

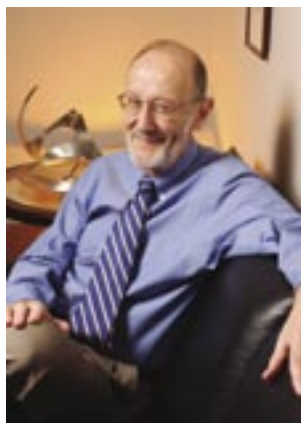


Sally Camper

## Greetings from the Chair

I am pleased to send you my first annual Department of Human Genetics Newsletter, which will provide you with highlights of the past year, especially the accomplishments of our faculty and students, and some news of our future plans.

We held a celebration in honor of Tom Gelehrter's 17-year term as chair in January at the Michigan Union. Several former faculty members came to honor Tom on this occasion: Jeff Chamberlain, Ko Kurachi, Bob Erickson, and Don Rucknagel. Tom's leadership and successful faculty recruitments built the foundation for our current strength in research and academics. We have 24 faculty members with excellent programs in research, education and service.



Thomas Gelehrter

## Faculty Recruitment

My most important goal as chair is to recruit approximately eight new faculty members over the next several years. We plan to focus on recruiting junior faculty and building the primary faculty base with outstanding geneticists. We are seeking scientists with research interests in molecular, developmental, population and statistical genetics, working with model organisms, patients and populations. Our first recruit is Noah Rosenberg, a statistical geneticist and Burroughs Wellcome Scholar, with joint appointments in Biostatistics, Bioinformatics and the Life



Noah Rosenberg

Sciences Institute. Noah joined us in June and is a member of the UM Biological Sciences Scholars Program.

## Center for Genetics in Health and Medicine

In May, the Executive Committee approved plans for a Center for Genetics in Health and Medicine (CGHM). The proposal for the CGHM arose from a grassroots effort of our faculty, with the mission of enhancing and enriching genetics research at the University of Michigan. Our goal is to reach out and draw together faculty members already working in genetics across the University and to recruit several new, top quality interdisciplinary faculty members. We expect CGHM to foster the development of an interactive intellectual community of faculty and students by providing core facilities to support research and by enhancing training and education programs in genetics.

## Department Events

On May 19, 2005, Dr. Charles Scriver, Alva Professor Emeritus of Human Genetics at McGill University and Montreal Children's Hospital Research Institute, gave the Fifth Annual James V. Neel Lectureship. Dr. Scriver's lecture was entitled "Networks: Messages from the Phenylalanine Hydroxylase (PAH) Locus Outpost." Dr. Scriver is well known for editing *The Metabolic and Molecular Bases of Inherited Diseases*.

Our fall 2005 retreat took place at the Kellogg Biological Station at Gull Lake. Jeff Long and the administrative staff and students collaborated to develop an excellent program that included a



thought-provoking talk on genetic engineering and agriculture, entitled "The Future of Agriculture," by Brian Larkins, Regents Professor of Plant Sciences at the University of Arizona and a member of the National Academy of Sciences.

The summer picnic, directed by David Burke, was a well attended family event with games for children and adults. The Ginsburg laboratory won the tug-of-war trophy and the Camper lab captured the volleyball trophy.

## Faculty Promotions, Awards, and Honors

The Department faculty, their research activities and recent publications can be found on the Departmental website at [www.hg.med.umich.edu](http://www.hg.med.umich.edu).

We proudly announce that David Burke and Margit Burmeister were both promoted to Professor. Mirna Mustapha-Chaib was appointed as a Research Investigator in the laboratory of Sally Camper.

Tom Glover was selected to receive a Distinguished Faculty Achievement Award for 2004-05. This Rackham award is for exceptional contributions to scholarship, teaching, mentorship and service. It recognizes Tom's service in cytogenetics, his teaching in HG542, and his research accomplishments in genome instability.



Thomas Glover with  
Interim Provost Edward Gramlich

Tom Gelehrter received the Kaiser Permanente Award for Excellence in Teaching, the most prestigious teaching award given by the Medical School. This is a wonderful way to recognize his

devotion to teaching medical genetics and his popular *Principles in Medical Genetics* textbook, co-authored with David Ginsburg and Francis Collins. Hour Detroit magazine named Liz Petty as a 2004 "Top Doc" in Internal Medicine. Julie Douglas received the Elizabeth Crosby Research Award from the NSF Advance Program. Sally Camper received the Distinguished Faculty Lectureship Award in Biomedical Research from the Biomedical Research Council for teaching, research and service.

Miriam Meisler and Margit Burmeister were elected to the Medical School's Executive Committee for three-year terms. Eric Fearon is President-elect of the American Society of Clinical Investigation. David Ginsburg was elected to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. Friedhelm Hildebrandt was elected to the Association of American Physicians.

## Graduate Education

We currently have 41 doctoral students, including two students in the Medical Scientist Training Program. We also have 12 students pursuing masters degrees in genetic counseling and one student pursuing a masters degree in human genetics.

Our Ph.D. students are supported by several different training grants including Genetics, currently in its 27th year, Genome Science, Organogenesis, and Hearing and Chemical Senses. In addition, our students have successfully competed for funding from Rackham, HHMI, and the American Heart Association.

We are delighted to report on recent graduates of our Ph.D. program.

Stephen Levin (Meisler lab) defended his thesis entitled "Pathophysiology of Movement Disorders Resulting from Conditional Inactivation of Voltage-Gated Sodium Channel Scn8a" in October 2004. He joined the veterinary faculty at the Center for Comparative Medicine at Northwestern University.

Joseph Brzezinski, IV (Glaser lab) defended his thesis entitled "The Role of Math5 in Retinal Development" in November 2004. Joe has continued work in the Glaser lab, and will begin a postdoctoral fellowship with Anjen Chenn at Northwestern University in January 2006.

Michael Blankinship (Chamberlain lab) defended in January his thesis entitled "Advances in Recombinant Adeno-Associated Virus Technology and Implications for the Treatment of Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy." He is a first-year medical student at UM.

Tammy Morrish (Moran lab) defended her thesis on "Endonuclease-Independent LINE-1 Retrotrans-position" in January. She is a postdoc in the laboratory of Carol Greider at Johns Hopkins University.

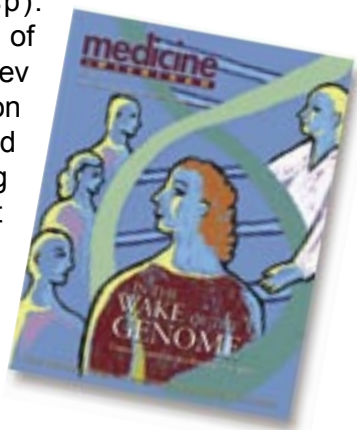
Michael Charles (Camper lab) defended his studies on "Molecular Genetic Analysis of Transcription Factors in Mouse Pituitary Development" in July. He is a third-year medical student at UM.

Michael Glynn (Glover lab) defended his thesis entitled "The Effects of LaminA Mutations in Hutchinson-Gilford Progeria Syndrome" in September. He is currently working as a legal intern at an intellectual property law firm, Kenyon & Kenyon, in New York City, and attending Fordham University School of Law.

Colleen McCabe (Innis lab) defended her thesis entitled "Identification and Functional Characterization of HOXA13 Genomic Binding Elements" in October. She has accepted a postdoctoral fellowship with Carlos Moreno at Emory University.

Deanna Kulpa (Moran lab) defended her thesis "LINE-1 Ribonucleoprotein Particle Retrotransposition Intermediates" in October. Deanna will continue her work in the Moran lab before beginning a postdoc position.

Our Graduate Training Program in Genetic Counseling was featured this year in *Medicine at Michigan* (<http://www.medicineatmichigan.org/magazine/2004/fall/genetics/default.asp>). Under the leadership of the program director, Bev Yashar, accreditation by the American Board of Genetic Counseling was approved for eight years.



We are very proud of the first class of genetic counselors who graduated with a research project as part of their studies. They have obtained a variety of types of jobs throughout North America.

Julie Albertus took a position in the Family Studies Core, working with Aravinda Chakravarti, at Johns Hopkins University.

Laura Cecchi has joined the Prenatal Care Group at Yale New Haven Hospital.

Spring Holter is working with the Cancer Care Group at Mt. Sinai Hospital in Toronto.

Jessica Mester is with Pediatric Genetics at the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center in Tulsa.

Erica Stewart is working in the Department of Medical Genetics at Dartmouth Hitchcock Medical Center in Manchester, NH.

Erica Ward joined the Prenatal Care Group at New York University Hospital.

The 2004 recipient of the Anita and Howard Cramer Family Award was Lisa Privette in Liz Petty's lab.

Graduate students, postdoctoral trainees and fellows are the engine that drives our research enterprise, and their achievements are among the greatest sources of satisfaction for faculty. Enriching education and training is an important aspect of our mission.



Lisa Privette



Priscilla Neel

## Fundraising

I am delighted to report that we raised \$20,711 during the past year to supplement the James V. Neel Fellowship Fund, with donations from over 50% of the faculty. Special thanks go to Mrs. Neel for her generous support of this program. We hope to continue to expand this program with annual contributions by faculty, alumni and other donors. If you are interested in making a donation, please visit our website at [www.hg.med.umich.edu/contribute/](http://www.hg.med.umich.edu/contribute/).

The James V. Neel Doctoral Fellowship was awarded to Jessica Lehoczky in the Innis lab, and the second James V. Neel Genetic Counseling Fellowship went to Sarah Scollon.



Jessica Lehoczky



Sarah Scollon

## In Closing...

We are looking forward to the 2006 academic year, which marks the 50th anniversary of the Department of Human Genetics. We are planning a scientific symposium and gala event for May 26, 2006 and hope that many of our alumni will be able to attend. More details of the anniversary celebration will follow in another mailing.

With best wishes,

Sally A. Camper, Ph.D.  
James V. Neel Collegiate Professor and Chair

## Faculty Activities

**George Brewer** gave three lectures at Chibia University in Japan and was a speaker for the ISTERH Triannual Meeting in Bangkok, Thailand. He continues as Associate Editor of the *American Journal of Hematology* and serves on the editorial boards of the *Journal of Trace Elements in Experimental Medicine*, *Biochemical Genetics* and *Biomedical Research on Trace Elements*.

**David Burke** was an invited speaker for the NSF 15th Annual Undergraduate Research Symposium in San Juan, Puerto Rico. He is a member of the NIH Small Business Innovation Research/Small Business Technology Transfer Grant Review Panel and serves on our University's Genome Sciences Training Grant Executive Committee. He is also a lecturer for the Mathematical and Theoretical Biology Institute in Los Alamos, New Mexico, which provides research experience for Latino, Native American and African American undergraduates.

**Margit Burmeister** gave a workshop in Krakow, Poland as part of the UM Fogarty Grant and gave a lecture at the American College of Neuropsychopharmacology meetings in Puerto Rico. She continues as a member of the Access Committee of the Marshfield Mammalian Genotyping Center and serves on the editorial boards of *Mammalian Genome* and *Human Molecular Genetics*. Margit served as an ad hoc reviewer of the Genetics, Health and Disease Study Section.

**Sally Camper** was an invited speaker at the International Congress of Endocrinology in Lisbon, Portugal and gave the "State of the Art" lecture for the Society for the Study of Reproduction in Vancouver, British Columbia. Sally is on the Editorial Board of *Mammalian Genome* and is a member of external advisory boards for NIDDK Beta Cell Biology Consortium, the Jackson Laboratory Induced

Mutant Resource and Mammalian Genome Database. She is completing a three-year term on the Endocrine Society Annual Meeting Program Committee.

**Julie Douglas** was an invited reviewer of abstracts for the 2005 ASHG annual meetings and is a member of the NHLBI GxE Interaction RFA Program Analysis Subcommittee. Julie continues as a fundraiser for the American Cancer Society's Making Strides Against Breast Cancer.

**Eric Fearon** is the current president of the American Society of Clinical Investigation and is on the Krieger School of Arts & Sciences Dean's Advisory Committee at Johns Hopkins University. He is the senior editor of *Molecular Cancer Research* and is on the editorial boards of *Cancer Research*, *Lab Investigation*, *Journal of Clinical Investigation*, *Neoplasia*, *Current Biology*, *Genes, Chromosomes and Cancer*, and the *Journal of Biological Chemistry*.

**Thomas Gelehrter** was an invited speaker for the Human Medical Genetics Program at the University of Colorado Health Science Center. He served on the Advisory Board of *Endocrine Reviews* and just completed a three-year term on the NIH Recombinant DNA Advisory Committee. Tom continues to serve on the Ethical, Legal, and Social Issues Committee of the American College of Medical Genetics.

**David Ginsburg** was an invited speaker at the Michigan/Weizmann Symposium in Tel-Aviv, Israel and at the 5th Bari International Conference on Hemophilia and Allied Disorders in Foggia, Italy. David serves on the editorial boards of the *Journal of Thrombosis and Haemostasis*, and *Molecular Medicine*, and he is a consulting editor of the *Journal of Clinical Investigation*. David is an evaluator for the NIH Pioneer Awards Program, an advisor on the NCBI Board of Scientific Counselors and a member of the Investigator Advisory Committee for the Howard Hughes Medical Institute.

**Thomas Glaser** gave several seminars at the Hospital for Sick Children's Departments of Genetics and Ophthalmology in Toronto, and is a panel member on the NIH Lens and Cataracts Policy Committee and a scientific advisor for the International Children's Anophthalmia Network.

**Thomas Glover** was a keynote speaker at the German Cancer Research Center in Heidelberg. He serves on the Editorial Board of *Human Molecular Genetics* and continues on the research advisory boards of the Progeria Research Foundation and the Lymphedema Research Foundation. He is also the Co-director of the University of Michigan's Clinical Cytogenetics Laboratory.

**Jerome Gorski** was a guest speaker at the University of Missouri School of Medicine and Wayne State, and continues as an associate editor of *Genetics in Medicine*. Jerry is a member of the Scientific Advisory Council of the National Incontinentia Pigmenti Foundation.

**Stephen Gruber** has just completed a year at the Institut Català de Oncologia in Barcelona. While on sabbatical, he also gave lectures in Uruguay and Israel. Steve is on the Editorial Board of *Cancer Research* and a member of the American Society of Clinical Investigation.

**Friedhelm Hildebrandt** gave an invited lecture at the NIH-NIDDK workshop on Glomerular Disease and was an invited speaker at the Gordon Conference in Buellton, California. Friedhelm serves on the editorial boards of the *Journal of the American Society of Nephrology*, *Pediatric Nephrology*, and the Advisory Board for *Cellular and Molecular Basis of Renal Disease*. He also serves as editor for Chromosome 2 for the Human Genome Organization and on the NephCure Scientific Committee.

**Jeffrey Innis** is a member of the NIGMS Human Genetic Cell Repository Working Group. Jeff is Director of the Medical Genetics Residency Program and Director of the Division of Pediatric Genetics at the University of Michigan. Jeff was recently elected to the American Board of Medical Genetics Board of Directors.

**David Kohrman** had three posters at the 28th Midwinter Research Meeting of the Association for Research in Otolaryngology in New Orleans. Dave continues as co-director of the Resident Research Committee in Otolaryngology.

**Jeffrey Long** was a seminar speaker in the Department of Anthropology at UC Davis, Arizona State and Penn State. Jeff is on the Program Committee for the upcoming ASHG meetings and is a member of the NIH Genetic Variation and Evolution Study Section. Jeff also continues his teaching at the Mathematical and Theoretical Biology Institute in Los Alamos, New Mexico.

**Donna Martin** was an invited speaker at the Centre de Regulacio Genomica in Barcelona, Spain and at the Weizmann Institute of Science in Rehovot, Israel. She is an ad hoc member of the Developmental Brain Disorders (DBD) Study Section at NIH and received a teaching award in the Department of Pediatrics at the University of Michigan.

**Miriam Meisler** was the keynote speaker for the ExonHit Therapeutics Meeting in Bethesda and for the American Epilepsy Society's Annual Meeting in New Orleans. She is on the Editorial Board of *Mammalian Genome*, and serves on the NIDCD Board of Scientific Counselors, the Genome Center Advisory Board for Wayne State University, and the NIMH Mouse Scientific Panel. Miriam is also a senior fellow of the Michigan Society of Fellows and Director of our Predoctoral Genetics Training Program.

**John Moran** was co-organizer of the Salk Institute's 2005 conference on the Impact of Transposable Elements on Human Evolution and co-organizer of FASEB's 2005 conference in Tucson on Mammalian Mobile Elements.

He is an associate editor of the *American Journal of Human Genetics* and on the editorial boards of *Analytical Biochemistry* and *Biomedicine and Biotechnology*. John also served on three study sections.

**Gilbert Omenn** is currently serving as President of the American Association for the Advancement of Science and received the John W. Gardner Legacy of Leadership Award from the White House Fellows Program. He also completed the Pilot Phase of the International Human Proteome Organization Plasma Proteome Project with a special issue of Proteomics.

**Elizabeth Petty** was the keynote speaker for the State of Michigan Department of Community Health Cancer Genomics Education Project. Liz serves on the American College of Medical Genetics Recertification Examination Committee for Molecular Genetics and is an ad hoc reviewer for the Human Frontier Science Program. She also serves as a standing IRB member at Pfizer in Ann Arbor.

**Diane Robins** represented the American Cancer Society as a panel member for the Union Internationale Contre le Cancer to review fellowships. Didi serves on the editorial boards of *Steroids* and *Molecular Endocrinology*, and is a member of the D.O.D. Prostate Cancer Research Integration Panel. Didi continues as the Departmental Director of Graduate Studies.

**Jane Schuette** is a member of the State of Michigan's Genetic Advisory Committee, Birth Defects Registry and Surveillance Working Group, and the Genetic Literacy Working Group. Jane also continues to participate each summer in the University of Michigan's Women in Science and Engineering Program for Middle School Students.

**JoAnn Sekiguchi** gave an invited seminar at SUNY Buffalo for the Department of Biological Sciences and is on the editorial boards of the *Journal of Cancer* and *Experimental Cell Research*, and an ad hoc reviewer of *Nature* and *Biochemistry*.

**Charles Sing** was an invited speaker for the 11th Annual Scandinavian Atherosclerosis Conference in Humlebaek, Denmark. He continues on the Editorial Board of the *Journal of Molecular Medicine* and is a consulting editor of the American Heart Association's *Arteriosclerosis, Thrombosis and Vascular Biology*. Charlie was also an evaluator for the NIH Director's Pioneer Awards.

**David States** was the chair for the 2005 Intelligent Systems for Molecular Biology Conference in Detroit and is on the editorial boards of *Cancer Informatics* and *Applied Bioinformatics*. He is also on the External Scientific Panel for the Program for Genomic Applications.

**Anand Swaroop** was an invited speaker at the Indian Institute of Science in Bangalore, India, at the L.V. Prasad Eye Institute in Hyderabad, India, and at the National Institute

of Immunology in New Delhi, India. Anand continues on the editorial boards of *Molecular Vision* and *Investigative Ophthalmology and Visual Science*. He is a member of the National Scientific Advisory Council of the American Federation for Aging Research and a grant reviewer for the Medical Research Council in the UK.

**Wendy Uhlmann** spoke at the National Society of Genetic Counselors (NSGC) Neurogenetics Short Course and at their Annual Education Conference, both in Washington, DC. Wendy continues on the NSGC's Jane Engelberg Memorial Fellowship Advisory Group as well as on the Board of Directors for the Genetic Alliance.

**Beverly Yashar** was an invited speaker at the National Society of Genetic Counselors Annual Education Conference in Washington, DC, and was featured in an article in "Medicine at Michigan" about genetic counseling and medical genetics. Bev is on the Editorial Board of *Perspectives* and continues as a board member of the IRBMED at the University of Michigan. Bev is Director of our Graduate Training Program in Genetic Counseling.

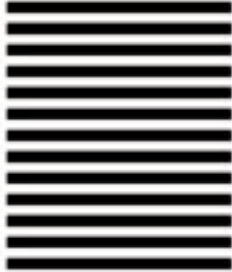




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