Dear BMS Students and Faculty,

With the 2014-2015 academic year well underway, it is my pleasure to welcome you to the inaugural BMS Newsletter and to update you on new developments in the department. First and foremost, I would like to extend a warm welcome to the incoming class of doctoral and masters degree students, as well as our BMS-MPH affiliated students, who herald from across the United States and abroad. The Department is now home to more than 40 students, including three Carson Carr Fellows and three NSF-sponsored Bridge to Doctorate recipients. The Department has grown at the faculty level as well, with the addition of Drs. Herschkowitz, St. George, and Ciotta bringing with them expertise in breast cancer, viral diagnostics and virus evolution and ecology. As part of the new academic year, we have initiated a monthly departmental student research seminar series, providing for the first time in several years a forum for students to showcase their research in front of their peers. The Department continues to be extremely productive in the realm of student publications, attendance at national and international meetings and student and faculty outreach. Finally, we are investing considerable effort in keeping the Departmental webpage up to date with listing of ongoing seminar announcements and highlights of recent student and faculty accomplishments and awards. Please check the webpage regularly for news updates over the course of the semester.

Student Seminar Series

During the Fall 2014 semester the Department of Biomedical Sciences has redesigned the required Student Seminar Series. Students are required to attend talks given by senior students in the program, all seminars are held in CMS Collaboratory 2pm, 10/16, 11/13, 2/26, 3/26, 4/23

October 16, 2014
Devon Fitzgerald
William Lainhart
Alicia Salinero

November 13, 2014
Elisabeth Knoll
Kara Levinson
Ada Sedova

www.albany.edu/sph/bms
Fall 2014 Incoming Class

Brenda Trevizo, PhD

Danielle Hindes, PhD

Gabriele Banulyte, PhD

Kate Prussing, PhD

Lauren Cooper, PhD

Sean Fagan, PhD

Brittany O’Brien, MS

Cailyn Cowan, MS

Christopher Hunt, MS

Leneea Warner, MS
Faculty Publications, grants, etc...


Welcome New Faculty

The BMS department has added three new faculty to the department:

Dr. Jason Herschkowitz
Dr. Herschkowitz works with IncRNAs to develop a greater understanding of the molecular mechanisms that regulate breast cancer stem cells — critical for devising new treatments that selectively target these aggressive and therapy-resistant cancer cells. He ultimately seeks to develop mechanisms that will sensitize tumors to conventional therapies. http://www.albany.edu/cancergenomics/people/herschkowitz.html

Dr. Kirsten St. George
Dr. St. George is Chief of the Laboratory of Viral Diseases, where she directs the research and development work, has general oversight of the service laboratories, and specifically directs the Special Projects Unit and the Virology Proficiency Testing Laboratory. Current projects involve developing arrays for the detection of respiratory viruses and selecting agents, and investigating the dynamics of evolution of drug resistance in influenza viruses. http://www.wadsworth.org/resnres/bios/stgeorge.shtml

Dr. Alex Ciota
Arbovirus evolution, adaptation, mosquito biology and ecology, host-pathogen interactions, genomics and evolutionary theory. The majority of these studies focus on understanding how West Nile virus genetics influences interactions with Culex mosquitoes and, ultimately, viral transmission. alexander.ciota@health.ny.gov

Student Achievements

Devon Fitzgerald, a 4th year BMS PHD student, has recently published her first - author research paper. In this work, Devon redefined the E. coli flagellar regulatory network, and provided new insight into the temporal orchestration of gene expression that coordinates the flagellar assembly process. http://www.plosgenetics.org/article/info%3Adoi%2F10.1371%2Fjournal.pgen.1004649

Peer Mentor Program

The Department of Biomedical sciences is launching a student peer mentoring program this fall. All new PhD students are receiving an upper level peer mentor to assist in navigating through the academic, research and social expectations of the Doctoral program. BMS would like to thank Kara Levinson, Bill Lainhart, Cristina Herrera, Alicia Salinero, Patrick Murphy and for their willingness to support first year students by volunteering their time and expertise.
Bridge to the Doctorate
During the summer of 2013 the University at Albany and Stony Brook University received a National Science Foundation Grant to support former LSAMP participants who pursue a graduate degree in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM). The Department of Biomedical Sciences has three first year students who are supported by the Bridge to Doctorate Fellowship. For the past three years the Department has also had three students supported by the Carson Carr Fellowship.

Carson Carr Fellows
Cristina Herrera, PhD-Dr. Mantis
Lauren Rose-Boehnlein, PhD-Dr. Welch
Alicia Salinero, PhD- Dr. Morse

Bridge to Doctorate Fellows
Cailyn Cowan, MS
Brenda Trevizo, PhD
Leneea Warner, MS

Important Events:
School of Public Health Open House:
Tuesday, October 28, 6-8pm - MPH students
Saturday, November 8, 10-12 - all prospective students
Location: East Campus, 1 University Place, Rensselaer, NY 12144

BMS Website
Please check out the BMS website for the latest department news and events. A video profile of Dr. Joe Wade has been added to the faculty section. We hope to bring more video profiles of students and faculty in the coming weeks

Important Dates:
Classes suspended: 9/24 (2:35pm)-9/26 (12:35pm)
Student Seminar: 10/16, 11/13, 2/26, 3/26, 4/23
Spring Registration Begins: 10/15
Thanksgiving Break: 10/26-10/30
Last Day of Classes: 12/9
First day of Spring semester: 1/21

University resources
Snow emergency 476-SNOW
Please note that at the time the Snow Emergency goes into effect you must move your car to the even side of the road for the first 24h. After the first 24h from the start of the Emergency all vehicles are to be moved to the odd side of the street for the remaining 24h. More information: http://www.albany.com/winter/snow-removal.cfm