

# The Graduate

The Newsletter of the College of Medicine Office of Graduate Studies



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#### **From the Director**

Fall Semester is well underway -- we're past the mid-way point. The Graduate Office will be posting pre-schedule forms to student mailboxes in the next couple of weeks. All BMS graduate students should complete the forms, indicating what courses they will enroll in for the Spring Semester, have them signed by the appropriate personnel, and then forward them to the Graduate Office for review.

**New Web Update:** Links to all the seminar programs and journal clubs organized within the College of Medicine can now be found on the Graduate Program web site at <http://southmed.usouthal.edu/com/bmsphd/semic.htm>. If you have a site which you would like linked, please contact Dr. Townsley.

Congratulations to **Brian Adams**, a second-year student in the Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology for his recent success. Brian's poster entitled, "Use of antisense DNA and RNA in Plasmodia and Toxoplasma: Phenotypic knockdown of essential and non-essential genes" was selected from 250 or more as one of the top fifteen at the Molecular Parasitology Meeting September 22-26, 2002 at the Marine Biology Laboratory in Woods Hole, Massachusetts. Brian's award included a check for \$200 and a journal subscription.

Congratulations to **Dr. Jonathon Audia** (Department of Microbiology and Immunology). On October 22, 2002, Jonathon successfully defended his dissertation entitled, "A regulatory study of the alternative sigma factor  $F_s$  in Salmonella enterica serovar Typhimurium: Acid shock regulation of translation and directed proteolysis." Jonathon completed his studies under the direction of Dr. John Foster.

#### **From the Executive Committee**

At the September meeting, Executive Committee members approved two new IDL courses -- Lung Biology and Lung Pathobiology. Pending approval from the Graduate School, these courses will be offered Fall Semester, 2003. The Basic Medical Science Departments are currently reviewing courses within their departments and working on developing other new courses to be offered as Advanced curricula.

#### **From the University Graduate Council**

Students planning to complete their requirements Spring Semester should complete their closed and open defenses prior to the first submission deadline to the

Graduate School for written dissertations, which is March 27, 2003. The deadline for final completion of written dissertations (with signature sheet, microfilming form, etc.) is April 10, 2003.

#### **BMSSO**

The BMSSO recently elected new officers for the 2002-2003 academic year. They are: **Jeff Breit**, President; **Karla McInnis**, Vice-President; **Kathy Gross**, Treasurer/Secretary.

#### **National News of Interest**

NIH's Department of Clinical Bioethics is considering a plan to restructure the current human research participants protection system. One part of this plan is to replace the 4000-6000 Institutional Review Boards (IRBs) now in place at universities, hospitals, and other research centers with 10 Regional Ethics Boards. Each of these boards would consolidate review of prospective studies, monitor clinical trials, organize training, and develop policy. While discussions continue, it is likely that the current review process will undergo changes in the coming years.

**James Rothman** (Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center) and **Randy Schekman** (University of California-Berkeley), discoverers of the molecular basis of membrane trafficking, received the Lasker Award for Basic Medical Research in September. Lasker Award winners often are selected as Nobel Laureates. See [www.laskerfoundation.org](http://www.laskerfoundation.org).

The 2002 Noble Prizes in Medicine and Chemistry were recently announced. The Nobel Prize for Medicine or Physiology was awarded to **Sydney Brenner**, **H. Robert Horvitz**, and **John Sulston** "for their discoveries concerning genetic regulation of organ development and programmed cell death". Three researchers working with mass spectrometry and nuclear magnetic resonance, techniques which led to the development of the field of proteomics shared the Prize in Chemistry: **John Fenn**, **Koichi Tanaka**, and **Kurt Wüthrich**. For more information about the prizes and the Nobel Laureates, see the Nobel Museum web site: [www.nobel.se/medicine/laureates/2002](http://www.nobel.se/medicine/laureates/2002), [www.nobel.se/chemistry/laureates/2002](http://www.nobel.se/chemistry/laureates/2002).

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## **Volunteer Opportunities**

Women in Science held their second Expanding Your Horizons Conference for middle school girls on Saturday, October 19, 2002, attended by approximately 200 girls from Alabama and Mississippi. Thanks are extended to the many BMS graduate students and faculty who volunteered their time and expertise to make this Conference a success.

## **Funding Opportunities for Graduate Training**

GrantsNet is a one-stop resource for biomedical funding at [www.grantsnet.org](http://www.grantsnet.org). This site provides information regarding funding for graduate students, postdoctoral fellows, and faculty.

The Sandler Program for Asthma Research is accepting application for grants to support innovative research on asthma. The program is particularly interested in the development of new animal models for asthma, studies on humans or human materials (excluding clinical trials), research on the genetics of asthma, and technological developments relevant to asthma. For more information, see their web site: [www.sandlerresearch.org](http://www.sandlerresearch.org).

The International Agency for Research on Cancer Fellowship program is designed to allow new postdoctoral fellows to receive research training in another country and subsequently return to their own country to implement and develop programs in cancer research or cancer control.

The areas of training cover disciplines relevant to the etiology and pathogenesis of cancer and particular attention is given to training in cancer epidemiology. The application deadline is December 31, 2002. For more information, go to: [www.iarc.fr/pageroot/EDUCATION/fellow.html](http://www.iarc.fr/pageroot/EDUCATION/fellow.html).

The American Federation for Aging Research offers a number of fellowships and research grants. Their next application deadline is December 13, 2002. For more information, see the AFAR web site: [www.afar.org/grants.html](http://www.afar.org/grants.html).

Applications for the Fellowship Program in Academic Medicine for Minority Students are due by November 22, 2002. Go to their site, [www.nmfonline.org](http://www.nmfonline.org) for information on this competition.

The Southeast Affiliate of the American Heart Association has announced funding opportunities for 2003. The next application deadline is January 16, 2003. The Affiliate offers funding for the following programs: Health Sciences Fellowship, Predoctoral Fellowship, Postdoctoral Fellowship, Beginning Grant-in-Aid, and Grant-in-Aid. The Affiliate also provides funding for the Fellow-to-Faculty Transition Award, an AHA National Center Program. For more information, see the Affiliate's web site: [www.americanheart.org/presenter.jhtml?identifier=2471](http://www.americanheart.org/presenter.jhtml?identifier=2471).

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