CHAIRMAN’S CORNER: HAPPY NEW YEAR!

After a hectic year, I just want to wish everyone connected with the department a joyful holiday season and to thank each and every one of you for your efforts. I know that you all work hard to keep the Department running in all areas (research, education and service) and that is truly appreciated!

FACULTY NOTES: CONFERENCES & PRESENTATIONS

Dr. David Mu presented a departmental seminar at Penn State University in the Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, on October 10th. His seminar title was “The Odyssey of Cancer Gene Amplification Research.” He also co-chaired the NIH Cancer Drug Development and Therapeutics Study Section meeting in San Francisco on November 17th and 18th.

Dr. Neel Krishna presented “New Drug for Safe Blood Transfusions,” September 30th to the Department of Biological Sciences at Old Dominion University.

Dr. Woong-Ki Kim gave the invited presentation, “Expression and Phosphorylation of SAMHD1 Increases with Viral Loads in the Brains of SIV-Infected Rhesus Macaques” at the 34th Annual Symposium on Nonhuman Primate Models for AIDS held October 11th through 14th in New Orleans.

Dr. Elena Galkina presented “Plasticity of T Cells in Atherosclerosis” at the Cardiovascular Research Institute, University of Rochester, in September.

Dr. Patric Lundberg was interviewed by The Virginian Pilot columnist Roger Chesly for a September 16th article entitled, “5 Second Rule Fails the Science Test.”

Dr. Amy Tang was featured on September 10th in the Your Health Section of The Virginian Pilot in the article entitled, “EVMS Researcher Explores Biomarkers in Hopes of Improving Cancer Care.”

Dr. Richard Britten was an invited participant in the “Expert Workshop on the Radiobiology of Proton Therapy” held in Dresden, Germany, November 10th through 12th. Dr. Britten also was the symposium organizer and chair of “Big Data; Omics,” the 62nd annual meeting of the Radiation Research Society held in October in Hawaii, where he also presented “Effects of Galactic Cosmic Radiation on the CNS.”

Dr. Dianne Daniel served as a repeat reviewer for the Journal of Cellular Physiology in October.

Dr. Edward Johnson, professor emeritus served on the NIH NeuroAIDS and other End-organ Diseases Study Section [NAED] in November.
Dr. Dianne Daniel and co-investigators, Dr. Edward Johnson and Dr. Earl Godfrey, were awarded Vice Dean for Research Grant Enhancement Fund (GEF) grant funding for a project entitled “Assessment of Synthetic Peptide for Pur Based Therapy for ALS.”

Monicah Njogu, graduate research assistant in Dr. Amy Tang’s lab successfully defended her PhD thesis, “Dissection of SIAH2 E3 Ligase Function and Molecular Targeting Mechanism in Human Cancer Cells.” Congratulations Dr. Njogu!

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**GRANT SUBMISSIONS**

Drs. Neel Krishna (PI) and Kenji Cunnion (Co-I) submitted an NIH R21 grant entitled: “Peptide Inhibitors of Oxidative Heme Toxicity in Acute Hemolysis” for the November 21st deadline.


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**CHALKTALKS**

Dr. David Mu – October 4th - “Functional dissection of secreted vesicles”

Dr. Tsuyoshi Hasegawa, Research Scholar in the Kerscher Lab – October 18th “Could the non-coding RNA miR-888 cluster be an effective target for prostate cancer therapy?”

Dr. Julius Nyalwidhe – November 1st - “Role of NEFL in prostate cancer progression”
**PUBLICATIONS**

Kenji Cunnion, MD, Pamela Hair, Neel Krishna, PhD, and Clinton Enos, MD were co-authors of “Discriminating the hemolytic risk of blood type A plasmas using the Complement Hemolysis Using Human Erythrocytes (CHUHE) assay,” published in the journal, Transfusion.


Dr. Woong-Ki Kim authored “Proliferation of Perivascular Macrophages Contributes to the Development of Encephalitic Lesions in HIV-Infected Humans and in SIV-Infected Macaques” published in Scientific Reports. Co-authors were his assistants, Adam Filipowicz and Allison Lindgren, and Dr. Edward Johnson.

Dr. Woong-Ki Kim was the senior author of “Development of Real-Time PCR for Quantitation of Simian Immunodeficiency Virus 2-LTR Circles,” published in the October issue of the Journal of Medical Primatology.

Dr. Richard Britten co-authored “Cosmic radiation exposure and persistent cognitive dysfunction” recently published in the journal, Scientific Reports; and was the lead author of “Performance in hippocampus- and PFC-dependent cognitive domains are not concomitantly impaired in rats exposed to 20 cGy of 1 GeV/n 56Fe particles,” published in the journal, Life Sciences in Space Research.


**NOTEWORTHY**

Dr. Woong-Ki Kim was selected as the recipient of one of three faculty awards for excellence presented by Dean Homan at a ceremony on October 26th at the Norfolk Waterside Marriott. This award recognizes faculty members who excel in their work and consistently perform beyond expectations. This definitely describes Dr. Kim!

**ABSTRACTS**

Dr. Edward Johnson and collaborators, Dr. Dianne Daniel and Dr. Earl Godfrey, submitted the abstract entitled, “TZIP, a synthetic Pur-protein-based peptide, highlights a pathway linking CNS actions of Pur-alpha in HIV-1 infection and in amyotrophic lateral sclerosis” for the 14th International Symposium on NeuroVirology in October.

**PATENTS**

FACULTY AND OFFICE STAFF

Julie A. Kerry, PhD
Chairman

Ann E. Campbell, PhD
Associate Dean for Student Affairs

William J. Wasilenko, PhD
Associate Dean for Research

Oliver John Semmes, PhD
Director, The Leroy T. Canoles Jr. Cancer Research Center

Minglei Bian, PhD
Richard P. Ciavarra, PhD
Dianne C. Daniel, PhD
Elena V. Galkina, PhD
Xin Guo, PhD
Aurora Esquela-Kerscher, PhD
Woong-Ki Kim, PhD

Neel K. Krishna, PhD
Rasjasekaran Koteeswaran, MD
Patric S. J. Lundberg, PhD
David Mu, PhD
Julius O. Nyalwidhe, PhD
Julia Sharp, PhD
Amy H. Tang, PhD
David A. Taylor-Fishwick, PhD
Lifang Yang, PhD

Secondary Appointments

Richard A. Britten, PhD
Dept. of Radiation Oncology & Biophysics

Kenji M. Cunnion, MD
Dept. of Pediatrics

Nancy M. Khardori, MD, PhD
Dept. of Internal Medicine
Tushar Shah, M.D.,
Dept of Pediatrics

Adjunct Faculty
Howard Duncan, PhD
Norfolk State University Dept. of Biology
Richard Heller, PhD
Old Dominion University
Sunil Joshi, PhD
Old Dominion University

Volunteer Faculty
Edward Oldfield, MD
Internal Medicine, EVMS
Daniel Sonenshine, PhD
Old Dominion University, Dept. of Biology

Emeritus Faculty
Kenneth D. Somers, PhD
George L. Wright Jr., PhD
Edward M. Johnson, PhD

Administrative
Nina (Woodrina) Joyner
Barbara Conyers
Department Administrator