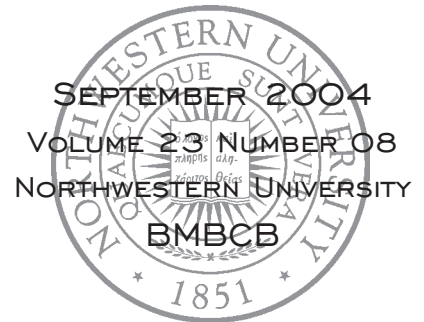


the cell



UPCOMING EVENTS

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

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

Thursday, September 16
Determining the requirements for tumor maintenance in vivo
 Dr. Gerard Evan
 University of California

Thursday, September 23
Molecular genetic analysis of Rab GTPase activation
 Dr. Ruth Collins
 Cornell University

Thursday, September 30
 TBA
 Ben Margolis
 University of Michigan

Pathway to the Professoriate
The Faculty Job Search and Start-up Packages
 Jon Widom & Eric Weiss
 Tuesday, September 14
 12:00-1:15 PM
 Pancoe 4-103

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MAYO SUCCEEDS WIDOM AS NEW DEPARTMENT CHAIR

Nick Woell
 Editor

BMBCB welcomes new Department Chair Kelly Mayo as Jon Widom bids farewell after six years of service.

A faculty member since 1985, Professor Mayo has led a team of BMBCB researchers for nearly two decades investigating hormone action and signal transduction in the mammalian neuroendocrine system. After receiving his Ph.D. in Biochemistry from the University of Washington, Mayo conducted postdoctoral



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BMBCB MOURNS THE PASSING OF PROFESSOR NEIL WELKER

Joshua Schnell
 Assistant Chair

It is with great sadness that we commemorate one of the department's and university's most involved faculty members, Professor Neil E. Welker. Neil passed away on August 11th, after a short struggle with pancreatic cancer. Family, friends and fellow faculty members gathered at Neil's home on August 15 to remember Neil. Neil's wife, Fatima, has expressed her gratitude to everyone who was able to visit with her and Neil's many children and grandchildren.



Neil was granted a B.A. in Biology in 1958 from the University of Buffalo in Buffalo, N.Y. and received his doctorate in Microbiology in 1963 from Western Reserve University in Cleveland Ohio (now Case Western Reserve University) while working on a NIH Microbiology Training Grant. After a one year postdoc in the Department of Microbiology at the University of Illinois in Urbana, Neil joined Northwestern as an Assistant Professor in 1964. With a prolific research program investigating the Thermophilic (heat-loving) microorganisms, Neil was an

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REMEMBERING NEIL WELKER

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outstanding researcher and graduate mentor. He was promoted to Associate Professor in 1967 and full Professor in 1974.

Neil's life-long research interests were in thermophilic organisms. You will probably immediately think of those species that live in the hot vents of the ocean's depths, but in fact, the isolate of the organism *Bacillus stearothermophilus* that Neil spent much of his career working with was isolated from Northwestern's lake-fill, a bit of history in which Neil justifiably took some pride. His development of innovative molecular cloning systems allowed his lab and his colleagues' to explore the changes in gene expression that allow microorganisms to adjust to life at high temperatures. Neil's pristine lab space has been home to dozens of undergraduate and graduate students, postdoctoral fellows and visiting researchers, and the work performed in the lab has led to numerous first-class publications in many different journals. Neil was also involved in a number of collaborations with academics and acted as a consultant to a several industrial partners.

Neil's commitment to the success of both the Department and the College of Arts and Sciences is evident from the various positions he has held over the years. He was acting chair and then chair of the Department of Biological Sciences from 1972-74. From 1974 to 1980, Neil acted as a part-time associate Dean for the College of Arts and Sciences. More recently, Neil had served as the associate chair of BMBCB for the last 14 years. In addition, Neil has served on dozens of university-wide, college-wide and departmental committees, as well as numerous graduate student thesis committees.

His dedication to the undergraduate teaching mission of Northwestern was manifest in his innovative laboratory teaching program for which he received an undergraduate teaching award in 1985. Moreover, his service as Director of the Undergraduate teaching laboratories and Director of the Center for Biotechnology are two of many examples of Neil's passion for training undergraduates and graduates to succeed in laboratory research. In fact, Neil was recently honored by the creation of the Neil Welker Fund, which will single-out one undergraduate student a year for their performance in the advanced science laboratory course and one graduate student a year for exceptional work as a teaching assistant for the undergraduate course.

We will miss Neil's compassion for research and teaching, and we are all honored to have had him as a colleague. Neil's wife and family have asked that any donations in Neil's memory are made to support student awards for excellence in undergraduate teaching and laboratory work via:

The Neil Welker Fund
c/o Djana Sterpin
Weinberg College of Arts and Sciences
Office of University Development
Northwestern University
2020 Ridge Avenue
Evanston, IL 60208-4307

In closing, the two excerpts below are taken from comments made by individuals who knew Neil professionally: one here at BMBCB and the other through Neil's involvement with Wind River Conference on Prokaryotic Biology (<http://sciences.unlv.edu/wriver/>) as a dedicated organizer and participant.

Dr. Welker always struck me as one who always wanted to live life rather than just to go through the daily motions. I would frequently bump into him on weekends; and although he had nothing left to prove, his passion for work and research, I believe, drove him. He had a couple of comic strips and two fine pictures of the Evanston Campus at dawn tacked onto a board beside his lab which I admired and whose loss he mourned to me. He said that while you are at this campus, see the sunrise from the lake and the campus glow up in the morning light. I did not and I regret it. Next time I am in Chicago, I will do so and thus pay my respect to a truly remarkable character.

Suvobroto Nandi
Former postdoc in Dan
Linzer's lab

It has been a long time, but as I remember it, the first time I heard the name Neil Welker was in 1969 or 1970, while I was a young grad student attending the Wind River Meeting in Estes Park, Colorado. The specific context was that he would be missing dinner and the evening session because he had been taken to the hospital after being bitten by a marmot near the top of the Twin Sisters mountain, which forms the backdrop for this annual meeting. The next morning, apparently certified as rabies-free, he was back and gave a clear and enthusiastic talk on genetic exchange in thermophiles. Over the years since, I was privileged to share with Neil an excitement at this meeting as new students appeared and matured before our eyes. He was an ardent and constant supporter of the Wind River Meeting, and especially of its evolution to have an unusual emphasis on presentations by graduate student researchers themselves. As one small token of Neil's concern for passing on the habits of good science, I can perhaps mention that he is the only person I know of who made sure to talk with every single student who had a poster presentation on display. Whether talking science with students or leading them up mountain trails, Neil was the kind of academic that many would hope to emulate, but few can match.

Don Morrison
Professor
University of Illinois at
Chicago

MAYO SUCCEEDS WIDOM

...continued from page 1

research at the Salk Institute in San Diego before arriving at NU. His current lab includes nine members that Mayo will continue to oversee as he assumes the function of department chair.

"My first challenge is to provide the resources and support that will allow all of us to be maximally productive and to fulfill the educational and research missions of the department," Mayo says, addressing the priorities of his new position. "The chair must be cognizant of the issues requiring deliberation, provide leadership and guidance to the consensus-building process, and take an active role in executing decisions made by the faculty."

As chair, Mayo is prepared to face an array of both traditional and never before seen obstacles. Managing limited resources, recruiting new faculty, and retaining current faculty are challenges that regularly confront the world of academia. But rapidly evolving trends in research science mean an entirely different set of pressures are felt by departments like BMBCB.

"Research scientists face considerable challenges that reflect the changing face of science toward larger, interdisciplinary research projects and efforts," Mayo acknowledges. "With this comes an increasing importance of strong centralized core facilities. Of course, with these challenges come new opportunities, and the long history of collaborative and interdisciplinary research in the department positions us well to take full advantage of these opportunities."

Outgoing Department Chair Jon Widom reveals his enthusiasm towards the ever-increasing opportunities in science today: "My outlook on research and academia is extremely favorable. I cannot imagine that there was ever a time in which it was more fun to work in our field than it is now."

"BMBCB's future is bright. Kelly has demonstrated over and over again that he is concerned foremost for the common good, and that he can and will work tirelessly on others' behalf. I expect that the rate at which good new things are happening in the department will accelerate under his leadership. BMBCB will become an even more exciting and pleasant place to be."

NEW PEOPLE



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

Heather Cates is a new Project Coordinator in the Morimoto Lab.

Cristian Cruz is a new Research Assistant in the Horvath Lab.

Akihiko Komuro is a new Post Doctoral Fellow in the Horvath Lab.

Drew Miller is a new Program Assistant/Laboratory Coordinator in the Mayo Lab.

Patrick Parisien is a new Lab Manager in the Horvath Lab.

Jason Rodriguez is a new Post Doctoral Fellow in the Horvath Lab.

Alexandar Stojanovic is a new Post Doctoral Fellow in the Morimoto Lab.

Kerren Swinger is a new Post Doctoral Fellow in the Mondragon Lab.

Jeffrey Thomas is a new Post Doctoral Fellow in the Beitel Lab.

MEET THE NEW IBIS STUDENTS

Nicole Auclair
Monmouth College

Tammy Chan
Univ. of North Texas

Jing Chen
Tsinghua Univ.

Renée Cilliers
Miami Univ.

Deborah Fenner
Univ. of Chicago

David Giljohann
Northwestern Univ.

Jonathan Ipsaro
Case Western Reserve Univ.

Rachel Jacobson
Univ. of Wisconsin

Richard Kang
Wheaton College

Karen Kantor
Indiana Univ.

Jacob Keller
St. John's Univ.

Jun Hyun Kim
Yonsei Univ.

Chengyi Lin
Tsinghua Univ.

Jack Lin
Northwestern Univ.

Yi-Fan Lin
National Taiwan U.

Emily Mazanka
Oakland Univ.

Kristen Meldi
Drury Univ.


Molly Nease
Ohio State Univ.

Kristi Schneider
Alma College

Samuel Seaver
Univ. of London

Zhen Zhao
Xiamen Univ.

ISO ANNOUNCEMENTS

 Be sure to mark your calendar for these upcoming ISO events:


September 14 – ISO Student Seminar and Lunch, 11:30 am, Cook 3118. Come hear your fellow students present their work.

September 15 - VWR sponsored Cubs game

September 16- Student-invited Seminar, 12:30pm, Pancoe Auditorium, 1st Floor. Gerard Evan will present a talk and will be available to meet with students. Contact Jaelyn Jansen (j-jansen2@northwestern.edu) for more information or to schedule an appointment.

September 24- Monthly Bagel Break, 3:30 pm, Tech Courtyard (Cook 3118 if bad weather). Bring your lab to this monthly event featuring free drinks, bagels, and donuts.

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.

The NIH Office of Biotechnology Activities (OBA) has multiple positions for managing and supporting the activities of the newly established National Science Advisory Board for Biosecurity. The NSABB will advise the federal government on policies for the oversight and conduct of dual use life sciences research. Dual use refers to research findings and technologies undertaken for legitimate purposes, but that can be misused to pose a biologic threat to public health and/or national security. Staff to the NSABB will be involved in planning and preparing for NSABB meetings, identifying dual use research issues, developing and analyzing draft policies for the oversight and conduct of dual use research, developing NSABB recommendations and reports regarding dual use research, outreach and training for IBCs, and in developing and implementing federal policies regarding dual use research. The NIH is recruiting for the positions of Executive Director, Senior Health Research Policy Advisor, and (four) Health Scientist Administrators/technical advisors/policy analysts/Medical Officer. The vacancy announcements have been extended until August 23, 2004. OBA is a component of the Office of Science Policy, within the office of the Director, NIH. See the NIH website at <http://www4.od.nih.gov/oba> for more information about the office, NSABB, and the employment opportunities listed below.

Executive Director, NSABB - Vacancy announcement #: OD-04-7794

Provides expert leadership and oversight of the dual use research program within OBA; manages and oversees the NSABB; advises NSABB and federal officials on national policies regarding the conduct and oversight of dual use research; oversees implementation of the recommendations of the NSABB by the federal government. Supervises a staff of approximately 12 professional and administrative support personnel. Candidates should have M.D. or Ph.D. with backgrounds in science policy, molecular biology, virology, microbiology, infectious diseases, biosafety, biosecurity, public health, veterinary medicine, or other relevant areas.

http://careerhere.nih.gov/CHPublic/HRShowVac.taf?&VACANCY_uid1=15644



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

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If you think you would enjoy receiving the Cell or would like to be removed from the mailing list, please refer to the following:

The Cell

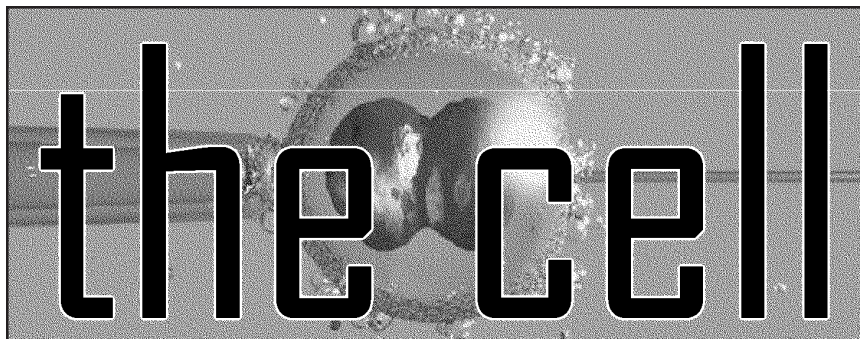
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