

# The Graduate

The Newsletter of the College of Medicine Office of Graduate Studies



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**December, 2004**

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Mary Townsley

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## BMSSO

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## Graduate Office

Lanette Flagge, Academic Advisor

## Contact Information

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

Dr. Townsley  
460-6815  
mtownsley@usouthal.edu

## From the Director

The BMS Graduate Program is changing leadership. I have asked to end my role as the Director of the BMS Graduate Program, so that I will have time to develop the Office of Faculty Affairs. I've enjoyed immensely my interactions with students over the last several years and the opportunity to see the development of our interdisciplinary core curriculum. I particularly appreciate the work of Lanette Flagge in the Graduate Office, the course directors in the core curriculum, and members of the Executive Committee, whose contributions have ensured the success of the program.

**Dr. Ron Balczon**, elected by acclamation to serve as the next Director of the Basic Medical Sciences Graduate Program, will begin his tenure as director January 1, 2005. I am confident that the program will be in good hands under his leadership. Please join me in congratulating Dr. Balczon on his new position!

Congratulations are extended to graduate students completing degrees Fall Semester, 2004:

**Guofei Zhou** (Biochemistry) completed the defense of his dissertation entitled "The Role of SER/THR Phosphatase Type 5 (PP5) in a Cellular Response to Hypoxia" on October 15, 2004. Dr. Richard Honkanen served as Guofei's major professor. Guofei has relocated to Chicago, Illinois, to begin a postdoctoral fellowship in the Division of Pulmonary/Critical Care Medicine at Northwestern University.

**Jeffrey Breit** (Pharmacology) completed his degree under the direction of Dr. Mark Gillespie. Defense of his dissertation entitled "Sequence and Transcription Factor Defined Topology of the VEGF Promoter and Implications in Gene Regulation" was held October 25, 2004. Jeff has relocated to Palo Alto, California to begin a postdoctoral fellowship at Roche Institute.

**Qining Qin** (Physiology) defended his dissertation entitled "Myocardial Preconditioning Signal Transduction Pathways Linking Muscarinic Receptors to the Mitochondrial  $K_{ATP}$  Channel-Dependent

ROS Production in the Heart" on October 27, 2004. Qining, who completed his Ph.D. under the mentorship of Dr. James Downey, is currently a postdoctoral fellow at Harvard University's Brigham & Women's Hospital in Boston, Massachusetts.

## Fund for Basic Medical Sciences Travel Awards Established

Students in the BMS Graduate Program benefit when they attend scientific conferences and participate in off-campus research opportunities. Unfortunately, funds to support this essential student travel are limited.

Thanks to a generous donation and pledge from **Dr. David Welch**, a former student in the BMS graduate program, the College of Medicine will be able to offer two annual competitive travel awards to BMS graduate students. Dr. Welch explained the reason for his gift:

"I was in the BMS graduate program from 1980-1981, and left after the first year to pursue my interest in going to medical school. I graduated from University of Florida College of Medicine in 1986.

"My interest in establishing a small scholarship is mostly personal. I felt that I had not been fair to the BMS graduate program by using it as a stepping stone to go to medical school, and have for years wondered how I could amend that. It finally occurred to me this year that I could at least help some student(s) in a small way, and hoped there might be a path for doing so. By allowing me to do this, the program is actually helping me amend some of the mistakes of my past. Thank you."

We thank you, Dr. Welch! Your very generous gift will enable the College of Medicine to fund these awards for the next five years!

Dr. Welch has made a personal commitment to help the career development of future medical researchers. To ensure that these research travel awards are funded beyond Dr. Welch's five-year commitment, we are seeking your contributions to help establish an endowment fund of \$20,000, the

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earnings from which would establish a perpetual Basic Medical Sciences Travel Award Fund. Your tax deductible gifts may be sent to:

University of South Alabama  
Director of Development for Medical Affairs  
MTH-255  
Mobile, AL 36688-0002

## From the Graduate Office

Students filing Dissertations must attach a copy of the new "First Submission Form" (form #9) in the [BMS Student Handbook](#), available in departments or on our web site: <http://southmed.usouthal.edu/com/bmsphd>. This form is intended to certify that the Dissertation is original and free from plagiarism. Verification is primarily the responsibility of the Major Professor. All of our graduate faculty have access to the web-based "Turnitin" software, a resource which enables comparison of a document to published work. If you have not yet received an account, contact Dr. Townsley, who is the COM account administrator. Electronic files (Word, WordPerfect, or PDF) can be uploaded to <http://www.turnitin.com> for analysis. We recommend checking the introduction/ background and discussion sections of the document in two separate files, to minimize the time for analysis. The site is easy to navigate and the reports useful. Form 9 must be co-signed by the Director of the Graduate Program before the Dissertation draft can be delivered to the Graduate School for the courtesy check.

## Dissertation Resources:

The Graduate School has posted the 2004 edition of the [Thesis/Dissertation Guide](#) to the University's web site. To view current guidelines for completing dissertations, go to: <http://www.southalabama.edu/graduateprograms>.

Students completing a Dissertation are requested to contact **Geneva Staggs, MLS**, in the Baugh Biomedical Library regarding references. Geneva will utilize electronic or print copies of the Reference section of Dissertations and verify accuracy of citations.

## Graduate Faculty

Curriculum Action Forms for courses to be implemented Spring 2006 should be submitted to the BMS Graduate Office for approval several weeks prior to the Graduate School's deadline of July 1, 2005.

## From the University Graduate Council

Students planning to complete degree requirements Spring Semester should complete both the closed and open defenses prior to the first submission deadline for written dissertations to the Graduate School - 5:00 p.m., March 24, 2005.

The deadline for final submission of dissertations (with all required forms) is 5:00 p.m. on April 7, 2005. The respective deadlines for the 2005 Summer Semester are Friday, June 24, (first submissions), and July 8 (final deadline). The deadline for filing for graduation with the Registrar's Office for the 2005 Summer term is February 11, 2005.

## BMSSO

The BMSSO will hold their "Celebrate the Holiday" lunch for COM faculty and students at Noon on Thursday, December 9, 2004 in the COM Conference Room.

For information relating to other upcoming events, including holiday affairs, contact one of the BMSSO officers: Brad Swiger, President (Pharmacology); Darla Reed, Vice-President (Lung Biology); and Karla McInnis, Secretary (Microbiology).

## Funding Opportunities

**Deadline 12/15/04:** Pfizer/AFAR Innovations in Aging Research Program supports MD and PhD investigators focusing on cancer, cardiovascular disease, stroke and Alzheimer's disease. Go to: <http://www.afar.org>. AFAR is **NOT offering student fellowships this year.**

**Deadline 1/10/05:** American Heart Association-Bugher Foundation Award for the Investigation of Stroke. Research support for investigation in brain vascular function. Go to: <http://www.americanheart.org>.

**Deadline 1/10/05:** American Heart Association Scientist Development Awards. Research support to promote independence for beginning scientists working in areas broadly related to cardiovascular disease and stroke. Go to: <http://www.americanheart.org>.

**Deadline 1/12/05:** Southeast Affiliate, American Heart Association, sponsors Predoctoral and Postdoctoral Fellowships as well as research grants in areas broadly related to cardiovascular disease and stroke. Go to: <http://www.americanheart.org>.

**Deadline 1/15/05:** American Diabetes Association Training Awards, supporting postdoctoral fellows and physician-scientist training, and the Lions Sightfirst Diabetic Retinopathy Research Program. Go to: <http://www.diabetes.org>.

**Deadline 1/18/05:** American Diabetes Association Research Awards, supporting basic, clinical or translational research relating to diabetes, and faculty development. Go to: <http://www.diabetes.org>.

**Deadline 1/21/05:** Pulmonary Hypertension Association Fellowships. These awards support postdoctoral training in research relating to primary or secondary pulmonary hypertension. Go to: <http://www.americanheart.org>.

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**Deadline 2/11/05:** Sandler Program for Asthma Research, supporting new pathways of investigation in basic research regarding asthma, including the development of new technologies. Go to: <http://www.sandlerresearch.org>.

**Deadline 2/15/05:** Department of Defense, Ovarian Cancer Research Program. Idea Development Awards provide research funding for independent investigators, related to ovarian cancer etiology, therapeutics, or detection. Go to: <http://cdmrp.army.mil/funding/05ocrp.htm>.

**Deadline 2/22/05:** Department of Defense, Neurofibromatosis Research Program, supports research and training related to neurofibromatosis. Go to: <http://cdmrp.army.mil/funding/05nfrp.htm>.

**Deadline 3/1/05:** The Cancer Research Institute provides institutional predoctoral training in tumor immunology, postdoctoral fellowships, and research awards for junior faculty. Go to: <http://www.cancerresearch.org/criprogs.html>

