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Research Day/Convocation

UMBI's Twentieth Anniversary celebration continued with a Convocation and Research Day, both held November 21. The Convocation recognized the contributions of all employees at every level. To eliminate the horrible prospect of driving to Rockville at rush hour, MBC's Pamela Wright organized bus service from Baltimore. A Terps emblazoned bus took on passengers at both the Columbus Center and MBC starting at the barely light hour of 6:30 am. Many staffers, who might not have come otherwise, welcomed the ride and the lively camaraderie on the trip. Many thanks to Mr. Dan Reznikov, Vice President for Operations and Finance, for letting UMBI Central pick up the tab!

After a buffet breakfast and a welcome from Mr. Reznikov, President Jennie Hunter-Cevera, dressed in the official teal, black and gold UMBI academic regalia with the two UMBI maces displayed in front of her, addressed the group (see page 3 for picture). While her slide presentation had to be abandoned temporarily for technical difficulties, her words more than made up for the lack of pictures. She was inspiring and complementary to the whole of UMBI. After she spoke, President Hunter-Cevera, along with Ms. Kathy DeShong, Assistant Vice President for Human Resources, Mr. Reznikov, and Dr. Marian Jackson, Vice President of Academic Affairs, presented awards for years of service. For many MBC employees, it was the first time their years of service had been recognized (see the table below). Both faculty and staff received certificates, noting 5, 10, 15 or more years of service.

continued page 3



Hughes, Timothy P.	Assistant Director	15+ years
Collins, John	Professor	15+ years
McCrea, Michael E.	Facility Manager	15+ years
Monteiro, Mervyn J.	Professor	15+ years
Kao, Joseph P. Y.	Professor	15+ years
Graham, Mary C.	Accounting Associate	5+ years
Kasco, Jami M.	Business Manager	5+ years
Muralidharan, Sukumaran	Research Associate	5+ years
Hartmann, Hali A.	Assistant Professor	5+ years
Ni, Jiahong	Research Associate	5+ years

Education Stakeholders Day

On Friday, November 11th, UMBI hosted the second in a series of events to celebrate its 20th Anniversary year. "Building a Competitive Workforce for the Bioscience Industry" was the topic of discussion, with both an industry and education focused panel presentation.

UMBI President joins TEDCO Board

UMBI's President Dr. Jennie Hunter-Cevera was sworn in as a new member of the Board of Directors for the Maryland Technology Development Corporation (TEDCO). See *Inside MBC*, vol. 8, No. 2 for more about TEDCO.

Baltimore Delegation

The state delegates and senators from Baltimore City visited the MBC to look at what the three UMBI centers (MBC, IHV and COMB) within the city are doing. While not all members of the delegation could make it, UMBI President Jennie Hunter-Cevera and Center Directors, W. Jonathan Lederer from the MBC and Yanathan Zohar from COMB, welcomed Senator Lisa Gladden (an *ex officio* member of UMBI's Board of Visitors), Delegate Clarence Davis, Delegate Sandy Rosenberg, and Wiltina Bultman from Delegate Salima Marriott's office. Gary Coleman, UMBI's Assistant Vice President for Education and Outreach, and Dr. Derik Spencer from the IHV also spoke to the delegation.



Left to right: MBC Director Dr. W. Jonathan Lederer, Senator Lisa Gladden, UMBI President Hunter-Cevera, Delegate Sandy Rosenberg, Delegate Clarence Davis, and UMBI Assistant Vice President Gary Coleman.

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Congratulations!

Dr. Ilia Baskakov continues to be recognized for exciting work on prion proteins. He was invited to at the prestigious and invitation only annual symposium "Prion Biology: Puzzles and Paradoxes" held at Cold Spring Harbor on November 27-30, 2005. For someone who is only four years out from a postdoctoral fellowship this is truly remarkable. Congratulations, again.



President Hunter-Cevera also made two special awards, which she called the Shining Star Awards, to individuals who had not only been at UMBI for many years but who had demonstrated exceptional dedication and loyalty to UMBI. The first recipient was Ms. DeShong, the current Assistant Vice President for Human Resources. The second was MBC's own Assistant Director Tim Hughes. Mr. Hughes was MBC's first employee and had participated in many of the early events of UMBI. He is also UMBI's *de facto* archivist, having preserved most of the documents from the early years of UMBI.

The convocation was followed by the 2005 UMBI Research Day. It had been four years since the last time UMBI scientists from all the centers came together to talk about their research (*Inside MBC*, Vol. 4, No. 5). MBC Assistant Professor Bruce Vogel spoke on "Extracellular matrix proteins in development and disease," but a number of MBC faculty had posters up for the poster session that ended the day. As always, the range of research at UMBI is amazingly diverse and exciting.

With the day ending so late, the last Terps bus looked particularly welcoming by those heading back to Baltimore.



Top: President Jennie Hunter-Cevera in full academic regalia with UMBI maces in foreground.
Left: MBC Assistant Director Tim Hughes receives the Shining Star award from President Hunter-Cevera
Right: MBC Business Manager, Jami Kasco (left) and Accounting Associate Mary Graham (right) enjoy the convocation.
Below: (left to right) Drs. Leonid Breydo, Yi Fu, Kadir Aslan and Chris Geddes in front of posters from Dr. Geddes' laboratory.



First Faculty Candidates Here

The first faculty candidates have started to come through. Dr. Jennifer Deluca from the University of North Carolina spoke on "Achieving accurate chromosome segregation in mitosis: the role of the Ndc80 complex in kinetochore function" on December 1. The following week on December 9, Dr. Benjamin Eaton from the University of California San Francisco spoke on "Cellular mechanisms of synaptic stability and neurodegeneration." These candidates came out of the first batch of applications. More candidates are expected after the first of the year. The number and quality of candidates continue to be exceptional, making the final decision gratifyingly difficult.

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MBC Happenings

Comings and Goings

Dr. George Rodney has joined the Institute of Molecular Cardiology as an Assistant Professor. **Dr. Brian Hagen** from the University of Nevada Reno has also joined the Institute of Molecular Cardiology as a Postdoctoral Fellow.

Grants and Contracts

Dr. George Rodney, 11/1/2005, NIH, "Calmodulin & Calmodulin binding Domains in E-C Coupling" \$76,578, yr 1 of 5.

Dr. W. Jonathan Lederer, 12/1/2005, NIH, "Calcium Sparks in Heart Muscle," \$362,526, yr 3 of 4.

Dr. Chris Geddes, 12/16/2005, Glaxo/Smith/Kline, "Drug Screening," \$297,000, yr 1 of 1.

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Grants.gov

The National Institutes of Health are rapidly moving to online submission of grants, as part of an overall federal government effort to reduce paper use. Various parts of this effort were implemented over a year ago, primarily the online submission of grant reviews and grant tracking using what NIH calls eCommons. The next step is the implementation of grants.gov. This portal does two things. The first is that it is supposed to be one source for finding all the government funding programs that are available, not just NIH. The second is that it is the entrance for obtaining the forms for online submission of grants. As of this newsletter, some funding programs are already requiring online submission.

To facilitate the implementation of online grant submissions, UMBI's Office of Research and Development (ORD) held an introductory workshop attended by MBC Assistant Director Tim Hughes and Research Coordinator Pamela Wright. They will help MBC faculty with online submissions if necessary. This was hands-on using UMBI's computerized classroom at the Columbus Center. ORD's Stan Jackson is UMBI's point man on grants.gov implementation.

Grants.gov is based on a proprietary software application called PureEdge Viewer. This application must be installed on a user's computer before form packages can be downloaded. At this time, only windows based machines are supported. Mac users are expected to be supported before NIH implements online submission of R01's, the basic grant mechanism most MBC faculty use. Online submission for R01's is expected to be mandatory by October 2006, with other grant mechanisms having been implemented earlier. Faculty members should keep abreast of all the latest developments, as NIH changes the rules regularly.

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