

**IIGB FACULTY FORUM**  
**February 14, 2012: 12:00pm**  
**Genomics Auditorium, Rm 1102**

**–AGENDA–**

- I. **Announcements (N. Raikhel)**
  - A. New IIGB Faculty/Staff
    - i. IIGB/CEPCEB Faculty: Elisa Franco, Asst. Professor, Mechanical Engineering
    - ii. IIGB Faculty: Jikui Song, Asst. Professor, Biochemistry
    - iii. Bioinformatics Systems Administrator: Christopher Webber (T. Girke)
  - B. Recent Honors/Awards
    - i. Shou-wei Ding elected as American Academy of Microbiology Fellow
    - ii. Two IIGB Researchers Named AAAS Fellows
      1. Xuemei Chen: For pioneering discoveries in the field of plant biology in small RNA metabolism and plant development
      2. Yinsheng Wang: For distinguished contributions to the field of bioanalytical chemistry, particularly in the development of novel analytical methods enabling understanding of the biological consequences of DNA damage
    - iii. Please notify Natasha or Jocelyn when honors are received!
    - iv. CEPCEB Annual Awards:
      1. Thanks to CEPCEB Award Committee Chair Katherine Borkovich (2009-2011); new Chair, Venu Reddy (2012)
      2. Additional Award Committee members: Chia-en Chang, Sean Cutler, Glenn Hicks, Vanitharani Ramachandran
      3. 2011 Postdoc/Student Awardees:
        - a. Outstanding Postdoc: Huanbin Zhou, Wenbo Ma Lab, Plant Pathology & Microbiology
        - b. Outstanding Graduate Student: Gregory Barding, Cynthia Larive Lab, Chemistry
        - c. Outstanding Undergraduate: Matthew Alpert, Stefano Lonardi Lab, Computer Science & Engineering
      4. How to Encourage Nominations?
        - a. Minimal Participation Despite Advantages
          - i. Cash awards - \$500
  - C. Good for CVs/Morale Grants/Proposals
    - i. Two NIH T32 Attempts Unsuccessful (P. Atkinson, X. Chen)
    - ii. Future Directions?

Both Peter Atkinson and Xuemei Chen will resubmit NIH T32 multidisciplinary training grants later this year. According to panel reviews, the plant biology T32 proposal (PI: X. Chen) lacked adequate mammalian research expertise/focus; hopefully the recruitment of two additional faculty in this area will positively impact the next submission. The vector biology NIH T32 (PI: P. Atkinson) was faulted for an inadequate bioinformatics component; Tao Jiang, Stefano Lonardi and Thomas Girke will be involved in the resubmission.

**Action Item:**

Peter Atkinson and Xuemei Chen will convene meetings in May with participating faculty to discuss strategies for two NIH T32 multidisciplinary training proposal resubmissions.

**II. IIGB Faculty Recruitment**

- A. Status of Virology/Epigenetics Search (S.-W. Ding/X. Chen - Chairs)  
i. Additional Search Committee Members: A. Dahanukar, S. Gill, T. Girke, D. Lo

College Search Committee Chair Shou-wei Ding reported that two finalists have been invited for second interviews:

Virology Finalist: I-Chueh Huang, Harvard Medical School;  
Second Interview: 2/16 – 17, Hosted by Cell Biology & Neuroscience Dept.

Epigenetics Finalist: Fedor Karginov, Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory (2<sup>nd</sup> Interview TBD)

- ii. Plans for Next Year? We need your input! (Natasha Raikhel)

**Action Item:**

IIGB Faculty are encouraged to send suggestions regarding research areas to target for two faculty recruitments in 2012-13, either expanding on existing expertise within IIGB or introducing new areas: provide short descriptions to explain views, and include benefits to IIGB and UCR at large.

- B. Bioinformatics Academic Coordinator position (T. Girke - Chair)  
i. Additional Search Committee Members: J. Bailey-Serres, G. Hicks, S. Lonardi, A. Ray, J. Stajich  
Thomas Girke reported that the recruitment of a bioinformatics academic coordinator to run the core facility is underway; Thomas will be stepping down from this position 7/1/12 to become a full-time associate professor in the Botany & Plant Sciences department.

**III. IIGB Instrumentation Core Update**

- A. Microscopy Core Instrumentation

As part of Xuemei Chen's Howard Hughes Medical Institute – Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation (HHMI-GBMF) Investigator appointment, the purchase of a Leica SP5 Spectral Confocal System is being sought on a cost-shared basis between HHMI and UCR. If successful, the instrument, valued at \$462K, will be housed in the Microscopy core facility in Keen Hall and maintained by David Carter.

- B. Data Storage in the Bioinformatics Core Facility

Thomas Girke reported that the Bioinformatics Core Facility's needs for data storage are increasing and encouraged faculty to budget in advance for additional storage expenses. A new rate of \$100 per 100GB of storage in addition to the \$1000 annual access fee allocation (20 GB) will be initiated by summer 2012.

- C. Proteomics Equipment

Songqin Pan announced that he and Yinsheng Wang from Chemistry will resubmit another high-end instrumentation proposal in March 2012 for the purchase of a Thermo LTQ-Orbitrap Mass Spectrometer with

hyphenated HPLC system.

#### IV. New/Ongoing IIGB Initiatives

- A. Genomics PI Brainstorming Sessions (N. Raikhel)
  - i. Initiated February 2012
  - ii. Spearheaded by G. Hicks/S. Cutler
  - iii. Meets Biweekly
  - iv. Goal: Problem-solving; Collaborations
- B. IIGB/CEPCEB/CDVR Seminars
  - i. CEPCEB and Student Seminars (P. Springer, Coordinator)
  - ii. IIGB Seminars (S. Gill, Coordinator)
  - iii. CDVR Seminars (J. Pedra, Coordinator)
- C. IIGB Career Day (I. Kaloshian)
  - i. Date: May 25, 2012
- D. Committee? NEED VOLUNTEERS  
 Isgouhi Kaloshian, who spearheaded the pilot 2011 Genomics Building Career Day, requested 2012 volunteers who have contacts in various business sectors, i.e., government, industry, law, public policy, etc. Anand Ray and Hailing Jin volunteered to work on this year's event, which will be open to all IIGB students/postdocs.  
 NSF CEPCEB ChemGen IGERT Closing Seminar (T. Eulgem)
  - i. Date: June 15, 2012
  - ii. Spearheaded by S. Cutler/T. Eulgem
  - iii. Full-day Symposium
- E. CDVR Biennial Symposium (P. Atkinson)
  - i. Target Date: September 2012
  - ii. Committee: Alex Raikhel, Joao Pedra, Anupama Dahanukar, Emma Wilson, James Ng
- F. CEPCEB 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary (J. Bailey-Serres/L. Walling)
  - i. Date: December 15, 2012
  - ii. Spearheaded by J. Bailey-Serres/L. Walling
  - iii. Full-day Symposium combined with annual CEPCEB award ceremony
  - iv. Format: morning/afternoon talks by invited speakers (6), UCR Faculty, and a poster session
- G. Postdoc/Graduate Student Research Sessions (P. Atkinson)
- H. IIGB Statistical Survey
  - i. Will be distributed within the month
  - ii. Responses Critical  
**Action Item:**  
 Natasha Raikhel mentioned that an IIGB statistical survey will be distributed to all IIGB faculty members within the next month covering IIGB's infrastructure and its impact on awards and publications. She encouraged all to cooperate as the document will be important for benchmarking and future endeavors.