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Mary Townsley

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From the Director

Congratulations to **Dr. Wesley Denny**, who completed his Ph.D. degree under the mentorship of Dr. Jonathan Scammell in the Department of Pharmacology. Dr. Denny's dissertation was entitled "A Structure-Function Analysis of the Potent GR-Inhibitory Immunophilin - Squirrel Monkey FKBP51". Wes is currently a postdoctoral fellow in the Department of Physiology conducting research relating to cystic fibrosis under the mentorship of Dr. Stephen Ballard.

Congratulations are also extended to two graduate students who are the recipients of awards:

Judy Creighton (Lung Biology) was awarded an extramural predoctoral fellowship from the American Heart Association, Southeast Affiliate. Her research will examine whether compartmentalization of cAMP due to the phosphodiesterase PDED4 is responsible for enhancing endothelial barrier properties in pulmonary microvascular endothelial cells (PMVECs).

Diego Alvarez (Physiology) received the Microscopy Society of America Presidential Student Award for his paper entitled "Evaluation of Endothelial Permeability by a Corrosion Casting Technique." Diego will travel to the Microscopy and Microanalysis conference in Savannah, Georgia in August, 2004 to formally receive his award.

Finally, congratulations to the **Dr. Mary Townsley** and the Center for Lung Biology for the new T32 Institutional Training Grant from the National Heart Lung and Blood Institute on "Training in Cell Signaling and Lung Pathobiology". Dr. Townsley is the Program Director. The ~ \$850,000 award provides stipend support and other costs for 4-6 predoctoral trainees per year (2004-2009). The program is designed to support trainees for 2-3 years after the completion of the core curriculum.

A warm welcome is extended to new faculty who will be participating in our graduate program:

Dr. Brian Fouty joined the Center for Lung Biology and the Division of Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine in March, 2004. Prior to coming to USA, Dr. Fouty served as Associate Professor at the University of Colorado Health Sciences Center. Dr. Fouty received his M.D. from the University of Washington. He completed residency training at the University of Arizona and fellowship training at the University of Colorado Health Sciences Center. The focus of Dr. Fouty's research is on

molecular switches that regulate smooth muscle proliferation in response to pulmonary hypertension.

Dr. Jingfang Ju has been named the head of the Cancer Genomics Laboratory in the Cancer Research Institute (CRI). He received his Ph.D. in molecular biology and biochemistry at the University of Southern California. After completion of postdoctoral training at the Yale Comprehensive Cancer Center, Dr. Ju was a senior research scientist at CuraGen Corporation. His research focuses upon functional genomics and gene regulation in tumor progression.

Dr. Lalita Shevde-Samant is a staff scientist in the Molecular Pathology and Diagnostics Research Center in the CRI. Her research interest is in mechanisms underlying cancer metastasis. Her doctoral training in tumor immunology and applied biology was completed at the Cancer Research Institute in Bombay, India. Prior to joining the CRI, Dr. Shevde-Samant was an Instructor in Pathology at UAB.

Dr. Rajeev Samant is a staff scientist in the Metastasis and Tumor Biology Research Center. Dr. Samant also received his Ph.D. from the Cancer Research Institute in Bombay, India, in molecular biology and bacterial genetics. His research focuses on the role of suppressor genes in breast cancer metastasis. Dr. Samant was also an Instructor in Pathology at UAB before joining the CRI.

From the Graduate Office

Brochures entitled "Student Guide to the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) and the Confidentiality of USA Student Education Records" will be distributed to BMS Graduate Faculty in the next week. Faculty are asked to review this information regarding the federal guidelines and to adhere to the strictest standards relating to the confidentiality of all aspects of students' academic records.

Reminder: If you wish to make changes to existing courses or are planning to propose new courses for the 2005 Spring Semester, Curriculum Action Forms are due in the Graduate School by July 1, 2004.

Continuing students will register for the 2004 Fall Semester between July 12-August 10. Fall classes begin August 23, 2004.

The Graduate

From the Executive Committee

At the June, 2004 meeting, the Executive Committee amended the guidelines for the Qualifying Examination, also known as the Admission to Candidacy Exam. The amendment clarifies the membership of the Examination Committee. Qualifying Examination guidelines and other program policies are included in the BMS Student Handbook, available in Department offices or on the Graduate program web site:

<http://southmed.usouthal.edu/com/bmsphd>. The complete Handbook will be updated prior to the beginning of the Fall semester.

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 25, 2004. The deadline for final completion of written dissertations (with signature sheet, microfilming form, etc.) is 5:00 p.m. on July 9, 2004.

The respective deadlines for the 2004 Fall Semester are October 30 (first submission) and November 13 (final deadline). Students should ensure that they are using the current edition of the "Guide for Preparing Theses and Dissertations" when writing their dissertation. Students planning to complete requirements Spring, 2005 should file their graduation application with the Registrar's Office no later than September 10, 2004.

BMSSO

The BMSSO held their annual cookout on April 2, 2004, to solicit funds for their Relay for Life team. The weather for the day was superb. COM students, faculty and staff congregated to enjoy hamburger and hotdogs and all of the fixings. The BMSSO raised nearly \$1,100 to contribute to the American Cancer Society's Relay for Life Event!

For information relating to upcoming events, contact one of the current BMSSO officers: Karla McInnis-President (Microbiology), Brad Swiger-Vice-President (Pharmacology) and Jason Harrison-Secretary (Cell Biology/Neuroscience).

Volunteer Opportunities

The fourth annual "Expanding Your Horizons" conference, designed to increase young women's interest in math, science, and engineering, will be held Saturday, November 6, 2004. The event will feature workshops on various aspects of science and mathematics, organized by USA faculty and students, as well as by businesses and organizations in the Mobile region. Workshop organizers and volunteers are being recruited for the daylong event. If you are interested in organizing a workshop, please contact Dr. Traci Testerman at ttesterm@jaguar1.usouthal.edu. If you would like to volunteer, please contact Dr. Cindy Stanfield at 380-2710 or cthursto@usouthal.edu.

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