Summer Interns

The summer intern program has started. BioMet is again hosting students from the Fischell Department of Bioengineering, as well as several other institutions. Yasmin Kadry, UMCP Bioengineering, returned to Dr. Ilia Baskakov’s laboratory to continue her work on prions. Kristina Dziki, also from Bioengineering, is working with Dr. Mervyn Monteiro. Meghan Loughery and Lindsey Petrelle are also Bioengineering students who are with Dr. Mariusz Karbowski, along with Akira Shepherd, a chemical Engineering major from Montgomery College who plans on transferring to the Fischell Department. Andrew Wescott, an MD PhD student at UMB, is doing an internship and rotation with BioMET Director Dr. W. Jonathan Lederer. Finally, Stephen Sims from Reservoir High School in Howard County is working with Dr. Joseph Kao. This year’s crop of young people has yet again demonstrated the quality of students in USM, and in particular the Fischell Department of Bioengineering.

Unfortunately, this year BioMET could not hold a luncheon in honor of the interns. The moving schedule precluded such an event.

GRB Renovations Started

The Pharmacy South space is finished and Drs. Kao, Karbowski and Monteiro have finished moving. Dr. Lederer’s move into Pharm South has begun, but that is not expected to be completed until October. Now the focus has shifted to the renovations in the General Research Building. This renovation is very different since the first and third floors were completely gutted. Actual work on the building began on July 1. By mid-August, a significant amount of new duct work was in, and the wall framing started. Completion is expected by the end of the year.
Honors
Dr. Guiling Zhao was appointed an adjunct professor in the Department of Life Sciences, Heze University, Shandong, China.

Comings and Goings
Javier Alberto Martinez Fernandez, a graduate student from CSIC, Madrid, Spain, visited Dr. Baskakov’s laboratory.

Publications

Grants and Contracts
Awards
Dr. W. Jonathan Lederer, 6/1/13, Ferring Research Institute, Inc, Research Services Agreement, $29,500.
Dr. Guiling Zhao, 7/1/13, AHA, “IP3RI activates Ca²⁺-activated K⁺ channel through direct coupling in arterial smooth muscle cells,” $77,000, yr 4 of 4.
Dr. Ilia Baskakov, 8/1/13, NIH, “Elucidating molecular structure of mammalian prions,” $359,890, yr 2 of 5.
Dr. Mariusz Karbowski, 8/1/13, NIH, “Control of mitochondrial proteostasis by AAA-ATPase p97,” $281,442, yr 1 of 4.

Submissions
None.

Talks and Travels
Dr. Guiling Zhao, invited talk, “Calcium signaling in cardiovascular myocytes,” Department of Life Sciences, Heze University, Shandong, China, July 13, 2013.
Dr. W. Jonathan Lederer, advisory board, Totman Trust, University of Vermont, July 23, 2013.
Dr. W. Jonathan Lederer, collaboration meeting, Georg August University, Goettingen, Germany, August 23-26, 2013.
Dr. W. Jonathan Lederer, Annual ENAFRA meeting, Maastricht, Netherlands, August 27-29, 2013.