Welcome the new MD/PhD Program Group for 2015

We introduce you the five newest members of the MD/PhD Program: (L-R) Petra Jans, Ryan Reyes, Gabrielle Zuniga, Matthew King and Katie Hinchee-Rodriguez. They have officially been welcomed into the School of Medicine during the annual White Coat Ceremony on July 18th. They started with lab rotations to get a feel/idea of what lab they would like to be part of in a couple of years when they enter their graduate school portion. We ask all the current students to give them a warm welcome and to impart any knowledge gained to the newbies!

Congratulations to our PhD graduates Vinh Dao, Danielle Victor and Raehannah Jamshidi who will be returning to 3rd year medical school! Way to go guys! Half way there!!

Congratulations to the MD/PhD graduating class of 2015! Josephine Thinwa, Adam Rossano and Diana Villarreal (pictured below).

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NEW GS-1 CLASS

The graduate school gains four new MD/PhD students! Laura Caflisch, Brian Iskra, Eithan Kotkowski and David Kramer. All four students recently completed orientation and training, and are now officially in the PhD phase of the program. The students will be mentored by the following faculty:

Laura Caflisch– Andre Brenner, MD, PhD
Brian Iskra– Greg Aune, MD, PhD
Eithan Kotkowski– Peter Fox, PhD
David A. Kramer– Jose Cavazos, MD, PhD

MD/PhD students successfully defend their dissertation!

Vinh A Dao, PhD. defended his dissertation on Wednesday, May 6th. Dr. Dao’s dissertation was entitled “Oral rapamycin (eRapa) prevents carcinogen and inflammation-induced dermal cancer through immune and DNA damage mechanisms” Dr. Dao was mentored by Tyler Curiel, MD. In the Department of Microbiology.

Raehannah Jamshidi, PhD. defended her dissertation on Wednesday, May 18th. Dr. Dao’s dissertation was entitled “Peripheral Mechanisms of Opioid Analgesia: Regulation of Kappa Opioid Receptor (KOR) Function” Dr. Jamshidi was mentored by William Clarke, PhD. In the Department of Pharmacology and Physiology.

David Melton, PhD. defended his dissertation on Wednesday, June 3rd. Dr. Melton’s dissertation was entitled “miRNA Regulation of Macrophage Polarization”. Dr. Melton was mentored by Paula Shireman, PhD in the Department of Cellular & Structural Biology.

2015-2016 MD/PhD Student Council Representatives

(L-R) Arpan Satsangi, MS3, Peter Starr, MS4, Daniel Shropshire, MS2, Laura Caflisch, GS1, Petra Jans, MS1, Justin Drerup, GS3, Curtis Clark, GS2 and Karl Li, GS4.
Mariam Ishaque, GS4 was awarded an NIH-funded CTSA Translational Science (TL-1) Fellowship award which will fund her from June 2015-July 2016. The title of her grant was “Structural and Functional Connectivity Analysis in Autism Spectrum Disorders using MRI.”

Best of Luck to our three GS2 students Jeff Cooney, Brett Ipson and Curtis Clark for submitting their F30s in August. They will receive their impact scores by November 2015.

**Awards**

Curt Clark (GS1) was awarded an academic travel award in the Department of Medicine, 18th Annual Medicine Research Day in the Medical Student/Resident division.

Mariam Ishaque (GS4) was awarded Best Poster at the “2015 SAMMC/UTHSCSA Neurology Grand Rounds and Research Day.”

**Publications**


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2015 MD/PhD Graduation Party

Save the Dates!

**Candidate Interviews**
The MD/PhD Program will be interviewing candidates for the 2015AY. If you are interested in assisting with the interviews in any way, please contact Jackie Hill at 567-1945.

*August 24th & 25th*
*September 14th & 15th*
*September 28th & 29th*
*October 5th & 6th*
*October 26th & 27th*
*November 2nd & 3rd*
*November 16th & 17th*
*November 23rd & 24th*
*December 14th & 15th*

**3rd Annual San Antonio Postdoctoral Research Forum & Distinguished Lecture**
*Featuring:*
Joseph R. Haywood, PhD

"Looking into the Crystal Ball: Sustain Discovery in Biomedical Sciences"
*Tuesday, September 15th*
*11:00am-5:00pm*
Greehey Children’s Cancer Institute (GCCRI)

This forum provides an opportunity to showcase research by postdocs at the TBRI, USAISR, UTHSCSA and UTSA.

**F-Troop Grant Writing Workshop/Fall 2015**
Begins Wednesday, September 9th
5:00pm-7:00pm
MED 331.5B, Pathology Conference Rm.

**B2B**
Bench to Bedside Seminars for the 2015-2016 academic year.
Please note, the location for each month will be announced on the MD/PhD website - http://som.uthscsa.edu/mdphd/b2b.asp

*July 13th*
*August 10th*
*September 21st*
*October 12th*
*November 9th*