Dear faculty and fellow students,

On behalf of the BGSA, I would like to wish you all a happy New Year! I hope you had an enjoyable—unseasonably warm—winter break. The temperature may be dropping, but don’t completely shut yourself in the lab just yet. We have several great events on the docket for January and February that are sure to put a little spring in your step! Between our upcoming writing seminar, annual ski trip, and much-anticipated Doctoral Directions seminar, I assure you the next few months will fly by. It will be spring before you know it! Here’s to a productive and stress-free 2015.

Sincerely,
Greg Logan
BGSA President

BGSA hosts 19th annual symposium

On October 29th, 2014 the Clinical and Translational Science and Computational Biology programs hosted the 19th annual BGSA Research Symposium. Each year the symposium highlights research being done by students in all of the graduate programs around the school of medicine. This year we had over 120 student posters and presentations from 15 departments. Many more students, faculty, and staff joined us that day to see the talks and posters. One highlight of the day was the Diasuke Nakada Memorial Lecture, delivered by Dr. Eric D. Green, head of the National Human Genome Research Institute. Dr. Green spoke about the history and future of human genomics, breaking the research into five key areas and highlighting opportunities for future investigators including the students in attendance.

Congratulations to the award winners recognized at the symposium. Annual awards include the Stephen L. Phillips Scientific Achievement Award for the best student-authored, peer-reviewed publication of the year, the Distinguished Mentor Award, and the Most Well Rounded Student Award. Lastly, thank you to everyone who helped make the symposium happen by serving on committees, submitting abstracts, judging posters, and supporting the BGSA.

- Laura Tipton

BGSA goes bowling

Graduate students braved the blustery wind and snow of November to don their bowling shoes at Arsenal Lanes in Lawrenceville. Participants hailed from many different programs and years. Some students showcased their skills and competitive nature including Ali Nagle (Mol Pharm, 2nd yr), who bowled the first-round high score of 145. Others were lucky to bowl a total of 39. Students enjoyed this opportunity to blow off some steam from the stresses of coursework, experiments, and symposium presentations. The event was a success and the BGSA hopes to sponsor other fun evening adventures in the future including a possible Dave & Busters trip.

- Abby Stahl

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2015 IBGP Interviews:
- January 9-10
- January 23-24
- February 6-7
- February 20-21
- March 6-7

To volunteer for recruiting events, email Clare Gauss: cgauss@medschool.pitt.edu
Students celebrate end of semester at Peter’s Pub

The BGSA Happy Hour on December 10th, 2014 was truly a treat. After a long semester, especially for first year graduate students, it was a great time to decompress and celebrate a job well done. Held at Peter’s Pub in the heart of Oakland, there was plenty of comfortable seating, an amazing sound system for playing custom playlists, and a huge dance floor. Students danced the night away and took to the dance floor, listening to music ranging from Queen to Iggy Azalea.

One of the greatest aspects of the night was the interaction between older graduate students and the first years. Opportunities like this provide a great forum for discussions on career path, struggles in graduate school and encouragement along the way. It is one of the strongest points of the program here at Pitt, that students are so interpersonal and engaged. If you are ever wondering if you should come to the next BGSA happy hour, just do it! You can’t be disappointed with free drinks and food, and you just might have an amazing time, like we all did.—Ademayowa Balogun

Upcoming events

BGSA Annual Ski Trip
Location: Seven Springs Ski Resort
Date: February 28, 2015

First-year representatives Ademayowa Balogun and Gregory Buchan are pleased to inform you all of the Ski Trip for 2015. We are in the process of booking the venue, but it is planned to be at Seven Springs Ski Resort. The website for the venue (www.7springs.com) describes all of the activities and opportunities available. It promises to be a very good time. If you have never skied before, you won’t be the only one, and there are instructional staff at the resort who will make your first experience comfortable and fun. For those who may find themselves desiring to stay warm by the fire, there are plenty of non-ski-related activities, including an extensive spa with several amenities. So whether you rest and relax, or take to the slopes, Seven Springs is guaranteed to be a relaxing getaway that will leave you energized and ready for a New Year! - Ademayowa Balogun

BGSA / WMSA Writing Workshop
Location: BST 1095
Date: January 15 & 22, 2015
Time: 5-6:30 PM

The WMSA and BGSA will host a 2-part writing workshop on January 15th and 22nd. The goal of this series is to help students organize and write scientific publications. The first session will be a lecture to introduce publication organization, approaches to writing, and the review process. The second session will be a workshop where students will have their abstract or introduction reviewed by a post-doc or faculty member in a small group discussion. Register online at: students.medschool.pitt.edu/wsma/?p=397. For additional details, please contact Nyla Naim (nyn1@pitt.edu) or Rachael Gordon (gordon.rachael@medstudent.pitt.edu).—Nyla Naim

Next BGSA Meeting
Date: February 2, 2015
Location: BST 995
Time: 1:30-2:30 PM
Abstracts

Molecular Biophysics and Structural Biology


Naima Sharaf, Ryan Slack, Angela Gronenborn, and Rieko Ishima. Structural Integrity of the Ribonuclease H Domain in the HIV-1 RT. Poster session and talk presented at: International Conference on Magnetic Resonance in Biological Systems; 2014 August 24-29; Dallas, TX.

Cell & Molecular Pathology


Molecular Pharmacology


Barnes CO, et. al. 2014. Structural basis of transcription: Crystal structure of a transcribing RNA Polymerase II complex. ASBMB Symposium: Transcriptional Regulation of Chromatin & RNA Polymerase II, Snowbird, UT. (Best Poster Award and Oral)


Woodcock CS, et. al. 2014. Therapeutic Actions of Electrophilic Nitroalkenes via Inhibition of the NFκB Pathway in Triple Negative Breast Cancer. The Annual Meeting of the Nitric Oxide- Nitrite/Nitrate 2014 Conference, Cleveland, OH.

Publications

Molecular Biophysics and Structural Biology


Cell & Molecular Pathology

Publications continued

Cell & Molecular Pathology
Oczypok EA and Oury TD. Electron microscopy remains the gold standard for the diagnosis of epithelial malignant mesothelioma: A case study. Ultrastruct Pathol. Epub 2014 Sep 30. PMID: 25268063

Molecular Pharmacology


Biomedical Informatics


Computational Biology
Photo Gallery