Who the heck knows what’s going on anymore with the pandemic? Will we get another variant in the fall? Do we need booster shots every 6 months now? Is there even anyone left who hasn’t had COVID? Who are we? Why are we here? No one knows.

We’re mostly back in person now for a lot of things so we can disappoint our PI’s to their faces instead of over Zoom. So there’s that.

Opportunities and Announcements

The Rick Astley Fund is offering a metric crap ton of $1 million dollar grants for research for basic science with physiologic relevance. You don’t have to mention anything about a link to cancer or Alzheimer’s at all and you’ll get a ton of money! Who would have thought?!

The Claypool lab has a new imager so powerful, it can actually capture never before seen images of a grad student’s self-confidence— that’s how high resolution it is!

Dear Dr. Abby

I’m going to have my thesis defense sometime in the near future. Do you have any advice on the best way to prepare my seminar? Thanks!

Dear Abby

First off, you have to ask yourself, would your thesis defend YOU? Everyone knows the best defense is a good offense. My advice is to print out your advisor’s and your thesis committee’s old PhD theses beforehand and spend the first 30 minutes of your defense eviscerating them. Have no mercy.

Dr. Abbey

Look to cats as an example when dealing with imposter syndrome

It’s obvious to anyone who’s ever even seen a cat for longer than two seconds that cats don’t get impostor syndrome. Cats know that they are cats, like we should know we’re experienced scientists. Every cat, knows in their very core, that they are the best cat to have ever walked the earth—the most cat cat to ever cat. It is with certainty, they know they are the best example of a cat. Cats have no fear. Have you ever seen them go up against other animals?! Alligators? Pathetic. Lions? Who do they think they are?! Snakes? Umm ew, not a chance. Raccoons? Nice try. So when you’re feeling down and out, embody the energy of a cat.

Awards and Accomplishments

Monish Makena and Nanami Senoo win Postdoc Young Investigator’s Day Awards to be awarded in a ceremony April 14 (let’s hope the ceremony is nothing like the Oscars). Please— and I can’t stress this enough— no one slap Andrew Holland.

Dr. Rao has been bestowed the honor of Physiology’s official “Unparalleled Mentor” while Dr. Claypool has been named Physiology’s “Perpendicular Mentor.”

Here’s an accomplishment that everyone in the department can pat themselves on the back for—you got out of bed today! Congratulations!

Honestly, this month’s newsletter should just be the Brittni Moore Edition because she’s won a bunch of awards, gave a seminar today, and contributed a blurb about her work with the BSA. That girl is unstoppable.

Publications

The Pluznick lab has published a paper in eLife which showed the negative health effects of grad students selling their kidneys to pay rent. The study also established grad students do in fact need at least one kidney, so they can’t sell both.

During their work investigating Perm1 (PPARGC1- and ESRR-induced regulator, muscle 1), the Kralli lab has discovered a new protein, which regulates Perm1. At this point there are so many acronym names within an acronym (acronymception) that they’re just calling it “Karen.”

Congratulations to the Wong lab, which has published 5,704,376,109 papers since the last newsletter, (all of them in Nature) which is too many to try to include here. But good job!

Here’s a compilation of some of my favorite grad school memes to help you laugh along the way:

Erica Avery, ancient PhD student

It’s obvious to anyone who’s ever even seen a cat for longer than two seconds that cats don’t get impostor syndrome. Cats know that they are cats, like we should know we’re experienced scientists. Every cat, knows in their very core, that they are the best cat to have ever walked the earth—the most cat cat to ever cat. It is with certainty, they know they are the best example of a cat. Cats have no fear. Have you ever seen them go up against other animals?! Alligators? Pathetic. Lions? Who do they think they are?! Snakes? Umm ew, not a chance. Raccoons? Nice try. So when you’re feeling down and out, embody the energy of a cat.
Straight, White, Male History Month... just kidding. That’s every month.

Other Events:
(no joke, these are all real)
April 9: National Unicorn Day
April 11: Barbershop Quartet Day
April 12: Be Kind to Lawyer’s Day
April 14: Look Up at the Sky Day (because we never see daylight)
April 16: Wear Pajamas to Work Day (as if grad students don’t already so that enough)
May 1: Batman Day

Click HERE to see some super cool upcoming Department Events you DON’T want to miss!

Leisure
Looking for some science words to start your Wordle off with? Give these a try: crest, stats, earth, cones, space, media, force, field, atoms, model, power, fears, shame, dunce, failure, crying, disappointment, existential crisis, cornea.

Newsletter Team
Kelly Summers
Erica Avery
Monish Makena
Professor Rajini Rao

Physiology Department
Physiology Twitter @JHMIPhysiology
Physiology Slack Channel
Physiology Website

WHAT GIVES PEOPLE FEELINGS OF POWER

- Money
- Status
- Remember the Krebs Cycle

NEVER MAKE MISTAKES IN THE LAB?

LET’S MAKE THEM BIRDS. YEAH, THEY’RE BIRDS NOW

hannah gais
@hannahgais
wtf do you think grad school is

Rachel @femaleredhead
reading for pleasure implies the existence of reading for pain
Show this thread

Alicia Matz @duesferminafact9
I feel like I am Schrodinger’s grad student.
Am I a student? I am a worker?
Do I even exist?
(Accidentally uses 2µl too much of a reagent)
Me finding out how much it costs:

INTO EXILE I MUST GO, FAILED I HAVE

Good morning everyone. My lab works in this field...

In conclusion we have shown that under severe hypoxic conditions non-canonical miR-146b-5p signaling affects mitochondrial membrane potential, which affects the cell cycle.