Welcome to the first issue of the GEMS Newsletter. Our goal is to send out a newsletter at the end of each semester to keep you informed about upcoming events and important dates.

FIRST YEAR STUDENTS

Even though the Fall 2012 semester is over and our first year students are done with their fall semester final exams, I still would like to take the time to briefly introduce you to the First Year GEMS Students.

**Anatomy**
Catherine Barone- Loyola University
Zheng Xu-Beijing Normal University
Dina Beeler-Eastern Michigan University

**Biochemistry**
Ben Hutchinson- Imperial College of Science, Technology, and Medicine
James Meyer-University College in London
Russell Smith-Kingston University
Darren Wozniak-University of Illinois-Urbana Champaign
Gaurang Bhide-University of Illinois at Chicago
Stefanie Kall- Northwestern University

**Microbiology**
Hayley Coffing-University of Notre Dame
Rasha Shalaby-Tanta University
Khaled Alharshawi-Foreign Post-Secondary Institute
David Mains- University of Minnesota-Twin Cities

**Pathology**
Timothy Gauntner-University of St. Thomas

**Pharmacology**
Yedia Bogachkov-Northwestern University
Kerrie Collins-Eckerd College
Johanna Finn-Clark University
Jennifer Klomp-Grand Valley State University
Catie Newhouse-Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute

**Physiology**
Manuel Alvarez-Xavier University
Jason Fong-U of Illinois College of Medicine at Rockford
Scott Convissar- Florida State University

GEMS Round Table Discussion

The GEMS office held their first round table discussion on September 21, 2012. Students were encouraged by the Co-Director and DGSs to share their experience about the program.

Some suggestions/concerns from the students: increase the student interactions through reoccurring socials sponsored by GEMS/Departments; a survey to determine the effectiveness of the Methods Course (look for this in the coming weeks); exploring addition of statistic training to the curriculum.

The student suggestions were well received and the GEMS Co-Directors and DGSs are working to implement these ideas.

AWARDS

**COM Research Forum 2012 Prize Winners**
Gold First prize: Sarah Baumgarten (Physiology and Biophysics)
Bronze Third prize: Farnaz Bakhshi (Pharmacology)
Honorable Mention: Kathleen Broughton (Physiology)
Honorable Mention: Katarzyna Pituch (Anatomy and Cell Biology)
Honorable Mention: Sumeyye Yar (Biochemistry)
FELLOWSHIP INFORMATION

Below are the upcoming Graduate College Fellowship deadline dates: http://grad.uic.edu/cms/?pid=1000893

Abraham Lincoln Fellowship
Department nominations due to the Graduate College: April 1, 2013
Announcement of awards: April 22, 2013

Dean's Scholar Award
Department nominations due to the Graduate College: March 18, 2013
Announcement of Awards: April 22, 2013
Last day for awardees to inform Graduate College of acceptance: June 3, 2013

W.C. Deiss Fellowships
Department nominations due to the Graduate College: February 4, 2013
Announcement of awards: February 25, 2013
Last day for awardees to inform Graduate College of acceptance: April 15, 2013

Biochemistry and Molecular Genetics
Nilotpal Roy (Dr. Pradip Raychaudhuri)
September 2012
Thesis title: "DDB2 Suppresses Epithelial to Mesenchymal Transition in Colon Cancer"

Microbiology and Immunology
Lavanya Visvabharathy (Dr. Nancy Freitag)
November 2012
Thesis title: "Propofol anesthesia dramatically increases host susceptibility to microbial infection"

Breaht Lasare (Dr. Michael Federle)
November 2012
Thesis Title: "Identification and Mechanistic Elucidation of the Rgf2/3 Quorum Sensing Circuit of Streptococcus pyogenes"

Sevim Yildiz (Dr. Howard Lipton) December 2012
Thesis Title: "Regulation of Theiler's Virus Induced Cell Death"

Pharmacology
Kelly O'Brien July 2012
Thesis Title: "The Role of Akt in Platelet Activation"

Katy Wong Thesis Title: "Role of Intersectin in Cell Signaling"

Ram Naikawadi - Thesis title: "Role for P-Rex1 in mediating Acute Lung Injury"

Emily Vandenbroucke St Amant Nov. 1, 2012
Thesis Title: "The Role of PKCalpha-Mediated p120-Catenin Phosphorylation on Endothelial Permeability"

DISSERTATIONS AND THESES

PASSED PRELIMS

Ruby Fernandez-Summer 2012
Melissa Geyer -Summer 2012

OFFICE OF GRADUATE EDUCATION
IN THE MEDICAL SCIENCES

Suite 300, Clinical Sciences North
820 South Wood Street Chicago, Illinois 60612
Website Address: www.gems.comd.uic.edu
E-mail: gemsinfo@uic.edu