CMB E-Newsletter 11.17.17

Make sure to check out the Graduate School’s professional development event calendar, which has a comprehensive list of all professional development events around campus for grad students and postdocs. You can find the schedule at: http://grad.wisc.edu/events

Professional Development Seminar: TODAY, Nov. 17 at 3:30pm
There is a new tool available for all CMB students who are uncertain about what career paths are available after graduation. An alumni database has been built that consists of CMB and MDTP alumni who graduated between 2007 and 2011. It can be used to 1) understand alumni career trajectories, both broadly and individually and to 2) network with individual alumni in your career of interest via LinkedIn. This seminar will explain why the tool is necessary, how it was built, and important topics for the CMB and MDTP communities to discuss before the tool becomes openly available. To learn more, please join us Friday November 17th from 3:30-4:30p in MSB 2511.

Resources Regarding Proposed Change to Tax Code Tuition Remission Exemption
You may have heard that in early mockups of H.R. 1 The Tax Cut and Jobs Act, there is language that would eliminate a section of current IRS code exempting tuition remission for graduate students as taxable income. A repeal of this section of tax code would lead to an unaffordable increase in taxable income and make the pursuit of a graduate degree much more challenging, if not impossible, for a large number of students. The University of Wisconsin-Madison’s Office of Federal Relations is more aware of the provision and has been in contact with Wisconsin’s congressional delegation to communicate the potential adverse effects of the proposal. More information can be found in the November 10 email from Dean Karpus to all grad students. Here is a link provided by the UW-Madison Office of Federal Relations to a draft letter developed by ACE to assist graduate students and others to engage with Congress: https://www2.acenet.edu/actioncenter/?vsrc=%2fcampaigns%2f55189%2frespond. The Graduate School will continue to work with the Office of Federal Relations and update their website, https://grad.wisc.edu/, as new information becomes available.
*Join the UW Challenge!*

The goal of [The UW Challenge](#) is to enlist all members of the campus community to commit to Creating Inclusion and Overcoming Bias. Achieving these goals requires hard work and sustained effort, but they are central to UW-Madison’s core values of inclusion and diversity. These values are sometimes threatened by incidents of bias and hate, and joining The UW Challenge is one way to speak up and say that these incidents do not represent us as Badgers. We want all Badgers to speak up about Creating Inclusion and Overcoming Bias is important to them and strongly oppose threats to the values and environment of our University. Click the link below to join The UW Challenge. Make your voice heard - let everyone inside and outside of UW-Madison know that we face difficult national and worldwide challenges with intelligence, compassion, and rational discourse. [Join The UW Challenge](#).

*Microbes in Health & Disease Training Grant Seminar - Tuesday, Nov. 21*

On Tuesday, November 21 at 4pm, Julia Kreznar of the Rey Lab will give her talk, “Identifying the genetic determinants of gut microbiota composition on a western diet,” in room 2511 MSB. For additional information, contact Allison Bauer at [ambauer6@wisc.edu](mailto:ambauer6@wisc.edu).

*Volunteer Needed for Science Day at Waupun Rock River Intermediate School - Thursday, Nov. 30*

We will have 45-minute long STEM related activity sessions with 4th graders in classrooms starting around 11:50am and ending around 3:00pm. We will repeat our activity four times with different sections. We are looking for one more presenter/group. Our goal is to get students excited about STEM research and the simple ideas behind them. The aim is to convey that science is a part of our daily lives and not just confined to textbooks and laboratories. It also gives presenters a chance to present their research to a classroom audience and look at our work from different perspectives. We will co-ordinate transport from UW and you will be reimbursed for travel. We will also be treated to lunch at Culver’s! Please contact Harisha Rajanala at [hrajanala@wisc.edu](mailto:hrajanala@wisc.edu) to sign up and for more details.

*Future Faculty Series Event: Writing a Teaching Philosophy Statement - Thursday, Nov. 30*

Join our Writing a Teaching Philosophy Statement workshop ([Thursday, November 30, 1-3pm, online in Blackboard Collaborate](#)) and learn how to develop your own teaching philosophy in a way that can strengthen your instructional approaches and enhance your faculty application or promotion and tenure review. Register [here](#).

*Postdoctoral Fellow in Disease Mechanism Studies: UC-San Diego*

A postdoctoral scholar position is available at the University of California, San Diego in the Laboratory of Dr. Xin Sun, Professor of Pediatrics and Biological Sciences. Dr. Sun was a CMB faculty member and went to UCSD last summer. Her lab ([xinsunlab.org](http://xinsunlab.org)) focuses on disease mechanism studies, using interdisciplinary approaches to explore intersections of developmental biology, stem cell biology, genomics, epigenetic, neuroscience, immunology, and physiology. Specific areas of investigation include: 1) sensory and immune perception of the lung; 2) long-term outcomes of prematurity; 3) cellular and molecular feedbacks in building the lung; 4) modeling of patient variants for disease mechanisms. For more information, click [here](#).
To apply, send a CV, statement of past research experiences and future career goals, expected availability date, and contact information of three references to Dr. Xin Sun at xinsun@ucsd.edu.

**Career Exploration Series - Videos of Past Events Available**

A list of upcoming and past events offered by the Office of Postdoctoral Studies can be found here: [https://postdoc.wisc.edu/careers/career-exploration-series/](https://postdoc.wisc.edu/careers/career-exploration-series/). Past events that have been recorded can also be found at this link, including the following titles:

- Careers in Biotech and Pharma
- Careers in Government Research Labs
- Careers in Research-Intensive Institutions: Assessing Your Competitiveness
- Careers as a Staff Scientist in Academia
- Careers in Research Cores
- Careers in Data Science
- Careers in Patent Law and Intellectual Property

**LSC Courses Available to STEM Graduate Students**

A few Life Sciences Communication graduate level courses are being offered this spring to STEM graduate students! They are LSC 560: Scientific Writing (3cr.), LSC 700: Colloquium in Life Sciences Communication (1cr.), and LSC 875: Science & Social Media (3cr.). There is also the availability of a doctoral minor. Details for that can be found [here](https://postdoc.wisc.edu/careers/career-exploration-series/), and all courses listed above count toward the 10-credit minor!

**New CMB Elective Course: Molecular and Cellular Organogenesis**

The CMB Program has added a new elective course, CRB 650: Molecular and Cellular Organogenesis, which will be offered in Spring 2018. The instructor for each unit will be a different scientist recognized for advancing the understanding of the development of the organ being studied, and the course is co-directed by CMB faculty trainers Youngsook Lee and Grace Boekhoff-Falk. This course is intended for graduate and advanced undergraduate students interested in developmental/regenerative biology, stem cell biology, and molecular basis of normal organ formation. The course will cover the most current knowledge of the basic principles of organogenesis including the molecular and cellular pathways leading to normal organ development. Tissue/organ specification, differentiation, and developmental processes, focusing on molecular signals and associated signal transduction pathways and transcriptional regulation will be covered in depth. Depending on the organ, current understanding of the role of stem cells and the molecular basis for congenital and acquired disease will be included. The Developmental Biology course (Zoology 470) by Jeff Hardin is recommended, but not required. Please contact the CMB program for a complete syllabus.

**Graduate Student TA needed for MMI/Biochem 575 - Spring 2018**

“Biology of Viruses” is a 2-credit, upper-level undergraduate course that teaches the molecular principles of general virology. Offered in the spring semester, this lecture-based class meets twice per week (Tues/Thurs, 11am). It has an enrollment of 50-75 undergraduates who are mostly interested in medicine, public health, or research. For the syllabus, go to [Virology575-syllabus-17](https://postdoc.wisc.edu/careers/career-exploration-series/) - the course received a student score of 4.7 (of 5.0) for overall student satisfaction. The two Das lead a team-taught discussion and present a lecture(s) in virology. This opportunity is for graduate students to gain experience in lecturing, writing and grading exams and problem sets, and working with undergrads. Must have a strong background in molecular biology and biochemistry; experience in virology is preferred but not required.
background in molecular biology and biochemistry - experience in virology is preferred but not required. Das must make a professional commitment to help for the entire spring semester. For additional info or to apply, contact the instructors: Paul Friesen (pfriesen@wisc.edu) or Andrew Merle (amehle@wisc.edu). The deadline for making a commitment is December 20.

3-Minute Thesis is Returning to UW-Madison! - Saturday, Dec. 16
Can YOU explain your research in 3 minutes? Find out! 3-Minute Thesis is an international competition in which PhD students hone essential career skills, communicating their research to a general audience. STEM students are eligible to compete and win cash prizes! Registration has met capacity for competitors, but please feel welcome to attend the competition on Saturday, December 16 from 10am-12pm in H.F. DeLuca Forum, WID.

Postdoc Position Opening at Marine Biological Laboratory
A postdoctoral position is available at the laboratory of Dr. Kristin Gribble at the Marine Biological Laboratory (University of Chicago) in Woods Hole, MA, to study the role of mitochondrial homeostasis in neurodegenerative disease. This project takes a multidisciplinary approach, using phenotypic, transcriptomic, genetic, genomic, epigenetic, biochemical, and imaging methods in a novel animal model system, the monogonont rotifer. Applicants should possess a PhD or MD in molecular biology, cell biology, biochemistry, genetics, or a related field. The ideal candidate will have a record of scientific rigor, productivity, and creativity; the ability to work both independently and as part of a team; and a strong publication record. Highly motivated individuals with experience in other model systems are encouraged to apply. To apply, please submit: (1) a cover letter describing your research goals and motivation for joining the lab, (2) a CV, (3) a 1-2 page research statement, and (4) contact information for three references. To apply, click here. For more information regarding the position, feel free to contact Dr. Gribble at kgribble@mbl.edu. This position is available immediately, and is renewable annually depending upon progress.

Molecular Biology/Microbiology Research Scientist Position
Solutions Through Innovative Technologies, Inc. has an opening for a Molecular Biology/Microbiology Research Scientist! Qualified candidates will possess a Masters/PhD in immunology, microbiology, cell biology, or cellular immunology with proven experience with human and rodent immune and epithelial cells, both in vitro and in vivo. Must provide strong technical leadership for project direction and troubleshooting, as well as the ability to work well with other scientists within a multidisciplinary team. The candidate will have a demonstrable track record of participating in research projects with contributions as an author to high-impact, peer-reviewed publications. Candidate must possess strong oral and written communication skills and an ability to thrive in a dynamic matrix research environment. If interested, please forward your resume to kim.haskins@sti-tec.com.