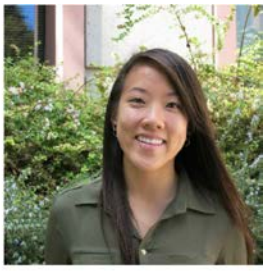
UC Davis Biotechnology Program's NIH T32 BTP Fellows Newsletter

Welcome to Our First NIH Fellows Newsletter!

Karan Agrawal
Pharmacology & Toxicology

Jasmine Corbin
Chemical Engineering



Rosanna Kwok
Entomology

Nicole Nozzi
Chemistry

Anna Marie Tuazon
Biochem, Mol, Cell. & Integrative Biology

Sana Vaziri
Computer Science

The UC Davis Biotechnology Program is proud to announce the new 2015-16 NIH Fellows. Please see page two for a profile on each of these stellar students!

Don't Forget to Create Your MyIDP Profile!

Every NIH Fellow in the UC Davis Biotechnology Program is required to use **MyIDP**. It is a great tool used for creating your individual development plan with guidelines for identifying and reaching your career goals. It is based on the Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology's (FASEB's) *Individual Development Plan for Postdoctoral Fellows*. To access, click here

Extra, Extra, Read All About It!

Have you received an award, accepted a new position, submitted your first RO1, or had something exciting happen in your career? If so, we'd love to hear about it! For past accolades, visit our website here.

NIH Training Program in Biomolecular Technology

The NIH Training Program in Biomolecular Technology is a graduate level training grant awarded in recognition of the quality of multidisciplinary research and training provided by the campus. The grant is under the directorship of Bruce Hammock, Department of Entomolog, and The Cancer Research Center; with Co-directors Martina Newell-McGloughlin, International Biotechnology Program; and Karen McDonald, Professor in Chemical Engineering & Materials Science Department & Co-PI, Faculty Director of the UC Davis ADVANCE Program.

Creating Your MyNCBI Publications Library

MyNCBI is a powerful tool for any researcher and it helps to provide customized database preferences for searches and saves/maintains your citations and peer-reviewed articles compliant with the NIH Public Access Policy.

To begin, register with My NCBI. Once registered, you can sign in with Google, NIH, eRA Comons or directly at the link provided

Dr. Michael Howland Gives His Perspective …..

Recently, when Dr. Michael Howland was contacted about whether or not he would like to contribute to our first Biotechnology Program NIH Newsletter, he was a trooper! Dr. Howland was an NIH Fellow from 2007-2008 and graduated with a PhD in Chemical Engineering (Atul Parikh lab) and a designated emphasis in biotechnology. Michael graduated in 2009 and currently works for Genentech in S. San Francisco. Below is what he had to say:

"Here's a quick perspective on the impact of the DEB and NIH fellowship on my career: The UC Davis Biotechnology Program NIH Fellowship stands out as a pivotal moment in my education. While I might have had some idea of the significance at the time, I could not have foreseen the full magnitude of the impact the experience would have on my professional development over the years to come. The skills acquired from the broad curriculum, cross-functional exposure to industry, and focus on appreciating the larger context in which research can operate have been a major asset and have unquestionably accelerated my career in the pharmaceutical industry. Additionally, the network of other UC Davis Biotech NIH fellows has proved to be a valuable asset for both formal and informal collaborations and advice, fostering continued learning well after my formal training has ended.

-Michael Howland,
Clinical Scientist, Genentech

Michael was also Friday Seminar speaker for the MCB/ECH 294 series in 2014

Excerpt from Dr. Dmitry Grapov, PhD

Dmitry Grapov was an NIH fellow from 2009-2011. He graduated with a PhD in Agricultural & Environmental Chemistry in 2012, along with a designated emphasis in biotechnology. Dmitry was a principal statistician on campus in the Genome Center but then took a position as a Data Scientist in Genome Data Analytics at Monsanto in St. Louis. Here is what he had to say regarding the transition: "Joining the Monsanto Genome Analytics team was a little like jumping on a treadmill turned up on high starting from standing still. I've been trying to catch my breath ever since, but the challenge has made me more adaptable and is pushing me to grow into new areas of research. I owe a big thanks to the DEB to help get my PhD research off of the ground and support me during my world class education at UC Davis. "

His parting words were, "Maybe one day I can be invited to speak at a DEB seminar :)". To which we respond with a loud, resounding, "YES!"

Meet the 2015-16 NIH Fellows!

Karan Agrawal: Pharmacology & Toxicology graduate group in Prof. John Newman's lab. His NIH project is, "Using Metabolomics to Develop Non-Invasive Diagnostic Methods for Inflammatory Skin Diseases". Karan's hobbies include traveling and cooking and his favorite book and move is Murder on the Orient Express (Agatha Christie) and its 1974 adaptation. His favorite music includes instrumental covers of classic rock song (e.g. 2cellos, David Garrett). Karan's favorite sports are cricket (to watch) and squash (to play). Karan sees himself working in industry doing research on disease mechanisms in order to design more effective diagnostic tests using analytical chemistry principles.

Jasmine Corbin: Chemical Engineering graduate group in Prof. Karen McDonald's lab. Her NIH project is, "Herologous Glycoprotein in Transgenic Rice Cell Culture". Jasmine's hobbies include running, hiking, jigsaw puzzles, Jungian cognitive function analysis, and she is currently attempting to build a computer. Some of her favorite shows include Star Trek (TOS and TNG, not the new movies), The Bachelor/ette, and Pac-12 football. Upon graduating, she plans to use her PhD for Bioprocessing R&D for pharmaceutical production.

Rosanna Kwok: Entomology graduate group in Prof. Joanna Chiu's lab. Her NIH project is, "Temporal Dynamics of Epigenetic Landscape Enable Fine-Tuning of Circadian Transcription in *Drosophila*". Rosanna's hobbies include outdoor activities, especially backpacking and snowboarding. She also enjoys traveling and learning about other cultures and enjoys competitive swimming and cycling. Rosanna's most rewarding philanthropic activity thus far has been mentoring high-schoolers at Vallejo High School Biotech Academy. Her favorite book has got to be The Last Lecture by Randy Pausch and loved the movie Mad Max: Fury Road. Upon graduating, Rosanna would like to contribute to the growing field of personalized medicine using her background in circadian biology.

Nicole Nozzi: Chemistry graduate group in Prof. Shota Atsumi's lab. Her NIH project is, "Developing Production of a Plant Alkaloid in a Microbial Host". Nicole's hobbies include yoga, cooking, and arts and crafts. She plans to work in industry in the area of engineered microbial chemical production after graduating.

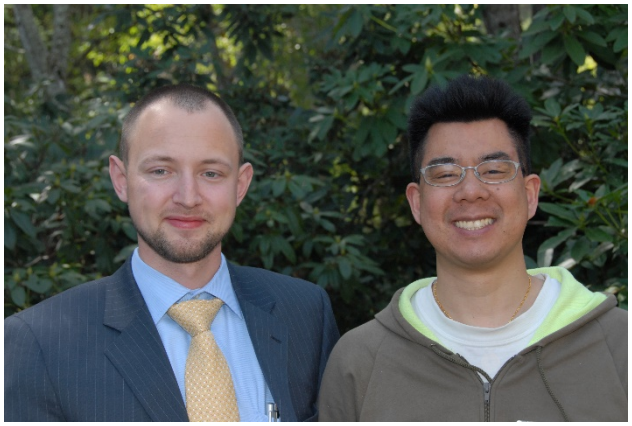
Anna Marie Tuazon: Biochemistry, Molecular, Cellular & Developmental Biology graduate group in Prof. Luis Carvajal-Carmona's lab. Her NIH project is Popular Isolates from Colombia Enable Identification of Novel Breast Cancer Risk Genes". Anna Marie's hobbies include hiking with her Shiba Inu, practicing martial arts, and weight training. She also loves exploring new foods – especially when they involve sushi or cookies! Her philanthropic activities include: being one of the co-leads for Equity in STEM and Entrepreneurship (ESTEME), which is an outreach and retention program that aims to promote equal opportunity in leadership positions in STEM. Additionally, she actively mentors high-school and undergraduates both in research and post-graduate studies and careers. Anna Marie's favorite books include Tuesdays with Morrie, Emperor of all Maledies, and *The Walking Dead* comics.

Meet the 2015-16 NIH Fellows! (Cont.)

Anna Marie Tuazon's favorite movies include Mad Max and The Guardians of the Galaxy. Her favorite music is anything by Alicia Keyes, Common, and Dwele. As a bay area native, she is a fan of the Giants, 49ers, and Warriors! Anna Marie enjoys communicating science to diverse audiences and hopes to pursue a career in biotechnology that would allow her to bridge her interest in applied genomics with her enthusiasm for increasing public knowledge of science, ultimately improving our understanding and genetic applications for complex human diseases.

Sana Vaziri: Computer Science graduate group in Prof. Sharon Aviran's lab. Her NIH project is, "Data Driven Integration of Multiple Probe Measurements". Sana's hobbies include: reading, hiking and playing music (she plays the piano and violin). Her philanthropic work includes volunteering with a few different K-12 academic (mainly STEM) outreach programs. Sana hopes to be able to conduct interesting research in computational biology. She would love to be able to teach and give back to the community through academic outreach.

Daniël Melters with the late Dr. Simon Chan



Dr. Daniël Melters' Perspective

"Being a former NIH Biotechnology fellow, I can call myself very lucky for having received the fellowship two years in a row (2009-2011). During my PhD at UC Davis, I was mentored by two very different PIs: Dr. Ian Korf, a brilliant bioinformatician, and the late Dr. Simon Chan, a plant geneticist. This collaboration set out to identify candidate centromere sequences across all sequenced plant and animal genomes combining and optimizing various existing programs, which led to new collaboration with federal research institutes as well as a biotechnology company. This collaboration proved fruitful, resulting in two publications, which in turn led me to continue my academic endeavors at the National Cancer Institute, National Institutes of Health.

In addition to the academic support the fellowship provided, the Biotechnology Program also gave me the opportunity to reach out to the community: both the UC Davis family as well as the community at large. Especially, seeing how high school students approach scientific questions is very enlightening. This is the reason that I am still mentoring high school students today. All in all, I am very grateful for all the opportunities the NIH Biotechnology Fellowship and Program have given me."

Seasoned Advice to the 2015-2016 Fellows

When I asked **Nicole Nozzi** if she had any advice for first time fellows, this is what she had to say: "My first year as a fellow allowed me the great opportunity to work on a project that is entirely my own and entirely different from anything I have worked on previously. Over the past year I have been able to develop my confidence as an independent scientist." Thank you Nicole!

Professors Bruce Hammock, PI and Karen McDonald, Co-PI News

His lab, UCD Superfund Research Program, Dept of Entomology, publications, featured news, etc, can be found HERE

Her lab, current research, publications, news and notices can be found HERE

UC Davis Advance page HERE

Other NIH BTP Links

Additional news regarding some of the NIH training faculty can be found on the Biotechnology Program's NIH website HERE

Curious where all our **Fellows have gone for their internships?** Look HERE

Curious where all our **Fellows are now?** Look HERE