

# MasterS Connection



## Record Number of Poster Submissions Helps Make the 34<sup>th</sup> Annual Sigma Xi Student Research Day a Big Success

### Registration Reminder

Students can register online for courses in the Summer (online until June 10th) and Fall terms. To view a list of courses being offered, along with their day, time, and location, visit: <http://www.jefferson.edu/jcgs>

Some of the brightest students in the Delaware Valley were given the chance to display their research on Thursday, April 12<sup>th</sup> 2007 when they attended the 34<sup>th</sup> annual Sigma Xi Student Research Day here at Thomas Jefferson University. The Research Day is jointly sponsored by the Jefferson College of Graduate Studies, Jefferson Medical College and the TJU Chapter of Sigma Xi (currently celebrating its 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary). There were a record 96 poster submissions, comprising entries from Jefferson graduate and medical students as well as undergraduate students from Bryn Athyn College, Chestnut Hill College, Haverford College, Lafayette College, Lincoln University, Richard Stockton College, University of the Sciences, and Ursinus College. Students presented their research to their peers and to faculty judges. Undergraduate student posters were visited by graduate student judges. The judges

selected a winner from each grouping of presenters. Ten high school students and their mentors also toured the posters as part of a visit to Jefferson coordinated by the TJU Science Outreach program and JCGS.

There were four student presenters in the JCGS Master of Science category. Donna M. Brennan (M.S. Biomedical Sciences) received an award for research she conducted in the laboratory of Dr. My Mahoney. Her poster was titled "The Dark Side of Desmosomal Cadherins".

Following the research presentations, David Julius Ph.D., Professor and newly appointed Chair of the Department of Physiology at the University of California, San Francisco, presented the 2007 William Potter Lecture, "From Peppers to Peppermints: Natural Products as Probes of the Pain Pathway" in which he discussed how a novel family of thermosensitive ion channels contribute to the detection of heat and cold and how their activity is modulated in response to tissue injury and pain. This well-attended lecture was presented to an audience of students, faculty, and guests. The lecture was followed by presentation of the awards and a reception for participants, guests, and Dr. Julius.

The Sigma Xi chapter would like to thank all of the faculty and student judges, student participants, and all of the other people who donated time or energy to make the day a success!

-Alan Cahill Ph.D., *President of TJU Chapter of Sigma Xi*



Students discussing their posters



Winners with speaker Dr. David Julius (right of center)



MS Student winner, Donna Brennan with speaker Dr. David Julius

# Congratulations, Thesis Presenters!



Rebecca Rivera, Amy Price, Kevin Redding defending the-  
sis.



Thank you to all of those who supported our students and attended presentations.

## Biomedical Sciences

**Tamara Edwards:** Investigating the Role of a Splice Variant of CDX2 on Promoting the Tumorigenic Potential *In Vivo* of Human Esophageal Adenocarcinoma Cells

**Mizue Terai:** Human Interleukin 10 Receptor 1/IgG1-Fe Fusion Proteins: Immunoadhesins for Human IL-10 with Therapeutic Potential

**Mary Kate Whitecavage:** Lentiviral Expression of Procollagen VII; A Potential Gene Therapy Strategy for Epidermolysis Bullosa

## Microbiology

**Kate Flagler:** The Role of Bone Marrow Derived Mesenchymal Stem Cells in Cutaneous Blister Healing in Dys-trophic Epidermolysis Bullosa

**Lauren Fuchsel:** The Role of Adiponectin in Suppressing Reactive Oxygen Species Production in Endothelial Cells

**Kari Habursky:** Disruption of Collagen-Induced Angiogenesis by Low MW Arylamide Scaffold Inhibitors of  $\alpha 2\beta 1$  Integrin Function

**Thomas Kelly:** Development and Qualification of a Functional Endocrine Pancreatic Assay in the Beagle Dog

**Munir Mosaheb:** Identification of Adenovirus Specific CD8+ T Cell Epitopes from Hexon Capsid Protein

**Olusegun Oke:** Antiviral Effects of Liquid Isoflurane on Human Immunodeficiency Virus, Type 1 (HIV-1)

**Amy Price:** Characterization of Heavy Chain Receptor Editing in Mice with Transgenes Encoding an Anti-DNA Antibody

**Jody Provencher:** Mercy Ships' Implementation of Community Health Evangelism

(CHE) in Northwest-ern Honduras

**Kevin Redding:** CXCR2 Dependent Neutrophil Chemotaxis to the Parasitic Nematode *Strongyloides Stercoralis*

**Rebecca Rivera:** *In Vitro* Expression of Hepatitis B Core Antigen-Induced Suppression of IFN-Gamma Responses

**Menka Sanghvi:** Testing Preventive Drugs on a Rat Model of Recurrent Head-ache

**Alexis Stephens:** Identification By Phage Display of Peptide Targets of Autoantibodies in Autoimmune Hemolytic Anemia

## Pharmacology

**Patrick Bailey:** A Sensitive Assay for Detection of Morphine

**Nicholas Fotiadis:** Polymorphic Genes in the Human Immune System: (1) Expression of Antibodies and

(2) Analysis of HLA Genetics

**Edward Hayes, MD (K-30):** Based on Cost-Effective Decisions Analysis, Nifedipine Should Be the "First-Line" Tocolytic

**Elton Kong:** Silencing of Blood-Brain Barrier Tight Junction Protein ZO-1 by Viral Delivered siRNA

**Paul Noto:** Differential Expression of RB Family Proteins in Non-Small Cell and Small Cell Lung Cancer Cells

**Jeffrey Riggio, MD (K-30):** Predictors of Informed Decision Making in Prostate Cancer Screening

**Daniel Salerno, MD (K-30):** Head Computer Tomography in the Medical Intensive Care Unit: Description of a Cohort and Factors That Correlate with a New Finding on the Head CT

**Luke Sergott:** Type I Collagen Promotes Angiogenesis *In Vivo*

## Information Session

Tell your friends!

Wednesday, May 9th 2007, 5:30 PM – 7 PM

Jefferson Alumni Hall, M-61

Light dinner will be served.

Learn about the school, our Master's programs, and financial aid opportunities.

RSVP: Lisa Chosed, 3-0154 or [msbasicsciences@jefferson.edu](mailto:msbasicsciences@jefferson.edu)

## Postdoctoral Research Symposium & Career Fair

The 2nd Annual Postdoctoral Research Symposium (PRS) and Career Fair will be on **June 19th 2007** at Jefferson (Bluemle Life Sciences Building).

We hope to have a greater number of oral presentations and an **expanded Career and Vendor Fair.**

Our keynote speaker will be Dr. Ken-

neth Fischbeck, Chief of the Neurogenetics Branch of the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke.

Please mark the date. **A list of participating companies will be available later in the spring.**

Support the postdoc students and take advantage of the Career Fair.

Please contact

[Lisa.Kozlowski@Jefferson.edu](mailto:Lisa.Kozlowski@Jefferson.edu) with questions.

