

the cell



UPCOMING EVENTS

The Department of Biochemistry, Molecular Biology and Cell Biology Departmental Series

Thursdays at 12:30 PM
 Pancoe Auditorium
 2205 Campus Drive
 For updates visit: <http://aquavite.northwestern.edu/cal/public/calendar.cgi?id=195>

No Seminars Until September 16, 2004

Independence Day

The BMBCB office will be closed on Monday, July 5.



Postdoc Association

Friday, July 9th
 4:30 PM
First Friday
 Come enjoy food and drinks with your fellow BMBCB postdocs!
 4th Floor Pancoe Bridge

CONTENTS

Feature Story	1
Upcoming Events	1
IBiS Story	2
New People	2
Honors & Awards	2
General Announcements	2
ISO Announcements	2
Submissions	2
Available Positions	3
Desired Positions	3

BMBCB ESTABLISHES ROBOTICS FACILITY

Nick Woell
 Editor

BMBCB is in the midst of assembling its latest research facility—the Facility for Automated High Throughput Analysis. With generous grants and donations from the National Institutes of Health (NIH), Pfizer, and others, the new facility will provide investigators with innovative tools for high-volume experimentation.

The primary advantages of robotics are twofold. By parallelizing common tasks that researchers typically perform at the bench, robots allow us to undertake traditional experiments faster and in greater quantity. Also, they allow us to attempt new experiments that were previously deemed impractical, because they required such a large sample size.



“Robots simply enable us to do things not possible before because of constraints on time,” says Eric Weiss, one of the facility’s coordinators. “It’s not as if robotics will put everybody out of a job, but rather allow us to do more work.”

In an era where information is delivered to us on a genomic scale, Weiss asserts that it is important to take advantage of that information by conducting experiments at a similar magnitude. “For biochemistry, robotics is interesting because it allows you to exhaustively try different kinds of experimental variations. Before, for example, trying a thousand different buffer conditions was difficult, but now it’s fairly straightforward.”

Automated high throughput analysis is important in the biotech industry, and our new facility will thus provide a useful educational resource for people interested in careers in this area.

The robotics facility will feature two types of equipment. Five liquid handlers will have the ability to pipette liquids in sets of 8 or 96, operating in 96 or 384 well plates. The instruments that work with 8 tips can actually handle one sample at a time and can work with tubes in variable spacing. Two colony handlers will work with large strain collections like *E. coli* or yeast libraries. They will be capable of working with arrays of strains, and can pick 3000

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FEATURE

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colonies an hour to assemble such arrays. These instruments will be used immediately for automated 2-hybrid and synthetic genetic analysis.

Weiss expects the Facility for Automated High Throughput Analysis to be completed by the end of this summer. A Facility Manager will soon be hired to oversee the facility. Weiss aims to model the facility after NU's Keck Facility in terms of instrument scheduling, maintenance and management.

ISO ANNOUNCEMENTS

 1. This month's ISO student seminar will be held on July 13th at 11:30 in Cook 3118! The speakers will be advisors from American Express Financial Services. This is an excellent opportunity to become familiar with your financial options and to get insight into planning for the future. They do many of these group advising sessions every year, and are well trained to answer your questions on how to make the most out of your budget, as well as explain the different ways in which you can invest your money.

2. The monthly ISO Bagel Break is on for July 23rd at 3:30. Meet us in the Tech Courtyard (or in the event of foul weather, Cook 3118) for bagels and doughnuts. Remember: Everyone's invited, so get your techs, undergrads, postdocs, PI's and graduate students together for free bagels and sunshine.

3. A special thanks to Sarah Ledoux and her work on the VWR Vendor Fair! Many of you attended the event and were witness to the marvels of modern science! Sarah worked with VWR to get us the Cubs tickets (and we're pretty sure she's behind the magic that made the automatic sliding scale hoods move).

NEW PEOPLE



Please extend a warm welcome to these individuals who have recently joined our department:

Margaret Feller is a new Research Technician in the Carthew Lab.

MEET THE NEW IBIS FACILITATOR



The Interdepartmental Biological Sciences Graduate Program (IBIS) welcomes its new Program Facilitator—Tina Turnbull. A long time employee of Northwestern University, Turnbull hopes to combine her experience, familiarity and passion for working with NU students to help IBIS prosper.

Turnbull began her first job in student advising while putting herself through college as a fulltime mentor of non-traditional students at the University of Minnesota. Then in 1991 she was hired at Northwestern as a recruiter and advisor in the interdepartmental Learning Sciences PhD Program. After working for two other colleges over the past several years, Tina returned to Evanston this summer to reestablish her career at NU.

"It takes a healthy, vibrant mix of students, faculty and staff to support biological sciences research and education," says Turnbull. "Progress is affected by how well that balance is maintained. In working with prospective and active Ph.D. students in the IBIS program I hope to learn about and contribute to the team efforts in supporting those processes of renewal, achievement and growth."

Come welcome Tina in her office in Hogan 2-100, or contact her at (847) 491-4301, t-turnbull@northwestern.edu.

HONORS AND AWARDS



Congratulations to **Yael Katz**, IBIS second-year PhD student, for being awarded the IGERT Fellowship! NSF instituted IGERT and the Fellowship as opportunities for researching complex systems. Yael will be working on understanding the process of neuronal integration with Dr. Nelson Spruston (neuroscience) and Dr. Bill Kath (mathematics). Visit Northwestern's dynamic IGERT website at: <http://www.complex-systems.northwestern.edu/>

GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS



Peg Nagel and her husband Joe are happy to announce the birth of their new baby boy, Timothy David Nagel. Peg is a Research Technician in the Lamb Lab.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES



A list of available and desired jobs relevant to the Department of Biochemistry, Molecular Biology and Cell Biology.

Tenure Track Positions in Mammalian Embryology/Development University of Missouri-Columbia

The University of Missouri-Columbia invites applications for two, tenure track faculty positions. This search is associated with the soon-to-be completed Life Sciences Center (<http://lifesciences.missouri.edu/>), an interdisciplinary institute poised to utilize genomic information. This initiative will build on a strong tradition of interaction between physical, biological and agricultural sciences on this campus. The campus initiative is coupled to community and state efforts to enhance research, education, and economic development in biotechnology. Of particular interest are the areas of: Embryonic and Adult Stem Cell Biology, Epigenetics, Regulation of Development and Differentiation, and Cell Lineage specification. Recruitment will be at either the Assistant or Associate Professor levels. Applicants must have a doctoral degree, postdoctoral experience, and evidence of outstanding research potential. It is expected that the successful candidates will participate in the core functions of the Reproductive Biology Cluster of the Food for the 21st Century Program (<http://www.missouri.edu/~reprphys/index.htm>), and establish an internationally recognized research program via both independent and interdisciplinary collaborations, train graduate students, and contribute to the undergraduate instructional program. Successful candidates will be provided with excellent laboratory facilities in a state of the art building, start-up funds, and a salary commensurate with experience. Columbia has the residential advantages of a medium-sized university city, excellent cultural opportunities, and easy access to St. Louis and Kansas City. Information about the department of Animal Sciences can be found at the departmental link (<http://www.asrc.agri.missouri.edu/>). Questions and applications can be directed to Dr. Randall Prather, Chair of the Search Committee, via schnabelj@missouri.edu. An application must include curriculum vitae with a complete list of publications, a concise summary of research interests and future plans, and the names of four individuals prepared to write letters of recommendation. To ensure full consideration, applications should be received by August 31, 2004. MU is an EEO/ADA employer and for ADA accommodations.

Please contact the MU ADA coordinator, by phone at (573) 884-7278 (V/TTY).

Staff Scientist, Entry Level

Sapidyne Instruments Inc.—Boise, ID

Sapidyne Instruments Inc. is a rapidly growing, privately-held biotechnology instrumentation company, with a patented technology

which provides the industry's highest level of sensitivity for measuring biomolecular binding. We are currently seeking qualified candidates for entry level Staff Scientist positions. As a young, fast growing company, it is essential that our team members are flexible and able to perform many functions. The Staff Scientist position is best described as a technical adviser, technical sales representative, in-house research scientist, and science-relations personnel. Much of the job involves interfacing with our customers' research scientists. This interfacing includes collaborating on experiments, demonstrating our technology, training with our product, and helping solve scientific and technical problems. Our customers include many leading pharmaceutical and biotechnology companies, as well as research institutes and universities. A Ph.D. Degree in Chemistry, Molecular Biology, Biochemistry, or a related field is required, and candidates should have less than three years experience. Experience and understanding of affinity measurements is a plus, but not required. Applicants must have excellent written and verbal communication skills. Applicants should have the ability to learn new technologies and be willing to travel (on average twice a month). Travel includes visiting customer labs for training, demonstrations, and maintenance, as well as attending national meetings and trade shows. Qualified candidates must have exceptional interpersonal and presentation skills that are appropriate for both small and large audiences. We are seeking to fill multiple staff scientist positions over the next six months. Resumes will be reviewed as they are received. Phone inquiries will not be accepted. Sapidyne Instruments Inc. is located in Boise, Idaho. Boise is located along the Boise River and nestled against the foothills of the Rocky Mountains. The city offers easy access to outdoor activities, and possesses well a developed metropolitan area offering a variety of entertainment and cultural opportunities. Further, Boise provides an outstanding quality of life and a lower cost of living than other metropolitan areas. Please visit us at www.sapidyne.com for more information. To apply please send a cover letter, resume, and references to:

Pat Doneen (patd@sapidyne.com) and Dr. Sheryl Hawkes (sheryl@sapidyne.com) by email, fax, or postal mail.
967 E. ParkCenter Blvd. PMB #445 6/15/04
Boise, ID 83706
Fax: 208-345-5251

Research Associate

Chromatin, Inc.—Chicago, IL

Chromatin, Inc., a small plant biotechnology company, has research associate positions available at the BS and MS levels. Candidates should be skilled and highly motivated individuals with experience in molecular biology, cellular biology or genetics. Industry experience, and experience with plant tissue culture and plant transformation is desirable. Individuals seeking entry-level positions and with a strong interest in plant biology are also encouraged to apply. The company is



seeking individuals who thrive in an atmosphere that combines teamwork with creative thought and self-motivation. Chromatin, Inc., (www.chromatininc.com) is a Chicago based company that develops and markets novel proprietary technology (PACT = Plant Autonomous Chromosome Transfer) that enables entire chromosomes to be designed and incorporated into plant cells. PACT makes it possible for the first time to simultaneously introduce multiple genes into a plant cell while maintaining precise control of gene expression. Chromatin is employing these new genetic tools to design and market products that confer commercially valuable traits in plants, including improved nutritional and health characteristics, and uses in industrial, agricultural and pharmaceutical product development. Applications including a cover letter, CV and names of three references should be sent to:

morrissey@chromatininc.com

DESIRED POSITIONS

Larisa Burke is a Northwestern student looking for any paid summer position that is available. She is a psychology major and has had experience working in a lab environment. She is available to begin work immediately. If you are aware of any available positions, please contact her by email at:

l-burke@northwestern.edu
or (630) 947-4442

Soowan Shin is seeking a research position. She is a recent graduate from UC Davis, with a bachelor's degree in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology. She plans to attend graduate school in Fall 2006, after gaining additional laboratory research experience. She is seeking a position as a postgraduate researcher or an intern/volunteer position that will provide her with hands-on experience on cell proliferation/tumorigenesis or related field. She has had experience on tissue culture, protein analysis and purification, and DNA analysis. For more information please contact:

790 Woodside Ln. E. #14
Sacramento, CA 95825
Tel: 916-924-8690
soowanshin@yahoo.com

Zoe Ray is seeking a summer job at a lab at Northwestern University. She recently graduated from New Trier High School as a National Merit Finalist. She plans to major in Biology and Psychology at Colby College beginning fall 2004. Please contact Zoe at:

(847) 251-6747



HAPPY INDEPENDENCE DAY!!!



NOW ACCEPTING: EVENT ANNOUNCEMENTS, ARTICLE IDEAS, EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES, POSITIONS WANTED AND ANNOUNCEMENTS.

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The Cell

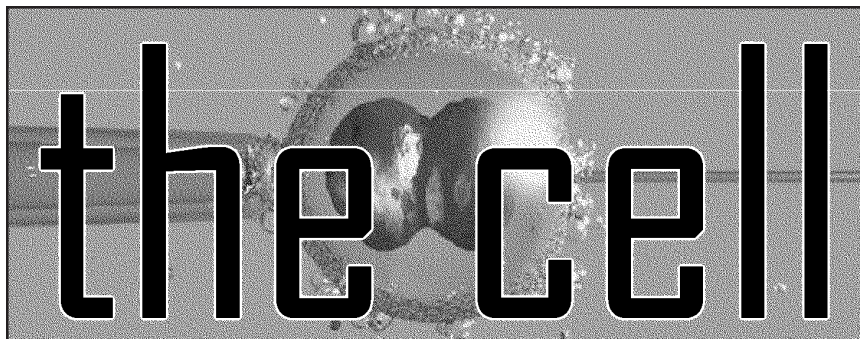
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