**MARCH CAMPUS EVENTS—TO THE BEAT OF YOUR OWN DRUMMER**

There’s so much to learn and to do at Georgetown University beyond re-writing conference abstracts and polishing your CV. And we’re not just talking about starching your lab coat. Here is a list of seminars, workshops, and assorted activities from which you can choose:

1. **Dean’s Distinguished Lecture Series for March**
   - **3/14/06:** Dan Podolsky, MD: “For what the cells tolls: Mechanisms of microbial-mucosal interactions.”
   - **3/21/06:** Judah Folkman, MD: Topic TBD
   - **3/28/06:** Steve Itzkowitz, MD: “The role of trefoil factors in GI cancer biology.”

2. **Seminars**
   - **“Participatory Communication in Science Policy”**
     - March 13, 2006  Time: 12-1pm  Location: MedDent NE301
   - **GUMC Job Fair—Be sure to look for the GUPDA booth!**
     - March 17, 2006  Time: 10:30-2pm  Location: Intercultural Center
   - **GUPDA Roundtable Discussion Group—Open to one and all!**
     - March 29, 2006  Time: 1-2pm  Location: NRB W302
   - **CNDLS Teaching workshops—Remember to register early! Email Lisa Kaufman (LRK25@georgetown.edu).**
     - **“Syllabus Design” Dr. Susanne Rinner (Dept. of German)**
     - March 28, 2006  Time: 10:15am-12:05pm  Location: Car Barn

**2006 RESEARCH DAYS POSTDOCTORAL DIVISION**

Congratulations to all postdocs who participated this year! Quite a field of great research. The following are this year’s winners and runners-up. Keep up the good work everyone.

**WINNER:** Dr. Rosalind Carney  Neuroscience  
*Cell migration along the lateral cortical stream to the developing basal telencephalic limbic system*

**RUNNERS-UP:**

- **Dr. Rebecca B. Riggins**  Lombardi Comprehensive Cancer Center  
  *Deregulation of ERalpha, ERRgamma, and estrogen-regulated genes accompany endocrine resistance in a model of invasive lobular breast carcinoma*

- **Dr. Daniel Koo**  Pediatrics  
  *Functional neuroanatomy of single word processing in deaf signers*
Dr. Kenneth Wong from the ISIS Center and the Department of Radiology presented our February seminar on “Lessons learned from the NIH’s new electronic grant submission system”. There’s good, and there’s bad. But forewarned is forearmed. Start early.

Dr. Wong began by outlining the key steps and players involved in grant submission. First, there’s YOU. YOU’ve dotted the I’s, crossed the T’s. You send it off to the GU Signing Official (SO), who is the actual person to submit the grant, NOT YOU. The SO uploads the grant to the grants.gov website. After all ill-defined number of days, the grant is transferred to the eCommons system. From there, something determines if the application is error-free or not. The process takes about 2-3 weeks. So budget in AT LEAST 2 cycles through this system into your plans for making the submission deadline. You only ‘make’ the deadline if your grant is accepted by the deadline, not if your SO submits it by the deadline.

If your grant is accepted, it will eventually get sent to a Review Panel. If there is an error in the application, it gets sent back to YOU. But you will NOT be informed specifically as to what the error is. You will instead receive an warning offering you the option to fix the error. In short, vague but deadly. You must now start the process again. Even if the only problem is a page numbering mistake or an arithmetic mistake in your budget, it’s back to the beginning.

Be aware: the term “HelpDesk” (at eCommons) is a misnomer. The email response system is slow, there is no phone support, and even if you speak to a real live person, they are literally incapable of actually fixing anything. The best advice? Be the squeaky wheel. Be persistent. Keep the paper trail going so you have proof that you really did try to do the best of your ability to fix things. In your cover letter firmly (but politely) mention your due diligence in the matter. And start early.

There is some good news. The Table of Contents is now built automatically. You create only one file, which makes archiving easier. And finally, it can only get better. Right?

Some additional tips: Simplify figures and drawings as much as possible. Turn off automatic End-Note. Pureedge.gov is a grants.gov software package that you may use to create your document. But be very careful in your calculations and budgetary numbers, because Pureedge.gov does not check completely. Be careful regardless though, because you don’t want to miss a deadline for an arithmetic error! After using Acrobat to convert your Word document into a .pdf, carefully check the pagination. Minimize memory requirements.

We thank Dr. Wong for graciously giving us his time and expertise.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>STUDENT DIVISION WINNER</th>
<th>PREDOCTORAL DIVISION CO-WINNERS (TIED)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Laura Ann Magill Biology</td>
<td>Christopher VandenBussche Tumor Biology</td>
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<tr>
<td>(Research Mentor Affiliation: Neuroscience):</td>
<td>(Research Mentor Affiliation: Oncology &amp; Lombardi Comprehensive Cancer Center):</td>
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<td><em>FE65 interaction with the apoE receptor ApoEr2 and APP</em></td>
<td><em>Thanks for the receptor, dad...but where’d it go?</em></td>
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<td>Marie Melzer Chemistry: <em>Reductive cleavage of RO-NO and R2N-NO bonds by Ni(I) and Cu(I) complexes</em></td>
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The GUPDA: Have you seen our website?
http://gupda.georgetown.edu
Submissions for editorials may be sent directly to co-editors Anne Sperling (ajs76@georgetown.edu) or Carrie Simkus (cls55@georgetown.edu) and will be printed at their discretion.

**Issue for March: New NIH Funding Program: Pathway to Independence Award**

On 27 January, the NIH announced a new award, called the Pathway to Independence (PA-06-133) award. The is to give post-docs an opportunity to obtain two forms of support from a single NIH award. Applicants are required to have < 5 years of post-graduate research experience to be eligible. The initial mentored phase (K99) provides funding for up to 2 years and may not exceed $90k per year. The independent phase (R00) provides up to 3 years of support at $249k per year.

The award will function like a mini-R01, funding research while the investigator prepares to submit an R01 application. The initial deadline to submit for this award is April 7, 2006 then standard dates will apply. There is no citizenship requirement for the award and NIH indicates that approximately 150-200 Independence awards will be issued in 2007.

The LCCC Grants Office can assist you in preparing your proposal, but be aware: the deadline to submit proposal documents to the LCCC Grants Office is THIS Friday, 10 March. Contact Erica Cleary at esc32@georgetown.edu for details.

**GUPDA ALUMNI UPDATE**

This month we’re profiling Paul Lea, PhD. One of the Founding Fathers of the GUPDA, Dr. Lea made the great and mighty switch from Academia to Industry. He is currently the Director of Research Operations at New Health Sciences, Inc., a small biotech company in Bethesda, MD. His primary responsibilities include directing several multi-site clinical and research trials. His new career is particularly rewarding, as it call upon his skills in leadership and management as well as science expertise. And since New Health Sciences is a small firm, his work is varied and broad.

In terms of professional development, Dr. Lea strongly stressed the importance of establishing personal goals as a part of an Individual Development Plan. In fact, instituting a regular procedure for postdoctoral IDP’s is one of the key issues the GUPDA board has raised with the University in our recent conversations. It is also a topic that you, our members, have expressed a desire to create with your mentors. As Dr. Lea notes, the process of self-evaluation can be immensely revealing, in terms of your strengths, weakness, and short- and long-term goals as a scientist. Maybe your short-term goal is mastering a particular skill set or technological paradigm, or developing your presentation skills, or establishing a network with opinion leaders in the pharmaceutical industry. Maybe your long-terms goals include financial security. Dr. Lea’s most straightforward advice? “Don’t be passive with your career.” Spend as much time determining what you want to do with your degree as you did in earning your degree. Do your research. Exhaust your resources. No one else will do it for you.

On a nostalgic note, Dr. Lea’s fondest GU memory was the day Dr. Lille Tildwell (profiled here in October 2005), asked him to help her establish the GU Postdoctoral Association. How grateful we are!

**NPA MEETING**

The National Postdoctoral Association 4th Annual Meeting will be held in Bethesda, MD, April 21-23, 2006. For more information, visit the association website for more information: http://nationalpostdoc.org/annual_meeting/2006

(12 + 144 +20 + 3 * 4^.5)/ 7 + 5 * 11 == 9^2 + 0

**Translation:**
A dozen, a gross, and a score, plus 3 times the square root of 4, divided by 7, plus 5 times 11, is nine squared, and not a bit more.

See you next month!