

# The Graduate

The Newsletter of the College of Medicine Office of Graduate Studies



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Mary Townsley

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## From the Director

Congratulations are extended to several graduate students who are the recipients of awards!

**Brad Swiger** (Pharmacology) was awarded a two-year predoctoral fellowship from the American Heart Association Southeast Affiliate, beginning July 2004. Brad's grant is entitled "Prolyl hydroxylase inhibition stimulates reactive oxygen species production in rat liver mitochondria".

**Karla McInnis** (Microbiology and Immunology) was selected to receive an International Congress of Immunology Travel Assistance Award. This award allowed Karla to attend the meeting of the 12<sup>th</sup> International Congress and the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting FOSIS in Montreal in July, 2004.

**Renee Ho** (Cell Biology and Neuroscience) received an EMS Student Achievement Award from the Environmental Mutagen Society for her abstract entitled "Protective effect of yeast major AP endonuclease APN1 expression in a mammalian neuronal cell line."

A warm welcome is extended to the eight new students matriculating into the Graduate Program for the Fall Semester, 2004: **Joel Andrews** (B.A., Earlham College), **Shih-En Chang** (B.S., National Tsing Hua University), **Tray Hamil** (M.S., University of South Alabama), **Amanda Lackey** (B.S., Pensacola Christian College), **Kevin Lowe** (M.D., Finch University, Chicago Medical School), **Felricia Moyer** (B.S., University of South Alabama), **Nutan Prasain** (M.S., University of South Alabama), and **Christi Robinson** (B.S., University of Montevallo). The students attended orientation on August 16<sup>th</sup> and a number of "Meet the Discipline Days". They also joined faculty and advanced students at a dinner hosted by Dr. Townsley at her home.

## From the Graduate Office

The BMS Student Handbook has been updated. An electronic copy is available on the web site: <http://southmed.usouthal.edu/com/bmsphd>.

Students filing Dissertations must attach a copy of the new "First Submission Form" (form #9), available in the Handbook.



Joel Andrews



Shih-En Chang



Tray Hamil



Amanda Lackey



Kevin Lowe



Felricia Moyer



Nutan Prasain



Christi Robinson

# The Graduate

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## Graduate Faculty

The Basic Medical Sciences Graduate Faculty held a meeting on Monday, August 23, 2004. The group discussed curricular issues, the NIH Training Grant in the Center for Lung Biology, dissertation policies established by the Graduate Council, submission and privacy issues relating to grades, changes to the Graduate Program Student Handbook, the current roster of students, and recruitment. **Dr. Richard Hokanen** was elected to serve as Member-At-Large for the Executive Committee (beginning January, 2005), and Drs. **Mark Taylor** and **Solomon Ofori-Acquah** were elected as Secretary and Parliamentarian for the Graduate Faculty, respectively.

Curriculum Action Forms for courses to be implemented Summer or Fall 2005 should be submitted to the BMS Graduate Office for approval several weeks prior to the Graduate School's deadline of December 1, 2004.

Faculty members are reminded that program policies, as well as forms for citing completion of degree requirements are included in the BMS Student Handbook. The new "First Submission Form" (form #9, available in the Handbook) required by the Graduate School states that the Dissertation must be certified by the Major Professor and the Dissertation Committee to be original and free from plagiarism violations. This form must be co-signed by the Director of the Graduate Program. The draft of the Dissertation should be submitted electronically to <http://www.turnitin.com> for analysis. Faculty can obtain their account by contacting Dr. Townsley, who is the COM account administrator.

## From the Executive Committee

The Executive Committee was given the charge at their August meeting of making recruitment contacts at small liberal arts schools in the Mid-west by phone. During the calls, members will describe our program ascertain whether the contact would like to receive additional information, such as CDs, posters, and brochures, about the BMS Graduate Program. The Recruitment Team, chaired by **Dr. Jonathon Audia**, will contact additional schools in that region.

## From the University Graduate Council

Students planning to complete degree requirements Fall 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., October 28, 2004. The deadline for final submission of dissertations (with all required forms) is 5:00 p.m. on November 11, 2004. The respective deadlines for the 2005 Spring Semester are Thursday, March 24 (first submissions), and April 7 (final deadline). The deadline for filing for graduation with the Registrar's Office for the 2005 Summer term is February 11, 2005.

Students should ensure that they are using the current edition of the "Guide for Preparing Theses and Dissertations" when writing their dissertation, which should be available online in the near future.

## Funding Opportunities

Deadline 10/1/04: Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America Foundation, Inc. Supports predoctoral students during their dissertation research (1-2 years of support possible). Go to: <http://www.phrmafoundation.org>.

Deadline 1/15/05: The Southeast Affiliate of the American Heart Association sponsors Predoctoral and Postdoctoral Fellowships as well as research grants. Go to: <http://www.americanheart.org>.

## BMSSO

The BMSSO held their first meeting of the new academic year on August 31, 2004. Discussion included adding a round-table format of discussions for BMSSO meeting. Planned topics for future meetings include "Mentoring" and "Working for the Government". The annual T-shirt design contest and subsequent sale is underway. Elections were held for the 2004-05 academic year. For information relating to upcoming events, contact the newly-elected officers: Brad Swiger, President (Pharmacology); Darla Reed, Vice-President (Lung Biology); and Karla McInnis, Secretary (Microbiology).

## Volunteer Opportunities

The fourth annual "Expanding Your Horizons" conference for local middle school girls, sponsored by the USA Women in Science group, will be held on Saturday, November 6, 2004. This day-long event features workshops aimed at increasing girls' awareness of science and mathematics. Volunteers are needed to assist with workshops and conference logistics. To volunteer your assistance with this event, please contact Dr. Cindy Stanfield at 380-2710 or [cthurston@usouthal.edu](mailto:cthurston@usouthal.edu).

