

the cell

MAY 2005
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NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY
BMBCB

UPCOMING EVENTS

Cell and Molecular Basis of Disease Training Grant Lecture

*Genetic Control of Programmed Cell
Death in C. elegans*
Nobel Laureate Prof. H. Robert Horvitz
Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Thursday, May 18
Tech LR2
4:00 PM - 5:00 PM
A Reception will follow in the Pancoe/
ENH building 2nd floor cafe area

Pathway to the Professoriate

*Successfully Balancing a Science Career
and Family*
Annelise Barron and Erik Sontheimer
Tuesday, May 17
3:30-4:30PM
Cook 3118B

Special ChBE Seminar

*The Road to Cheaper Proteins:
A "Follow-On" Biologics Primer*
David Abramowitz
Monday, May 9
12:00 PM
Tech Lecture Room 5

ChBE Debate

*Topic: Generic Versions of Off-patent
Biopharmaceuticals*
Wednesday, May 18
5:45 PM
Tech L361

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BMBCB SADDENED BY THE PASSING OF PROFESSOR IRVING M. KLOTZ

Josh Schnell
Assistant Chair



On Wednesday, April 27, BMBCB lost an exceptional scientist, giving mentor and kind friend when Irving M. Klotz passed away. A graveside service for Prof. Klotz was held last Friday, April 29, at Shalom Memorial Park in Arlington Heights.

Dr. Klotz, a Chicago native, received his B.S. in 1937 and his Ph.D. in 1940 both from the University of Chicago. In 1942, he came to Northwestern, where he earned tenure in 1947 and became Professor of Chemistry and Biology in 1950. Prof. Klotz was named the Charles E. and Emma H. Morrison Professor of Chemistry and Biological Sciences in 1963, retiring to Emeritus Professor status, in name only, in 1986.

SCIENCE AND STRESS RELIEF AT ANNUAL DEPARTMENTAL RETREAT

On April 14th and 15th, 140 researchers from the department converged on the comfortable Harrison Conference Center in Lake Bluff, Illinois, for BMBCB's 2005 Scientific Retreat. The program featured research talks from approximately half of the departments' labs, while other informal activities provided opportunities for not only scientific discourse but also fun and relaxation.



On Thursday, the 14th, 3 of the 5 sessions of research talks were held, with postdoctoral fellows acting as session chairs and using time at the end of the session to touch on common themes among the presented research. Lunch was a break from the formal presentations and a chance to get to know other departmental researchers.

In the afternoon of the 14th there were two additions to the usual retreat fare: a facilities breakout session and a poster session. The facilities breakout session brought managers/directors from

BMBCB RETREAT

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research facilities whose equipment offerings benefit department members together with researchers who weren't aware of the details of these research facilities. Several research directors remarked that it was a good opportunity for them to compare notes about managing these important laboratories.

In addition, a poster session open to all department members was a chance to learn even more about the research going on in the laboratories down the hall, as well as to get together and talk science in an informal setting, the beautiful manor house library and living room. Warm weather brought many people out into the courtyard, and wine and cheese offered some refreshments before dinner and the evening's festivities.

During dinner, department chair Kelly Mayo, took some time to highlight the many and varied accomplishments achieved by department members in the last year. A sampling of awards and recognition for excellent teaching and research by faculty, postdocs and students only touched on the accolades received by the department. Kelly ended his speech with a promising look forward on what is to come.

After dinner, scientific discussion continued around the pool tables and bar; however, this year the retreat committee was able to bring in a special guest band of diverse musical talents. *Excleria*, led by guitarist and "composer" Rick Gaber and made up of various musically-inclined faculty, was joined by several guest singers and musicians. Songs about science, the woes of being a student, and the "quirks" of many faculty members (as seen by their students), were complemented by a few rock classics that kept all attendees enthralled.

The retreat continued the next morning with the last two sessions of oral research presentations. After further lively scientific discussions, the retreat concluded with a lunch honoring BMBCB staff and staff of the financial and shipping and receiving services for the hard work and dedication.

Many thanks to all who helped organize the retreat, especially Drew Miller, Assistant to the Chair. In addition, our gratitude is extended to the Rice Institute for Biomedical Research whose generous contributions help us to make the retreat a huge success. If you have any comments or questions about the annual retreat, please contact Josh Schnell, at j-schnell@northwestern.edu.

Pictures from this year's retreat (including the band's performance) can be found at <http://www.biochem.northwestern.edu/retreat2005.htm>. They are worth a look, especially if you didn't attend. We hope to see you at next year's retreat!

REMEMBRANCE OF DR. KLOTZ

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During his long career, Prof. Klotz made countless contributions to the biochemical sciences, notably in studies of ligand-receptor interactions and the structure and function of proteins. He authored hundreds of peer-review publications as well as several books, including the widely-read "Ligand-Receptor Energetics: A guide for the Perplexed". His interest in science never waned; in 2003 and 2004 he published four technical papers and he was recently working on a new manuscript.

Dr. Klotz's scholarly achievements were recognized by numerous prestigious awards, including the Eli Lilly Award from the American Chemical Society in 1949 and the William C. Rose Award from the American Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology in 1993. He was elected to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences (1968), the National Academy of Sciences (1970), and the Royal Society of Medicine (1971).

"By luck I ended up having an office next to Irv Klotz when I came to NU as a new assistant professor. Irv had this slightly subversive sense of humor so that by speaking to you for five minutes on the corridor he could make you feel good for the rest of the day." said Andreas Matouschek, Associate Professor in BMBCB. Andreas added that Dr. Klotz "...was a warm and generous person - his kindness made a real difference to me and I'm grateful to him."

The Department of Chemistry and BMBCB will be holding a memorial service to remember Dr. Klotz, likely to take place in June. The BMBCB office will disseminate more information about the memorial service, as it becomes available.

Donations in Dr. Klotz's name can be made to either of the two charities listed below:

1) The Anti-Defamation League
309 W. Washington Ave. Suite 750
Chicago, IL 60606

2) Louis & Saerree Feidler Hillel Center
629 Foster St.
Evanston, IL 60201

Historical and personal anecdotes honoring and remembering Prof. Klotz can be sent via email to Josh Schnell at j-schnell@northwestern.edu.

NU-ENH NOTABLE RESEARCH

Researchers from Northwestern University and Evanston Northwestern Healthcare (ENH) have made a distinguished discovery linking the circadian rhythm to the body's ability to maintain a healthy weight. Department of Neurobiology and Physiology (NBP), Life Sciences, and Howard Hughes Medical Institute investigators collaborated on the project that was recently recognized on April 21 in the online version of the journal *Science*.

According to the research, a flawed body clock, which regulates sleep and hunger, can disrupt the body's metabolism, increasing the susceptibility to obesity and diabetes.

"We don't know too much about how clocks control eating and metabolism in normal individuals, but now we have shown that weight gain and abnormalities in metabolism, including diabetes, result if this internal timepiece is malfunctioning," NBP-ENH joint appointee Dr. Joseph Bass tells the NU NewsCenter. "The body clock is clearly controlling the elaborate brain signaling system that regulates appetite."

"We've demonstrated that an animal model with a known circadian dysregulation — a mouse with a mutant Clock gene and thus an imprecise body clock — has metabolic problems, at least obesity and signs of the metabolic syndrome," says the study's lead author and NBP circadian rhythm specialist Dr. Fred W. Turek. "This provides new genetic evidence that physiologic outputs of the biological clock, sleep and appetite are interconnected at the molecular and behavioral levels, yielding implications on the role of internal biological timing in optimizing strategies to reduce and sustain weight loss resulting from both medical and lifestyle modifications."

"Our findings lead to provocative questions that require further investigation," says Dr. Bass. "Is it possible that sleep loss or a change in circadian rhythms might exacerbate problems in regulating appetite? It may be a question of not only how much you eat but what time of day you eat and how that affects the body. Are you eating at a time of day when your system is internally aligned to metabolize the food?"

Dr. Bass, who is an active IBiS preceptor along with other authors of the study, notes that the work environment at Northwestern has been stimulating in both personal friendships and professional interactions with BMBCB colleagues that have been crucial to the success of his team's research.

NU JOINS ARGONNE COUNCIL

Northwestern University has joined a new Science Policy Council to oversee the mission of Argonne National Laboratory. According to the NU NewsCenter, the council aims to enhance Argonne's scientific capabilities, strengthen the state's technological base and workforce preparation, and improve Illinois' ability to receive federal research funding.

President Henry S. Bienen has been named to Argonne's Board of Governors and will serve on the executive and nominating committees helping to recruit new members to the board from industry, academia and the national laboratory system. The Science Policy Council was established by the University of Chicago and also includes the University of Illinois.

GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS



Congratulations to IBiS student Elizabeth Truesdell-Heeg and her husband Tom on their new son Aiden Thomas born on April 19.

Congratulations to Widom Lab Post-Doc Michael Poirier for receiving the Burroughs Wellcome Fund Career Award in the Biomedical Sciences. The award provides him bridging support for advanced postdoctoral training and his initial faculty years at Ohio State starting in the fall of 2006 as an assistant professor.

ISO ANNOUNCEMENTS



Student Seminar

Tuesday, May 10

Cook 3118 11:30 am

Yael Katz of the Spruston lab and Mike Dores of the Hicke lab will be presenting. Come support your fellow students.

Bagel Break

Friday, May 20

Cook 3118 3:30pm

Come join your fellow students, faculty, postdocs, and staff for free food and drinks!


NEW PEOPLE



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

Lei Huang is a new Research Technician in the MacDonald.

SUBMISSIONS

 **The Cell** is published monthly by the Department of Biochemistry, Molecular Biology and Cell Biology at Northwestern University.

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EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES



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

Summer Lab Aid II
Northwestern University—Evanston, IL

The Uhlenbeck Lab is looking for a Freshman or Sophomore interested in working in a Biochemistry lab starting right after school is out. This lab aide will be responsible for basic lab work, including making basic stock solutions and buffers, testing the lab for compliance and safety issues, ordering and stocking chemicals, and basic lab cleaning and maintenance. Students that continue to work through the school year have found themselves performing basic ribosome prep protocols for experiments, and performing minor experiments themselves. If the student is interested, future research opportunities are negotiable. The most important requirement for the student is reliability. Punctuality, competence, a good work ethic, and an interest in the work of the lab are essential. A basic knowledge of chemistry is preferred. Hours are flexible, and pay is negotiable. If you're interested, contact:

Ehren Fournier
(847) 491-3619
e-fournier@northwestern.edu

Postdoctoral Position
University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center—Dallas, TX

The Winkler Lab investigates mechanisms of posttranscriptional gene regulation in microorganisms. A portion of research focuses upon the discovery, analyses, and adaptation of metabolite-sensing RNA structures (riboswitches) that are often utilized for control of fundamental metabolic pathways in bacteria. Postdoctoral positions are currently available in the Winkler Laboratory for research into the biology and applications of natural and engineered regulatory RNAs. Special attention will be given to candidates with a background in nucleic acid biochemistry. Candidates with computational skills and experience in microbial metabolism will also be of particular interest. One year of internal funding is guaranteed for the positions; however, candidates are also encouraged to apply for independent financial support. Interested candidates should submit a copy of their curriculum vitae and the names of three references to the address below, or via email. For more information on research, visit http://biochemistry.swmed.edu/list_faculty.php

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NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY

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

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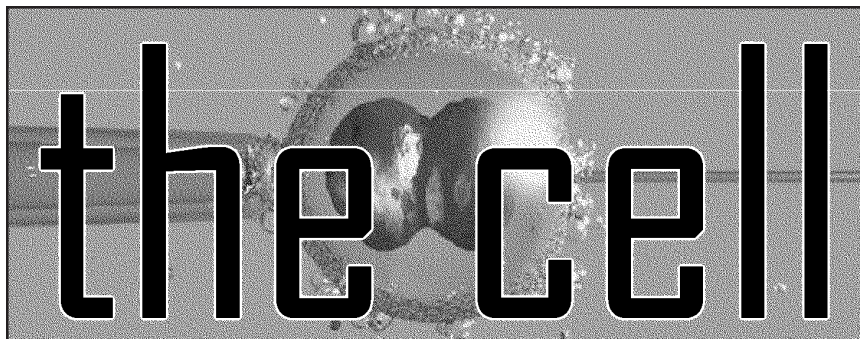
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