Upcoming Events

The next BMS Seminar is Wednesday, April 6th from noon-1PM in room 1306. The speaker will be Yujie Zhang, a graduate student here in the BMS Department. Yujie will be defending her dissertation titled, “Characterization of role of LARP6 phosphorylation in regulating type I collagen biosynthesis in liver fibrosis.”

FSU-TMH Symposium on the Developing Mind

April 8, 2016 | 11:30am-2:30pm | Turnbull Center
Lunch Provided - Free Parking
555 W. Pensacola Street, Tallahassee, Florida 32306

Keynote Speaker
Jill Escher, M.A., J.D.
Philanthropist and President of Autism Society of San Francisco Bay Area

Out of the Past: Old Exposures, Heritable Effects, and Emerging Concepts for Autism Research

Amy M. Wetherby, Ph.D.
Director, FSU Autism Institute 
FSU College of Medicine

Loranne Ausley, J.D.
Founding and current Chair of Whole Child Leon
Former Florida Representative

Pradeep Bhote, Ph.D.
Director, Center for Brain Repair
FSU College of Medicine

The FSU Center for Brain Repair will be hosting the FSU Symposium on the Developing Mind, held on Friday, April 8th from 11:30-2:30PM at the Turnbull Center. The symposium will focus on autism and other developmental disabilities and will feature Jill Escher, an attorney by trade, but a woman who has become a scientific activist, an organizer of a charitable foundation and an amazing communicator. Attendees will include local scientists, educators, community members, and government representatives and coincide with Autism Awareness month. Visit the website to register and view the Symposium agenda.

Dr. Mohamed Kabbaj is hosting special seminar speaker Dr. Ron deKloet from Leiden University in the Netherlands on Friday, April 8th at 10:30AM in Psychology room A211. Dr. deKloet’s talk will be titled, “Tipping the Balance towards Stress Resilience.” Dr. deKloet is a leader in stress research with more than 600 publications in top journals. His research received international recognition by the Geoffrey Harris Award of the European Federation of Endocrine Societies (2005), the European College of Neuropsychopharmacology Award (2007), and the Lifetime Achievement Award of the International Society of Psychoneuroendocrinology (2008) and the Golden Emil Kraepelin Medal (2014) for the impact of our basic research on the diagnosis and treatment of depression. In 2004, he was appointed as member of the Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences. Please join us in welcoming him to FSU.

The Neuroscience Program at FSU will host the 2016 Rushton Lectures Symposium on April 15-16 in the King Life Sciences Building. This year’s theme is “Mind, Body, Sleep: Sleep in the 21st century.” The event will feature five internationally renowned sleep researchers, who will talk about molecular, physiological and evolutionary aspects of sleep in diverse model systems ranging from humans to flies. For more information on speakers and to register for the event, visit the Rushton Lectures Symposium website.
Publications

Yujie Zhang, a graduate student in the Stefanovic Lab, and Dr. Branko Stefanovic (Professor) have recently published their manuscript titled, “LARP6 Meets Collagen mRNA: Specific Regulation of Type I Collagen Expression,” in the International Journal of Molecular Sciences. A short summary of the work can be found below.

Type I collagen is the most abundant structural protein in all vertebrates, but its constitutive rate of synthesis is low due to long half-life of the protein (60–70 days). However, several hundred fold increased production of type I collagen is often seen in reparative or reactive fibrosis. The mechanism which is responsible for this dramatic upregulation is complex, including multiple levels of regulation. However, posttranscriptional regulation evidently plays a predominant role. Posttranscriptional regulation comprises processing, transport, stabilization and translation of mRNAs and is executed by RNA binding proteins. There are about 800 RNA binding proteins, but only one, La ribonucleoprotein domain family member 6 (LARP6), is specifically involved in type I collagen regulation. In the 5’untranslated region (5’UTR) of mRNAs encoding for type I and type III collagens there is an evolutionally conserved stem-loop (SL) structure; this structure is not found in any other mRNA, including any other collagen mRNA. LARP6 binds to the 5’SL in sequence specific manner to regulate stability of collagen mRNAs and their translatability. Here, we will review current understanding of how is LARP6 involved in posttranscriptional regulation of collagen mRNAs. We will also discuss how other proteins recruited by LARP6, including nonmuscle myosin, vimentin, serine threonine kinase receptor associated protein (STRAP), 25 kD FK506 binding protein (FKBP25) and RNA helicase A (RHA), contribute to this process.

Accomplishments

KynderMed, a medical device start-up company with technology developed by Dr. James Olcese (Associate Professor), has made it to the final four for the Cade Museum for Creativity + Invention’s 7th Annual $50,000 Cade Museum Prize for Innovation. The goals of the Prize are to provide seed capital and publicity for great ideas with market potential*. Best of luck to KynderMed and Dr. Olcese, as they await the April 30th decision date! For more information about the prize and the organization itself, visit their website.

*From the Cade Museum’s press release.

Workshops

The Graduate School is hosting, “Negotiating Job Offers,” on Thursday, April 7th from 3:00-4:00PM in the Honors, Scholars and Fellows House, room 3009. Visit their website to register.

The Office of Faculty Development and Advancement is hosting the Faculty Promotion and Tenure Workshop on Monday, April 18th at 3:30PM in Dodd Hall Auditorium. Visit the FDA website for more information.

Please visit our website for more information on research, programs and ways to donate.

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