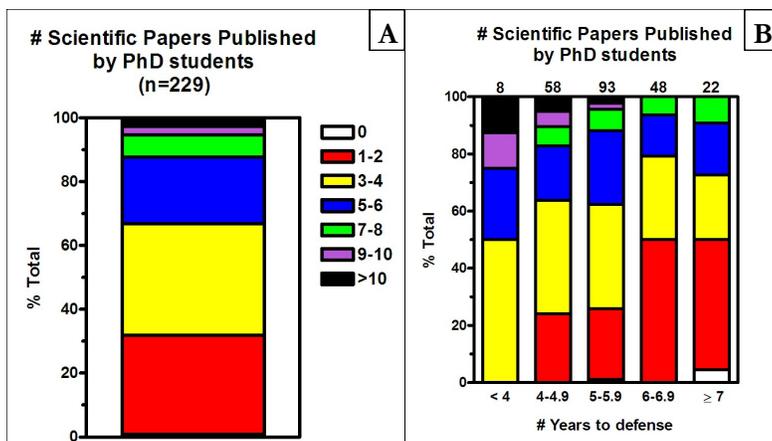
## Outcomes for Vanderbilt Graduate Students & Postdocs: Productivity

**Question:** Recently the BRET office received a question regarding the publication records of graduate students at the completion of the PhD in comparison to postdocs.

**Methods:** Metrics were collected via two separate exit surveys: (1) the Predoctoral Exit Survey, and (2) the Postdoctoral Exit Survey. The Predoctoral Exit Survey is given to every student within 1-2 weeks after their thesis defense date. To date, 245 students have completed the exit survey since its inception in January 2007. All postdocs are encouraged to take the postdoctoral Exit Survey. To date, 221 postdocs have completed the exit survey since its inception in January 2008. To assess productivity, the number of peer-reviewed scientific papers an individual published while training as either a graduate student or as a postdoc was calculated. Scientific papers include peer-reviewed papers (first author and non-first author) and review articles.

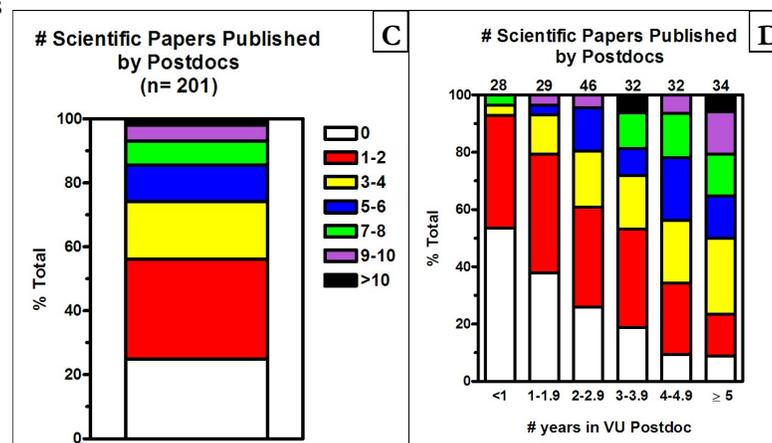
### Number of papers published during the PhD:

**A:** Total number of scientific papers that PhD students (n=229) publish by the time of thesis defense. Sixty-eight percent of all PhD students publish **at least three** scientific papers by the time of thesis defense. The mean ( $\pm$  std. dev.) time to defense is 5.6 ( $\pm$  1.1) years. **B:** Percent of students with 0, 1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 7-8, 9-10 and >10 papers by the time of thesis defense. Students are grouped into bins by the # of years to defense (see y-axis). The number of students in each bin is noted at the top of each bar.



### Number of papers published during the postdoc:

**C:** Total number of scientific papers that postdocs (n=201) publish during their time as a Vanderbilt postdoc. Forty-four percent of all Vanderbilt postdocs publish **at least three** scientific papers by the end of their Vanderbilt postdoctoral fellowship. The mean ( $\pm$  std. dev.) time spent in a postdoc at Vanderbilt is 3.1 ( $\pm$  2.0) years. **D:** Percent of postdocs with 0, 1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 7-8, 9-10 and >10 papers by the end of their Vanderbilt postdoctoral fellowship. Postdocs are grouped into bins by the # of years in a Vanderbilt postdoctoral fellowship (see y-axis). The number of postdocs in each bin is noted at the top of each bar.



## Postdoc Recruitment Day: Outcomes

The first annual postdoc recruitment day was held in May, 2010. Out of the 34 postdoc candidates that attended the event, **seven** are now postdocs at Vanderbilt. The tenure status of the faculty labs these postdocs joined is noted in the table (right). Five additional candidates are still considering a postdoc at Vanderbilt. Eight of the visiting candidates chose a postdoc position at the following institutions: Harvard, University of Pittsburgh, Washington University, University of Michigan, East Carolina University, Louisiana State University, The Cleveland Clinic, and the University of Texas at San Antonio. Five candidates are still in graduate school.

Faculty Tenure Status	# Postdoc Recruits
Assistant Professor	2
Associate Professor	2
Professor	3

## Announcement: New BRET Program Websites Now Online

Several of the BRET websites have recently been revised, as a result of suggestions from the recent BRET Office review. Several of the major components of the websites have been updated on the following sites, and we encourage you to visit the sites below and look through the changes:

- IGP website: <https://medschool.vanderbilt.edu/igp/>
- MSTP website: <https://medschool.mc.vanderbilt.edu/mstp>
- Postdoc website: <https://medschool.vanderbilt.edu/postdoc/>

Revisions to the BRET homepage are still in the planning stages and should be in place by the end of February.

## Upcoming Events for Spring, 2011

- **Jan 11, 2011 (noon-1:30 pm):** Faculty Interview Workshop: Mock Interview
- **Jan 20, 2011 (4:30 pm, 208 Light Hall):** Postdoc & Graduate Student Town Hall
- **Jan 14, 21, 28, Feb 4, 18, 25, March 4, 11, 25, 2011:** IGP Interview days
- **Jan 7, Feb. 4, 2011:** MSTP Interview days
- **March 31-April 1, 2011:** MSTP second visit weekend
- **Feb 11, 25, 2011:** CPB Interview days
- **March 3, 2011:** Laboratory Rotation #4 begins for IGP Students
- **April 26, 2011:** Vanderbilt Postdoc Spring Symposium
- **May 22-25, 2011:** Postdoc Recruiting Event
- **May 16, 2011 (8:00 am-5:00 pm):** BRET RCR course
- **May 13, 2011:** Commencement

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