



**Vol. 3, Issue 1
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**Graduate Office
Academic Advisor**

Lanette Flagge

Contact Information

Graduate Office
MSB 3030
460-6153
lflagge@jaguar1.usouthal.edu

Dr. Townsley
460-6815
mtownsley@usouthal.edu

From the Director

Congratulations to Dr. Laura Trout (Physiology) whose open research dissertation defense entitled "Airway Liquid Secretion and Its Inhibition: Possible Relevance to Cystic Fibrosis Lung Disease" was completed on February 26, 2003. Dr. Trout has accepted a postdoctoral position at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill with Dr. Richard Boucher.

Congratulations also to Craig Ricci, graduate student in the Department of Pharmacology. Craig received a plaque for placing second in the poster competition at the conference "Taurine in the 21st Century" held in Hawaii in September, 2002, for his poster titled "Taurine Antagonizes the Pro-Apoptotic Activity of the Angiotensin II through Elevation of the Bcl - /Bax Ratio and Activation of the AKT Pathway." Dr. Stephen Schaffer, Dr. Viktor Pastukh, and Viktoriya Solodushko were co-authors of the poster.

Welcome to Dr. Jonathon Audia, one of the newest faculty members in the Basic Medical Sciences. Dr. Audia completed his Ph.D. degree in Basic Medical Sciences here at USA in December, 2002. In January, 2003, he was appointed as an Assistant Professor in the Department of Microbiology and Immunology.

Also, welcome to Drs. Lewis Pannell, Steinar Aamdal, and Oystein Fodstad. This trio of internationally renowned scientists have recently joined Dr. Michael Boyd, Director of the Cancer Research Institute, as faculty affiliated with that Institute. The Administrative Office for the Cancer Research Institute is located in MSB 2322, with Dr. Boyd and his faculty holding office and lab space in the surrounding area.

Graduate Faculty Meeting

The Basic Medical Sciences Graduate Faculty will hold its annual meeting on Monday, June 2, 2003, from 2:00 - 4:00 p.m. in the College of Medicine Conference Room. The agenda for the meeting will include reports and discussion regarding the core curriculum and recruitment.

New Course Offerings

During the 2003 Summer term (June 2-July25), a new course will be offered (IDL 590, Special Topics) entitled "Scientific Writing." The course will offer a hands-on, practical approach to scientific writing. Topics will include abstracts, organization of manuscripts, grammar, word-processing tips, use of reference

databases, revisions, and editorial review to name a few. Drs. Townsley and Gillespie will teach the course (schedule to be announced). Enrollment is limited to 12 students.

A new interdisciplinary course entitled "Advanced Signal Transduction" has been approved. This course, as well as the interdisciplinary course on "Lung Biology" will be offered Fall Semester, 2003. Course syllabi should be available toward the end of the Summer term.

From the Executive Committee

New academic policies: The Executive Committee approved a proposal (November, 2002) requiring Basic Medical Science graduate students to satisfactorily complete a minimum of 8 hours of advanced didactic coursework toward their degree. In addition, the committee approved (March, 2003) new guidelines for the Qualifying Exam, also known as the Admission to Candidacy Exam. Both policy documents will be available on the Graduate Program's web site: <http://southmed.usouthal.edu/com/bmsphd>.

From the University Graduate Council

Students planning to complete their requirements Summer Semester should complete their closed and open defenses prior to the first submission deadline for written dissertations to the Graduate School, which is 5:00 p.m. on Friday, June 27, 2003. The deadline for final completion of written dissertations (with signature sheet, microfilming form, etc.) is 5:00 p.m. on July 11, 2003.

The Graduate School has published a new edition of the "Guide for Preparing Theses and Dissertations." Students should refer to the current edition (8th) for writing dissertations. The BMS Graduate Office has a copy (for loan) of the 8th edition of this guide.

BMSSO

The BMSSO sponsored a cook-out on Friday, April 4, 2003, to raise funds for their "Relay for Life" team. For a donation, the graduate students provided hot dog and hamburger plates to students, staff and faculty. The weather cooperated and it was a great time for fun and fellowship, while providing the team with funds for their team contribution to an important and worthy venue - support of cancer research.

The Graduate

Funding Opportunities

From "The Chronicle of Higher Education" comes a listing of new grant and research competitions for students, post docs, and faculty:

The Whitehall Foundations is accepting applications for grants to support research in neurobiology. For information, go to: www.whitehall.org

For grants to help train junior investigators in cancer-related research, full-time junior-faculty members may apply for grants to support clinical, epidemiological, or health-policy and outcomes research under the guidance of a mentor through the American Cancer Society. The full announcement may be viewed at: www.cancer.org

The American Diabetes Association is accepting applications for grants to support research on diabetes. The deadline for application is July 15. For more information, see their web site: www.diabetes.org/main/professional/research/forms.jsp

The United Mitochondrial Disease Foundation will accept letters of intent to apply for grants and postdoctoral fellowships to support research on

the causes, effects, and treatments for mitochondrial disease until September 17, 2003. The deadline for applications is February 18, 2004. For more information, go to: www.umdff.org/research/

For postdoctoral fellowships in microbiology, the National Science Foundation will accept applications until the first Monday in October, 2003. See: www.nsf.gov/pubs/1999/nsf99142/nsf99142.html

November 1 is the deadline for applying for grants to support research to advance cardiovascular and interventional radiology and patient care through the Cardiovascular and Interventional Radiology Research and Education Foundation. For more information, go to their web site: www.cirref.org

The Department of Defense Breast Cancer Research Program is offering research funding to support innovative research directed toward the eradication of breast cancer. For more information, see: <http://cdmrp.army.mil>

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