

May Edition

May 13, 2022

Volume 3, Issue 8

COVID-19

[HUB AT HOPKINS](#)

[JHU COVID RESOURCE CENTER](#)

[JHM COVID-19 INTERNAL RESOURCE PANEL](#)

[MARYLAND DEPT OF HEALTH](#)

[CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL](#)

CLICK HERE to read about Booster Shots: Hopkins encourages 3rd doses of COVID vaccines for all adults. Make an appointment for a booster through MyChart.

Universal masking; JH Medicine has reinstated universal masking as of May 2, regardless of vaccination status.

If you experience COVID-19 symptoms, call the Johns Hopkins COVID-19 Call Center at **443-287-8500** for evaluation and guidance.



Thesis Defense Alert!

Rao Lab BCMB student **Allatah Mekile** will be defending her thesis in the **Mountcastle Auditorium, May 16 at 1 pm!** She will present her research on the link between endosomal Na⁺/H⁺ exchanger NHE6 and insulin stimulated glucose uptake in adipocytes.

Announcements

Stay tuned for updates on department events like Mandatory Fun Day and Happy Hours possibly returning soon (especially now it's warm enough to have events outside!)

Farewells

We wish Monish Makena good luck as he moves on to his new position at the NIH!

Calendar

March is:
Asian & Pacific Islander Heritage Month
Mental Health Awareness Month
National Stroke Awareness Month
ALS Awareness Month
Arthritis Awareness Month

For API Heritage Month event, on **May 24 Hee-Soon Juon, Ph.D.**, professor of medical oncology at Thomas Jefferson University, will speak on challenges of health disparities among Asian Americans. [Register to join here.](#)

Department Events

May 20, 12pm:
Department Research Seminar

Aanishaa Jhalidiyal

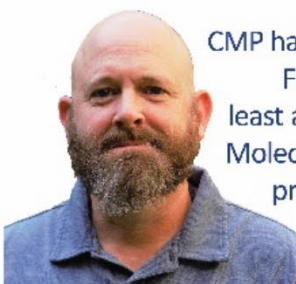
"Investigating the role of PARP-1 in Alzheimer's disease & Tauopathy"

Physiology Newsletter

Cellular and Molecular Physiology 2022 Recruitment Update!

Steven Claypool, PhD

Faculty, CMP Program Director



CMP has non-identical quadruplets!

For the first time in its history, at least as far as I know, the Cellular and Molecular Physiology (CMP) graduate program has an incoming class of four highly talented students. This isn't to say that we've previously had a class of four semi-talented students. That would not be true. What is true, again, as far as I know (a statement which really allows me to say anything with some level of authority), is that the CMP graduate program has never had a class of four students regardless of their talent level or qualifications. So, the fact that we have successfully recruited four students, all of whom are highly talented and supremely qualified, is quite simply remarkable!

How did we achieve this notable success? First, we activated something called the "application portal". Then young adults interested in the really cool science done in our labs accessed this portal (they clicked a button!) and submitted their applications. Next, Madeline uploaded all applications into SLATE and pushed those applications that were complete to me. Upon receiving what would soon become a daily email telling me I had applications in my queue, I read each application in great detail before forwarding the top 50% to the CMP Admissions Committee. This initiated their daily applications-in-queue emails. At some point, Drs. Kralli and Qui got annoyed with these emails, which they undoubtedly got every day of the Winter Holiday "break" and read and identified those candidates that they thought were the best. Because there wasn't much snow in Vermont at the beginning of January, I instead organized an official Admissions Committee meeting where we, as a group of individuals with only a single goal, decided to invite eight would-be scientists to come to Baltimore and meet our faculty, post-docs, and most importantly, our current and amazing students.

Since there still wasn't much snow in Vermont, I had to take my family to Colorado. Before leaving, I asked CMP students for help in organizing our first on-sight recruitment event since the beginning of the pandemic. Notably, CMP was only one of two graduate programs at the Medical School to host an on-sight event. Dylan Sarver

and Manuella Ribas Andrade stepped up and organized the arrival dinner, flash talks, and lunch. Meanwhile, I recruited current CMP students to act as big siblings (big does not connote size, simply that one is senior to an applicant who is not currently enrolled in CMP). Included in this lineup was: Yi Cheng, Brittini Moore, Katie Sullivan, Yingzhe Ye, Luoluo Chen, Jessica Hernandez, Dylan, and Manuella. They initiated contact with their assigned candidates, fielded questions etc. As this was happening, Madeline arranged the schedule, accommodations, and travel for the eight CMP interviewees. This was a team effort for sure and "we" (an excellent example of a "royal we" since I can't take much, if any, credit) did the ground-work needed for the superb results we eventually had!

Upon returning from my family ski trip in Colorado (because there was not much snow in Vermont), the recruitment event was on. Monday January 31 was a whirlwind of interviews and flash talks. The day was punctuated by a campus tour and brief student-based informal session in the courtyard. The scheduling was perfect, the candidates were strong, and importantly, they all seemed to really enjoy being able to come visit CMP in person. The day was an unmitigated success thanks to everyone associated with CMP, from office to faculty (except perhaps me), but especially because of our current students. Thanks once again for making this event such a success! After two days of zoom-based punishment known as "study section", Adcom (the cool way of saying Admissions Committee) met and prioritized candidates based on faculty and student input. From this prioritization, four offers were made. After one offer was rejected (to accept at Cornell, yuk!), another offer was extended. Ultimately, four offers were accepted resulting in an in-coming class of four excellent students.

Who are these pending 1st years, the future rotations of the 2022-2023 academic year? Please join me in welcoming, in order of their sworn allegiance to CMP, Muzna Saqib (B.S. and M.S. in Biology, Georgia State University), Yingze "Martin" Ma (B.S. in Biomedical Science, University of Alberta), Mackenzie Primrose (B.S. in Biology and Psychology, University of Maryland, Baltimore County), and Zachary Irwin (B.S. in Biochemistry, Cellular and Molecular Biology, University of California, Davis). Thanks again to all that helped recruit the biggest CMP class in recorded history. And keep a watchful eye on future Newsletters where these new CMP members will tell us about themselves using words!

Most recent department Diversity Journal Club tackles gender bias in teacher evaluations and ratings

From your newsletter Editors:

The papers discussed during the most recent Diversity Journal Club event, held on Friday, April 29, included ["What's in a Name: Exposing Gender Bias in Student Ratings of Teaching"](#) and ["Mitigating gender bias in student evaluations of teaching."](#) Some of the discussion I (Erica) was a part of centered around expectations being higher for women and that men can get away with more. Moreover, when women have to be strict or draw a line (as professors and TAs), it's perceived as harsher. Women at meetings aren't acknowledged as much and in general, given less credit for their contributions.

Some questions that arose centered around the shift in ratings in the second paper when the evaluators were given a statement warning them to avoid bias and how certain marginalized groups often experience a negative bias in their evaluations. Was there an over correction for bias with the statement during evaluation? An interesting third set of data could be providing a warning statement about bias but not describing the bias experience of specific marginalized groups. The women's ratings went up with the group given this statement, understandably, but why did the ratings for the men decrease? When we're evaluating any kind of application, grant, publication submission, or piece of work, is blinding any identifying information, despite the effort that may take, a possible worthwhile remedy? –not just for gender but for any bias, including status and position. These are all interesting points of discussion we were able to have among the attendees (mostly women, of course, but thank you to the men who did attend.)

Thank you to Dr. Rao and Dr. Pluznick for organizing these very important journal club events!

Please see below for the link to the survey about Diversity Journal Club!

A message from the organizers:

Dear all,

We have now had n=4 Departmental Journal Clubs on Diversity/Equity/Inclusion-related topics, and we would value your feedback. Please take this anonymous survey and tell us what you think: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScHwOhchQMpOXLrLxDytzp4plcZl-MnE4Byfheu2Yo4cn7PhQ/viewform?usp=sf_link

Please note: even if you did not attend, we would appreciate you answering the first couple questions on the survey. Also, all of these questions are optional – you can skip any question!

*Thanks,
Jen and Rajini*

LOCATION: WEST LECTURE HALL,
GROUND FLOOR PCTB [OR ZOOM](#)

May 25, 12pm:
Twenty Sixth Philip Bard Lecture in
Medical Physiology
“Genetic protection from sterol
accumulation”
Helen H. Hobbs, M.D.
Professor and Director
Howard Hughes Medical Institute
Eugene McDermott Center for Human
Growth and Development
University of Texas Southwestern
Medical Center
[Join on ZOOM here](#)

June 3, 12pm:
Department Research Seminar
Manuella Ribas Andrade
Fangluo (Luolou) Chen
Katie Sullivan
LOCATION: WEST LECTURE HALL,
GROUND FLOOR PCTB [OR ZOOM](#)

Other Events

May 6: National Nurses Day
May 8: Mother’s Day
May 12: Fibromyalgia Awareness Day
May 20: Global Accessibility
Awareness Day
May 25: Armed Forces Day
May 30: Memorial Day
May 30: World Multiple Sclerosis Day

PDCO Calendar

Newsletter Team

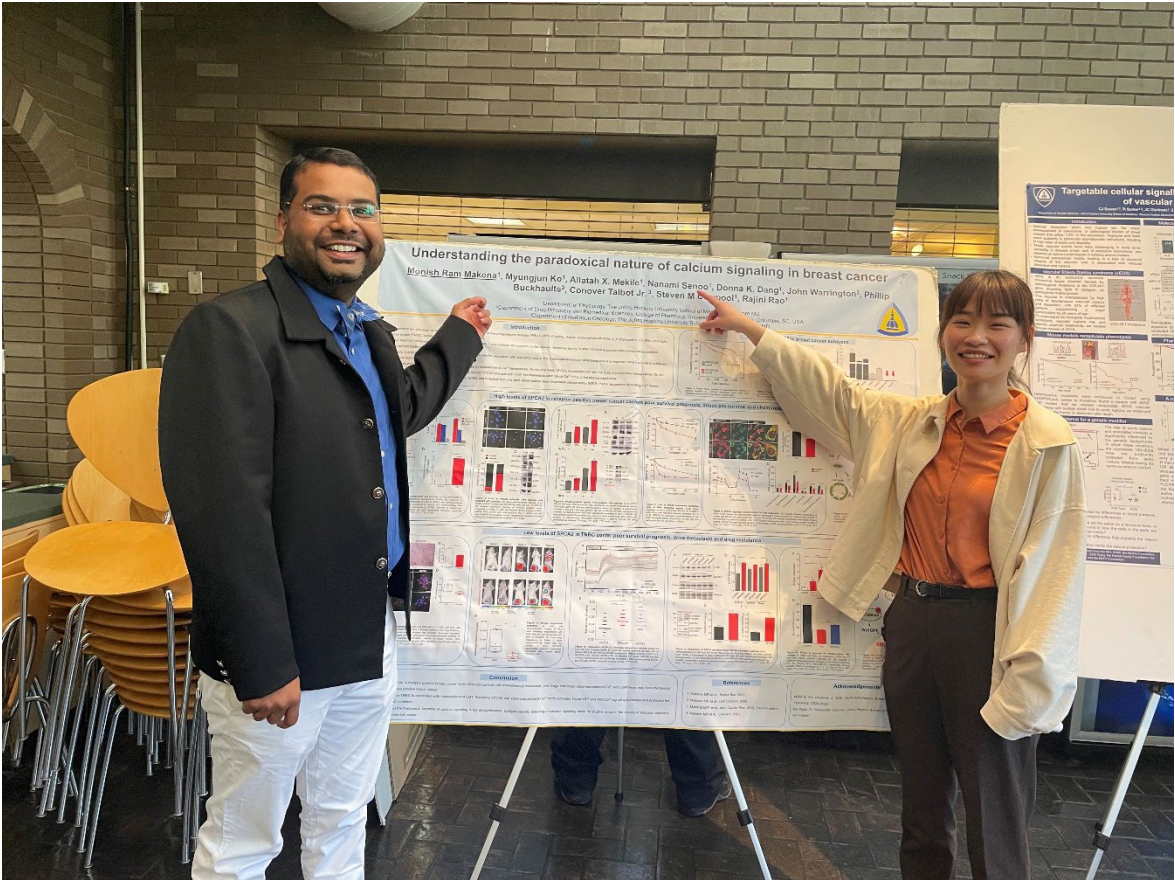
[Kelly Summers](#)
[Erica Avery](#)
[Professor Rajini Rao](#)

Physiology Department

[Physiology Twitter @JHMIPhysiology](#)
[Physiology Slack Channel](#)
[Physiology Website](#)

Awards and Accomplishments

Nanami Senoo of the Claypool lab and Monish Makena of the Rao lab in celebrated their postdoc Young Investigator’s Day awards April 14 in the Mountcastle auditorium. They showed their posters at a session and reception immediately following the program in Greenhouse Cafe.



Mackenzie Kui and Jiaojiao Xu received Renal Research Recognition Awards at the Experimental Biology meeting held April 2-5.

SAVE THE DATE: Rao Lab BCMB student Allatah Mekile will be defending her thesis on May 16 at 1 pm in the Mountcastle Auditorium! She will present her research on the link between endosomal Na+/H+ exchanger NHE6 and insulin stimulated glucose uptake in adipocytes.

Equal Access in Science and Medicine (EASM), led in part by Erica Avery, is being recognized with a joint Student Disability Services/Disability Health Research Center 2021 Accessibility & Inclusion Student Group Award. We are hoping to have a virtual award ceremony on June 1, 2022 at 1 pm.