A SUCCESS STORY: NICOLE GILBERT, PHD

Nicole Gilbert, instructor in obstetrics and gynecology in the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, has received a K01 award funded by the NIH/National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Disorders.

The “Role of Gardnerella vaginalis in the Urinary Tract” project is aimed to provide Dr. Gilbert with the skills and expertise necessary to launch her career in translational medical research in the field of urologic disease, particularly bacterial infections of the urinary tract.

Recurrent urinary tract infection (rUTI) is a common and costly clinical problem, affecting millions of women in the U.S. and worldwide. We have found that the bacterium Gardnerella vaginalis triggers rUTI. The project seeks to understand how G. vaginalis causes rUTI and to determine whether G. vaginalis could serve as a biomarker of rUTI risk in women.

AWARDS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Indira Mysorekar, PhD, associate professor in the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, and Associate Director of CRepHS, has received a new $3.04 mil. grant entitled “Mechanisms of Zika Virus Maternal-Fetal Transmission” in collaboration with Michael Diamond, MD, professor in the Department of Internal Medicine, Division of Infectious Diseases.

Chinwendu Amazu, the Medical Scientist Training Program student working toward her MD/PhD degree under the direction of Dr. Sarah England, has been awarded the 2017-2018 Porter Physiology Development Fellowship.

Meghal Sheth (Mysorekar lab) and Pranita Kaginele (England lab) are the recipients of the 2017 WU/BIO Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowship (BIOSurf) program.

Brook Liang is recipient of the MA/MD program fellowship from Washington University Medical School.

Grace Y. Lee, undergraduate student and a member of the England Lab, received the Barbara A. Horwitz and John M. Horowitz Outstanding Undergraduate Abstract Award and the David S. Bruce Excellence in Undergraduate Research Award from the American Physiological Society for her outstanding work on “Novel genetic variants in the oxytocin receptor predict oxytocin non-responsiveness in pregnant women”.

CONGRATULATIONS!

Kelle H. Moley, MD, Director of CRepHS, has been appointed the Vice Chair of the Membership Committee of the National Academy of Medicine starting October 1, 2017.
NEW FACES IN THE HALLWAYS

Dr. Toni Frolova, earned her MD/PhD degree at Washington University in St. Louis. She is currently a Chief Resident in the Ob/Gyn department. She is a member of the England lab.

Dr. Yin Yin has joined Dr. Mysorekar’s lab. Dr. Yin is a Visiting Researcher from Nanjing Medical University, Nanjing, China. She serves as an Attending Doctor of Obstetrics & Gynecology in Jiangsu Province Hospital. During her stay here she will investigate the role of the newly discovered placental microbiome in normal parturition as well as in adverse pregnancy outcomes such as preterm birth.

Aluet Borrego Alvarez, MSc has recently joined Dr. Santi’s lab as the Sr. Research Technician. Previously, she worked in Dr. Zipfel’s cerebrovascular laboratory at the Department of Neurosurgery.

Alexandra “Sasha” Medvedeva has joined Dr. Moley’s lab as a Research Technician II. Previously, she worked in Dr. Cruchaga’s lab in the Department of Psychiatry.

Stephanie Michalski has joined Dr. Kommagani’s lab as a Research Technician I in June 2017. Stephanie is a graduate of Indiana University - Purdue University Indianapolis, where she majored in Neuroscience.

Cari Mushill joined the Center’s administration team as Secretary III.

Maximilian Lyon has recently joined Dr. Santi’s lab. Max is a PhD student in the DBBS Molecular Cell Biology Program.

Tanner Roach is Research Technician I in the Fuh Lab. He has a Bachelor’s degree in Biology from Washington University in St. Louis.

FIVE FUN FACTS YOU DIDN’T KNOW ABOUT:

Monali Prabagaran, PhD

Favorite place to visit one day: Svalbard, Norway
Favorite music: Indian classical
Favorite food: Seafood
Favorite holiday: Christmas
Favorite guilty pleasure: Indulging in variety of chocolates from around the world (and not worrying about anything 😊)

SUMMER TRAINEES

Lucille Hanaway is an undergraduate student at University of Notre Dame majoring in Biology and Economics. She joined the Moley lab for the summer.

Anna Ilivicky is an undergraduate student at University of Michigan, Ann Arbor pursuing a degree in Biology, International Studies and Spanish. She joined the Fuh lab.

Katina Massad is an undergraduate student at Williams College majoring in Chemistry. She is a member of the Fuh lab.

Austin Osula (Moley lab) is a graduate from the Western University, Ontario, Canada where he majored in Medical Sciences. He is currently a WU medical student and a recipient of the 2017 Summer Research Program Fellowship from the Office of Medical Student Research.

Sarah Speck is an undergraduate student at Washington University in St. Louis majoring in Biology. She joined the Moley lab.

Catherine Xu (Moley lab) is a graduate from McGill University where she received a Bachelor’s degree in Nutritional Biochemistry. Presently, she is a WU medical student and a recipient of the 2017 Summer Research Program Fellowship from the Office of Medical Student Research.

VISITING SCHOLARS

Mariana Ford (Santi Lab) - is a visiting scholar from Universidad de la Republica in Montevideo, Uruguay. Mariana studies the role of mitochondria and generation of reactive oxygen species on sperm capacitation.

Josephine Lau Nga Yue (Wang Lab) - is a visiting scholar from University of Edinburgh, Edinburgh, United Kingdom. Josephine is a second year BSc student in Medical Sciences. Josephine observes experiments related to electrophysiology imaging.

Lis del Carmen Puga Molina (Santi Lab) - is a summer trainee from Instituto de Biologia y Medicina Experimental, Buenos Aires, Argentina. Lis is a PhD student researching the molecular mechanisms associated with HCO₃⁻ influx during human sperm capacitation.
NEW PUBLICATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS (SINCE APRIL 2017)

ENGLAND LAB:

KOMMAGANI LAB:

MOLEY LAB:

MYSOREKAR LAB:

SANTI LAB:

PRESENTATIONS:

Congratulations to Suzanne Scheaffer who is celebrating her 10th year anniversary at Washington University.

Good job, Suzanne, and thank you for your hard work!

And a special farewell to Dr. Pascale Lybaert who is returning back to Belgium.

Bon chance, Pascale!