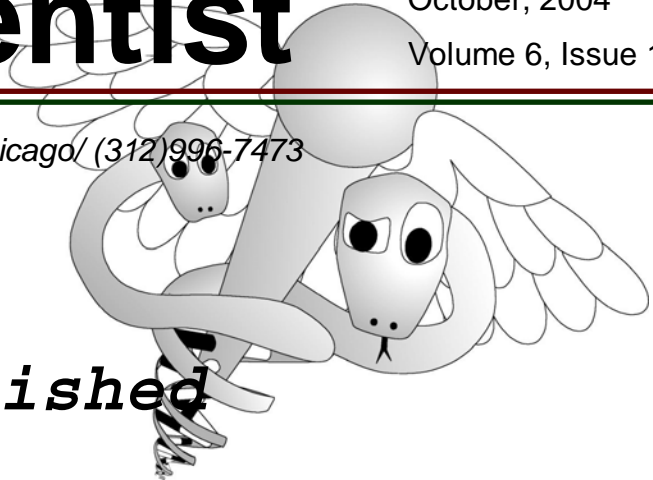


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## Research Retreat Re-established



### What's on the Inside:

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- ◆ Wedding Bells, page 2
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The MD/PhD Training Program's Annual Research Symposium returned to an off-site retreat format from Friday afternoon, August 27, through lunch on Saturday, August 28, at the beautiful Eagle Ridge Inn and Resort in historic Galena, IL. Thirty students attended: Sheila Barry, Michael Broman, Terry Chiganos, Rahul Davé, Scott Feldman, Ananda Fine, Pete Flevaris, Christina Floreani, Kharma Foucher, Ron Jackups, Arpita Kadakia, Irene Klein, Nick Knaebel, Joe Kuechle, Chris Lin, Brenton Mar, David Moons, Michelle Muza-Moons, Masa Nanamori, Ajay Nemani, Evan Osmundson, Mark Pilkinton, David Ramsey, Brad Ruzicka, George Scaria, Roy Smetana, Nate Stitzel and Jon Waxman.

In addition to Dr. Larry Tobacman and Roberta Bernstein, the Program Director and Coordinator, the group was joined by five guest faculty members: Athar Chishti, PhD, Professor, Dept. of Pharmacology; Edward P. Cohen, MD, Professor, Dept. of Microbiology and Immunology and Past Director of the MD/PhD Program; Xiaoping Du, PhD, Associate Professor, Dept. of Pharmacology; R. Brooks Robey, MD, Assistant Professor of Medicine & Physiology, Dept. of Nephrology; and R. John Solaro, PhD, Distinguished University Professor and Head, Dept. of Physiology and Biophysics.

The event was planned and the site chosen by the members of the Students Activities Committee under the chairmanship of Ilene Klein and Roy Smetana. Situated among rolling hills of northwestern Illinois, the Eagle Ridge Inn is a famous and popular venue for escape-from-Chicago retreats. The students were lodged in gorgeous, albeit crowded 3-bedroom condominium townhouses, located on one of the resort's three golf courses. The faculty members were lodged in hotel rooms in the main lodge and conference center.

The program started on Friday with a poster session during a welcome reception from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. Seven students presented posters: Michael Broman, Terry Chiganos, Rahul Davé, Irene Klein, Cris Lin, Masa Nanamori, George Scaria, Roy Smetana and Jon Waxman.

After the session a formal dinner was served on a beautiful patio overlooking the lake and the rolling hills in the distance. Following dinner, the group moved back indoors to the meeting room to hear remarks by Dr. Tobacman about new academic ventures in the program. Then, SAC President David Ramsey led a series of party games. After the faculty was excused, the students continued to have a meeting to discuss any and all issues of interest to the group. This was a rare occasion to be all together and have the time to talk. Once their business was concluded, they adjourned to their condos to party into the wee hours of the morning. (Continued on page 3)



## Awards, Honors and Publications

### David Ramsey Wins Provost Award

The Graduate College announced on Monday October 25 the recipients of the Fall 2004 Provost's Award. The award is intended to recognize outstanding researchers among UIC graduate students and to assist in their progress toward completion of their advanced degree. One of the 14 award recipients is our own David J. Ramsey for the category of Physiology & Biophysics. Explaining his award, David remarked:

"I have been given a grant of 3K from the provost's office with 5k in matching funds from UIC Department of Ophthalmology to purchase a state of the art MP-285 Micromanipulator from Sutter Instruments. I will use this robotic arm to apply drugs to sub-cellular domains of retinal bipolar cells in order to understand the role that each of these local regions plays in cell signaling."

\* \* \*

### Roy Smetana Invited to Collaborate in Montreal

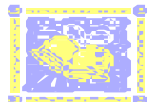
Although he just began his research as a first year graduate student this past summer in the lab of Dr. Simon Alford in the Department of Biological Sciences, Roy Smetana already been invited to do collaborative research at another institution. While Dr. Rejean Dubuc of the Department of Physiology of the University of Montreal was on sabbatical in Dr. Alford's lab, Roy worked on a new project with him on an electrophysiological analysis of muscarinic receptor mediated locomotor-like behavior in the larval lamprey. Dr. Dubuc was so impressed with Roy's work, that he invited him to Montreal to continue the work with him in his own lab during the month of October 2004. "It's a nice opportunity," Roy said, "and it's going to yield a publication or two for me as well."

\* \* \*

### Evan Osmundson Wins Training Fellowship

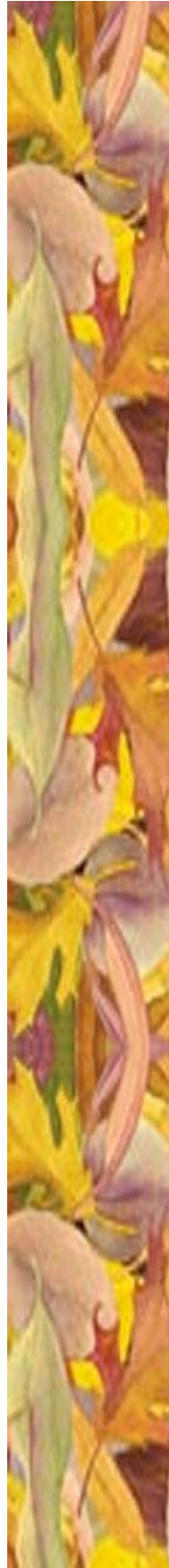
An NIH-funded Signal Transduction Training Program Fellowship for 2004-05 was awarded to Evan Osmundson, 2<sup>nd</sup> year graduate student in the lab of Dr. H. Kiyokawa in Biochemistry and Molecular Genetics. The fellowship covers full tuition and partial fee coverage with a stipend and travel resources. Evan and David Moons are co-authors on a paper now in press: Jirawatnotai, S., Aziyu A, Osmundson E, Moons DS, Kineman RD, Kiyokawa H, Biol. Chem., 2004, in press, "Cdk4 is indispensable for the postnatal proliferation of the anterior pituitary." The press-version is available on line at [www.jbc.org](http://www.jbc.org).

## Wedding Bells



### Congratulations to:

❖ **Sheila Barry** on her marriage on October 1, 2004 to Stephen Watling. The wedding ceremony took place in the historic Old St. Patrick's Church on Adams and Des Plaines, followed by the reception at the Holiday Inn Merchandise Mart. Stephen works at Deutsche Boerse Systems in the section of Technical Number Readiness as support for EUREXUS.



*It's A Party!*



**Thanksgiving Party**

**UIC MD/PhD Program**

**Moretti's Restaurant  
Banquet Room  
1645 W. Jackson Blvd.**

**Italian Reception  
Beer & Vine on tap**

**Saturday Night  
November 20, 2004  
7:00 – 9:00 p.m.**

*Followed by Club  
Babalu Salsa Party*

*9:00 pm*

*(No cover charge)*

*Spouses and  
significant others*

*invited*

*RSVP to*

*roberta@uic.edu  
by November 12th*

## Retreat, cont. from p. 1



*Dr. Solaro and Arpita Kadakia*

The only slightly bleary-eyed students re-assembled Saturday morning at 8:30 for the oral presentations by students Brenton Mar, David Moons, Michelle Muza-Moons, Ajay Nemani and Brad Ruzicka. The morning session culminated with a keynote faculty talk by Dr. Solaro, PhD, Distinguished University Professor and Head, Department of Physiology and Biophysics, on the topic, "Switching On and Tuning In the Molecular Motors of Heart Muscle."



*Joe & Sarah Kuechle, Scott Feldman*

The formal activities of the retreat ended with a luncheon, again on the outdoor patio. Fortunately, there was a tent covering the patio for it started to drizzle just as the morning session broke up and people began to make their way outdoors to the patio. The plan was that participants would have the afternoon free to enjoy the numerous recreational activities of the resort and/or go sight-seeing in Galena, famous for its 19<sup>th</sup> century streets of quaint boutiques.

But as lunch ended, the heavens opened up and let out a terrific downpour that lasted all afternoon and evening over the entire area from the Mississippi River to and through Chicago. Despite the dashing of plans for outdoor activities, the high spirits that prevailed during the retreat kept everyone in a good mood as they slogged through attempted sight-seeing or just making their way back home.



*Dr. and Mrs Solaro*

Overall, the retreat was a great success and succeeded in providing the students in the Program with a chance to spend an extended period of time together in a totally relaxed setting, sharing their intellectual achievements and enjoying each other's company.



*David Ramsey and Brad Ruzicka*



*Scott Feldman and Roberta Bernstein*



*L to R: Jake Jackups, Brenton Mar and Irene Klein*



*L to R: Brenton Mar, Irene Klein and Ajay Nemani*

The titles of the poster and oral presentations are listed below. Abstracts of the talks can be found on the web site of the Program at [www.uchicago.edu/com/mdphd](http://www.uchicago.edu/com/mdphd).

### Posters:

**Mike Broman**, Department of Pharmacology: *The Role of Cdc42 and IQGAP-1 in the Maintenance of Endothelial Cell Adherens Junctional Complexes*



*Mike with Dr. Robey*

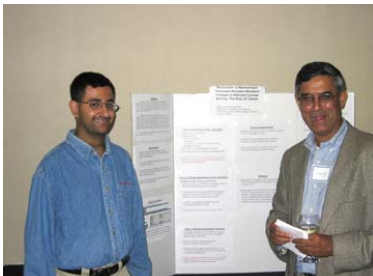
(cont. on p. 4)



**Terry C. Chiganos, Jr.**, Department of Bioengineering: *Evaluation of the dynamic electrophysiologic change in the rat cerebral cortex in response to photothrombotic infarction*



**Rahul Davé**, Department of Physiology and Biophysics, Neuroscience Training Program: *Mechanisms of mGluR1 Activation of Adenylyl Cyclase*



Rahul with Dr. Chishti

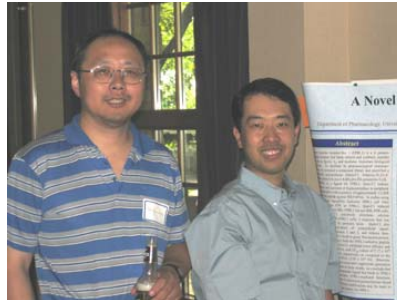
**Irene Klein**, Department of Pharmacology, *Intersectin Regulates Actin Dynamics in Endothelial Cells*



**Cristiane Lin**, Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Genetics: *Nephroblastoma overexpressed (CCN3) Mediates*

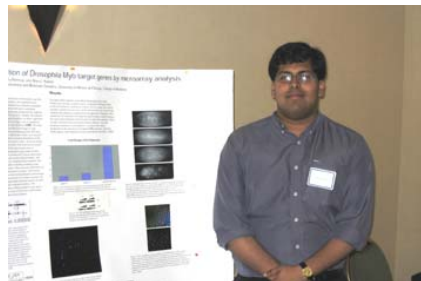
*Adhesion and Migration, Promotes Endothelial Cell Survival, and Induces Angiogenesis In Vivo*

**Masakatsu Nanamori**, Department of Pharmacology: *A novel nonpeptide ligand for formyl peptide receptor-like 1*



Masa with Dr. Du

**George Scaria**, Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Genetics: *Identification of Drosophila Myb Target Genes by Microarray Analysis*

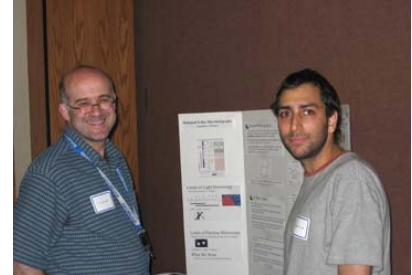


**Roy Smetana**, Department of Biological Sciences: *Muscarinic receptor activation initiates locomotor behavior in the larva sea lamprey.*



Roy (r) with Nate Stitzel

**Jonathan Waxman**, M1, 1st Rotation in Department of Physics: *Three Dimensional X-ray Microholographic Microscope*



Jonathan with Dr. Robey

### Talks:

**Brenton Mar**, Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Genetics  
*5qNCA (JMJD1B), a Candidate for the Chromosome 5q Tumor Suppressor Gene, Represses Retinoic Acid Receptor Alpha Activity and Binds c-MYB*

**David Moons**, Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Genetics  
*The Role of Cdk4 in the Development and Treatment of Diabetes Mellitus*

**Michelle Muza-Moons**, Department of Microbiology and Immunology  
*Enteropathogenic E. Coli Mediated Disruption of Tight Junctions by Increased Endocytosis.*

**Ajay Nemani**, Department of Physiology  
*Wavelet Analysis of Category Learning on the Single Trial Level in fMRI*

**W. Brad Ruzicka**, Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Genetics  
*Epigenetics and DNMT1 in the Pathogenesis of Schizophrenia*



# MD/PhD PROGRAM SEMINARS

## The following dinner seminars have been scheduled so far this year:

Wednesday, November 3, 2004  
 Mark Rasenik, PhD, Professor Physiology and Biophysics, Director of the Neuroscience Training Program  
 "Politics, Science and Medicine"  
 Room: Conference Room, Suite 300 CSN

Tuesday, December 14, 2004  
 Larry S. Tobacman

Coming in Spring Semester  
 January  
 Charles Rhodes, PhD

## The schedule of lunch seminars for the remainder of the semester and for spring semester is:

Wednesday, November 3, 2004, 12:30 pm, 311A CSN  
 David Ucker, PhD  
 Professor, Department of Microbiology and Immunology  
 "What Becomes of the Corpse?"

Wednesday, November 17, 2004, 12:30pm, 303 CSN  
 Sergey Popov, PhD  
 Associate Professor, Department of Physiology and Biophysics, "Polarity of Axonal Microtubules"

Wednesday, December 1, 2004, 12:30pm, 303 CSN  
 Anne George, PhD, Professor, Department of Oral Biology, College of Dentistry

Wednesday, January 12, 2005, 12:30 pm, 303 CSN  
 Michael S. Caffrey, PhD  
 Assistant Professor, Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Genetics  
 "Biochemical and Structural Studies of Viral Entry"

Wednesday, January 19, 2005, 12:30pm, 303 CSN  
 R. Brooks Robey, MD, Assistant Professor of Medicine & Physiology, Department of Nephrology

Wednesday, February 2, 2005, 12:30pm, 303 CSN  
 Steven M. Pogwizd, MD, Assoc. Professor, Section of Cardiology, "Mechanisms of Ventricular Arrhythmias in the Failing Heart"

Wednesday, February 9, 2005, 12:30 p.m., 303 CSN  
 Richard Nelson, MD, Professor of Surgery  
 "Why Cochrane Is Real Research"

Wednesday, February 16, 2005, 12:30pm, Suite 303 CSN  
 Rhonda Kineman, PhD  
 Assistant Professor, Department of Endocrinology  
 "The Interrelationship Between Metabolism and Growth"

Wednesday, March 2, 2005, 12:30pm, Suite 303 CSN  
 Hayat Onyuksel, PhD, Professor of Pharmaceutics and Bioengineering, Dept. of Biopharmaceutical Sciences  
 "Targeted Chemotherapy"

Wednesday, March 9, 2005, 12:30pm, Suite 303 CSN  
 José Oberholzer, MD  
 Director, Cell Transplantation, Department of Surgery

Wednesday, March 16, 2005, 12:30pm, Suite 303 CSN  
 Oscar Colamonici, MD  
 Associate Professor, Department of Pharmacology

Wednesday, March 30, 2005, 12:30pm, Suite 303 CSN  
 Neil Smalheiser, MD, PhD  
 Assistant Professor, Dept. of Psychiatry

## Student Grand Rounds

The following pairs of MD/PhD Students will present seminars in the spring semester, with dates and topics to be announced where not indicated:

David Ramsey (research) and Donny Hoang (clinical)  
 Wed., Jan. 26, 5:30 p.m., conjoint with Ophthalmology  
 Retina Grand Rounds on the topic of "Macular Degeneration"

George Scaria (research) and Brenton Mar (clinical)

Nathan Stitzel (research) and David Jho (clinical)  
 "Minimally Invasive Neurosurgical Techniques for Tumors of the Anterior Cranial Fossa"

Michelle Muza-Moons (research) and Kharma Foucher (clinical)

## Special ECM Group for MD/PhD Students

To free up time in their schedules to pursue a rotation or a graduate school course, a special, combined-M1-2 working group for our students has been created. The mentor is Dr. Tobacman. The group meets 5 times each semester at a convenient time and discusses a selection of the most relevant topics of the course. The students take turns presenting the material assigned for each session, with Dr. Tobacman acting as facilitator and commentator. So far this pilot program is working well to the delight of all the students.



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### **College of Medicine Administration**

*Joseph Flaherty, MD, Dean*

*Michael Bailie, MD, Vice Dean*

*Leslie J. Sandlow, MD  
Sr. Assoc. Dean for Education*

*Jack Kaplan, PhD and Sarah  
Kilpatrick, MD  
Co- Assoc. Deans for Research*

*Jorge Girotti, PhD  
Assoc. Dean for Admissions and  
Urban Health Program*

*William Hammett, MA  
Assoc. Dean for Student Affairs*

## Progress on Renovating Program's New Home

A new conference room, fashioned out of four former small offices, is ready to be unveiled in suite 300 CSN, the Biomedical Graduate Education Center that houses the offices and soon-to-be student meeting, study and recreational space of the GEMS, MD/PhD and Neuroscience Programs of the College of Medicine. After three months of incredible plaster dust, the finishing touches are being put on the room. If it is in usable form by then, it will first be put to use on Wednesday, November 3 for the MD/PhD Training Program's dinner seminar that night.

Work has also been progressing on the bigger project of creating an approximately 1500 square foot space out of a row of small offices for use as a beautiful multi-purpose student center. Stop by and take a look. When completed, the room will serve as a student library and lounge, a large seminar room, a gathering place for applicants invited to interview with the three programs, and a space for receptions and dinners.

Adjacent rooms will be converted into additional space for the students, including a locker room, study rooms for individuals or small groups, and a lunchroom. A major ribbon cutting party for students and faculty will be held to dedicate the new lounge-library when it is finished, probably shortly after New Year's.

## MD/PhD Training Program

We're on the Web!

See us at:

[www.uic.edu/com/mdphd](http://www.uic.edu/com/mdphd)

### **MD/PhD Training Program Administration**

*Larry S. Tobacman, MD  
Director*

*Roberta Bernstein, MA  
Coordinator, Editor*

*Olga Sayenko, BS  
Student Research Assistant*

