

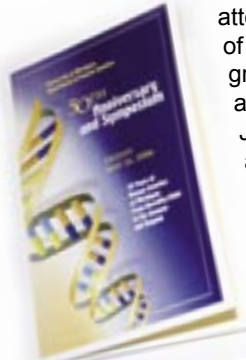


Sally Camper

## Greetings from the Chair

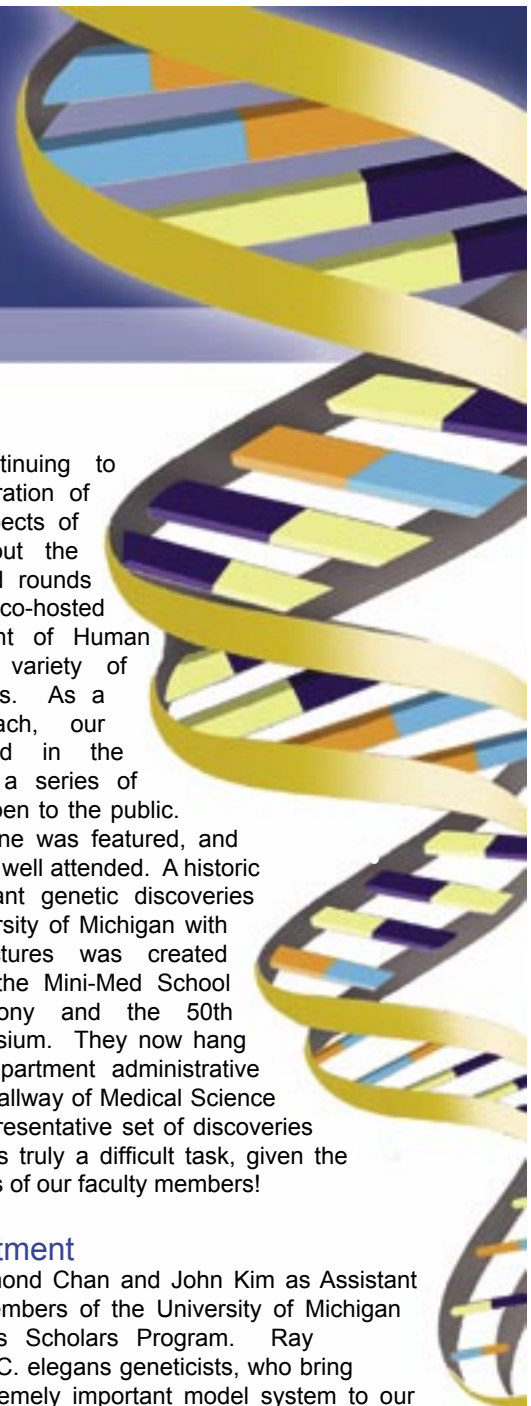
It is with great pleasure that I present a review of the past years' activities and accomplishments in the Department of Human Genetics. Our faculty, postdocs, and students have been exceptionally productive, as evidenced by the range of their scholarly activities, awards, grants, promotions and publications. With just a few pages in which to cover this subject, I can only give the highlights of our collective accomplishments.

## 50th Anniversary of the Founding of the Department of Human Genetics - the First in the Nation



The kick-off to our 50th anniversary celebration began with a gala alumni dinner, attended by several of the founding members of the Department, former faculty, Ph.D. graduates spanning 26 years, and other alumni. Our computer specialists Einar Jacobsen and James Sanders put together a slide show with pictures that highlighted Department events during the past 50 years. Jack Schull (University of Texas) presented the history of the Department during his years on the Michigan faculty. Alan Templeton (Washington University) reminisced about the life of a graduate student in the Department when Jim Neel

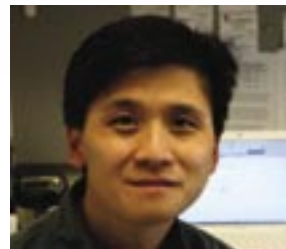
was chair. It was a personal pleasure for me to meet and celebrate with those who were able to attend. I also enjoyed hearing from many alums who shared memories with me but were unable to attend the event. We held a scientific symposium featuring Newton Morton (University of Southampton), Maynard Olson (University of Washington), Andy Feinberg (a former faculty member now at Johns Hopkins University), and Mary Claire King (University of Washington). Dr. Newton Morton, a colleague of Dr. Neel, gave the Sixth Annual James V. Neel Lectureship entitled "Genetic Paradises Found, Lost, or Regained."



We will be continuing to highlight the integration of genetics in all aspects of medicine throughout the year, with a grand rounds series of speakers co-hosted by the Department of Human Genetics and a variety of clinical departments. As a community outreach, our faculty participated in the Mini-Med School, a series of evening lectures open to the public. Genetics in medicine was featured, and the series was very well attended. A historic timeline of important genetic discoveries made at the University of Michigan with accompanying pictures was created and displayed at the Mini-Med School graduation ceremony and the 50th anniversary symposium. They now hang outside of the Department administrative office in the main hallway of Medical Science II. Selecting a representative set of discoveries for the timeline was truly a difficult task, given the many achievements of our faculty members!

## Faculty Recruitment

We recruited Raymond Chan and John Kim as Assistant Professors and members of the University of Michigan Biological Sciences Scholars Program. Ray and John are both *C. elegans* geneticists, who bring strength in an extremely important model system to our Department. We are delighted to welcome them.



Ray Chan

Ray Chan comes to us from his postdoctoral position with Barbara Meyer at the University of California, Berkeley. He earned his Ph.D. in molecular biology working with Doug Black at UCLA. Ray has a joint appointment in the Division of Molecular Medicine and Genetics in the Department of Internal Medicine. His research focuses on chromosome segregation using biochemical, cell biological, and functional genetic analyses. Ray has defined the components of the cohesin and condensin complexes and defined their roles in meiosis and mitosis. In particular, he discovered that the circadian regulator, *timeless*, is involved in regulating chromosome segregation. His future plans include discovering other genes involved in these processes and in responsiveness to DNA damage.



John Kim

John Kim comes to us from Boston, where he was a post-doctoral fellow with Gary Ruvkun at Harvard. His Ph.D. research involved dissecting targeting pathways using yeast genetics. He trained with Dan Klionsky at the University of California, Davis and at the University of Michigan. John has a joint

appointment in the Life Sciences Institute. His research focuses on the mechanisms of small RNA-mediated gene regulation using functional genomic, genetic, and cell biological methods. He uses genome-wide screens to identify genes that are involved in RNA interference and computational methods to identify rare small RNAs. His future research will also involve exploring the role of small RNAs in translational regulation in neurons.

### Center for Genetics in Health and Medicine

The center has been established and featured in several news articles. One goal is to nurture promising individuals who are preparing for careers in genetics. We awarded postdoctoral fellowships to two outstanding individuals, Mathilde Malapel-Body and Hee Chui Lee. Mathilde is studying the link between Crohn's disease and genetic variation in a member of the caspase recruitment domain gene family with Gabriel Nuñez in the Department of Pathology. Hee Chui is studying genes that extend the lifespan of *C. elegans* with Ao-Lin Hsu in Internal Medicine.

### Faculty Promotions, Awards, 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).



Miriam Meisler

Miriam Meisler received the Distinguished Faculty Lectureship Award in Biomedical Research from the Biomedical Research Council for teaching, research and service. Jeff Innis received the Dean's Basic Science Award for his research on limb development. Noah Rosenberg received an Alfred P. Sloan Research Fellowship Award in Computational and Evolutionary Molecular Biology. For outstanding contributions to the science of laboratory medicine, David Ginsburg received the 2006 Cotlove Award from the Academy of Clinical Laboratory Physicians and Scientists.

Elizabeth Petty was named the Associate Dean for Student Programs, and Steve Gruber was appointed as the H. Marvin Pollard Professor of Internal Medicine.



Jeff Innis

### Comings and Goings

Jerry Gorski left Michigan during the past year to become the Joy Sylvester and Arthur C. Burns Distinguished Professor in Pediatrics, and Division Chief of Medical Genetics in the Department of Child Health at the University of Missouri School of Medicine. We wish him well in this new endeavor.

After 32 years of continuous NIH funding, including a MERIT Award in 1987, Tom Gelehrter closed his laboratory and began his retirement furlough. Tom continues to be active in teaching and in the Medical Genetics Clinic.

Jennifer Kearney, a research investigator with Miriam Meisler,

has accepted a position as an assistant professor in the Division of Genetic Medicine at Vanderbilt University. Niall Howlett, a research investigator with Tom Glover, has been offered an assistant professor position at the University of Rhode Island. Congratulations to Niall and Jennifer.



Didi Robins

### Graduate Education

Didi Robins continues as our director of graduate education. We currently have 14 postdoctoral research fellows, 20 doctoral students, including one student in the Medical Scientist Training Program, and 11 students pursuing master's degrees in genetic counseling.

Our Ph.D. students are supported by several different training grants, including Genetics, Organogenesis, Genome Sciences, and Hearing and Chemical Senses. In addition, our students have successfully competed for funding from Rackham and the Department of the Army.

We take great pleasure in reporting on recent graduates of our Ph.D. program.

Heidi Lemmerhirt (Ginsburg lab) defended her thesis "Strain-Specific Modifier Genes Regulate Plasma von Willebrand Factor Level in Inbred Mice." Heidi is currently teaching at Eastern Michigan University.

Jennifer Chisa (Burke lab) completed her studies on "Effects of Genetic Variation and Aging on Splice-Isoform Ratios in the Mouse" and is pursuing entrepreneurial activities.

John Bernat (Ginsburg lab) returned to medical school after completing his studies on "Mouse von Willebrand Factor: A Model for Endothelial-Specific Gene Expression."

We are very proud of our genetic counseling graduates and their research projects. They have all obtained professional counseling positions throughout North America.

Patti Franckowiak took a genetic counseling position at ARUP Laboratories in Salt Lake City.

Amy Jonker is working with Spectrum Health in Grand Rapids as a genetic counselor.

Stephanie McElroy has taken a genetic counseling position at Michigan State University.

Thereasa Rich has joined the Department of Surgical Oncology at M.D. Anderson in Houston as a genetic counselor.

Sarah Scollon has taken a position with the Genetics Program at the Hawaii Department of Health.

Lindsay Walker is working as a genetic counselor at the Reproductive Genetics Institute in Chicago.

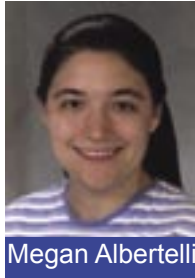
The 2006 recipient of the Anita and Howard Cramer Scholarship Award is Jennie Mason from the Sekiguchi lab. Jennie is working on SnmIB, a putative nuclease, and its role in DNA repair, maintenance of genomic integrity, and suppression of tumorigenesis.



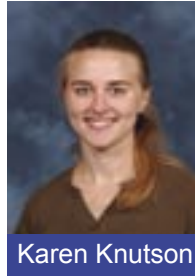
Jennie Mason



Randy Westrick



Megan Albertelli



Karen Knutson

The James V. Neel Doctoral Fellowship Award was shared by Megan Albertelli and Randy Westrick this year. Together with Didi Robins, Megan is studying the effect of common variants in the androgen receptor as risk factors for prostate cancer latency and progression. Randy Westrick and David Ginsburg have developed a genetic screen and identified several heritable loci that protect against a lethal blood clotting disorder. The James V. Neel Genetic Counseling Fellowship Award went to Karen Knutson, whose research project focuses on the attitudes and feelings of adults who have a sibling with early-onset Alzheimer's disease. Karen has recently been awarded a Rackham Graduate Student Research Grant.

### Fundraising

I am delighted to report that we have raised \$56,000 during the past year to supplement the Gilbert Omenn Endowed Professorship and the James V. Neel Graduate Fellowship Funds. Special thanks to Gil for his generous contribution. Over the next several years we hope to raise enough money for an endowment that would fund the cost of tuition, health insurance, and stipend for one outstanding graduate student each year. Generous giving by friends of the Department, current and former faculty, postdocs, and students have brought us to 25% of our goal. If you are interested in making a donation to the James V. Neel Fellowship Funds or another aspect of our Departmental mission, please visit our website at [www.hg.med.umich.edu/contribute](http://www.hg.med.umich.edu/contribute) or return the enclosed donation card.



Gil Omenn

### Department Events

The new Biomedical Science Research Building (BSRB) opened in January 2006. Several of our faculty members have laboratories in this building, including Margit Burmeister, Eric Fearon, Tom Glaser, Steve Gruber and JoAnn Sekiguchi.



Tom Glover

Our annual fall retreat took place at the Maumee Bay Conference Center in Oregon, Ohio (near Toledo). Julie Douglas, Linda Peasley, and our student event representatives (Lisa Privette, Esther Peterson and Matt Butler) collaborated to develop an excellent program that included guest speakers Trudy Mackay, Ph.D., Professor of Genetics at North Carolina State University and author of the popular textbook "Introduction to Quantitative Genetics," and Robert Anholt, Ph.D., Professor of Zoology at North Carolina State University and author of "Dazzle 'em with

Style: The Art of Oral Scientific Presentation."

The summer picnic, coordinated by Tom Glaser and Janet Miller, was an excellent event with the highlight being the faculty dunk tank! Thanks to Tom, Janet, and the entire picnic committee, a great time was had by all at Delhi Park with a delicious barbeque, games, and a moonwalk for the children.

A field trip to a Detroit Tigers game was enjoyed by many faculty, staff and students. The Tigers went on to become the American League champions.

### In Closing...

I am very proud of the legacy of our Department, the accomplishments of our faculty, postdocs and students in research, teaching and service, and the terrific sense of community that we have. I particularly enjoyed the opportunity provided by our 50th anniversary to hear from many individuals who are part of our history. I look forward to hearing from more of you about your current positions and achievements, and reflections on your time at U of M.

With best wishes,

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

### Faculty Activities

George Brewer was an invited speaker at the FASEB Summer Research Conferences in Snowmass and at Purdue University in West Lafayette. 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. He is on the Council of the International Society for Trace Element Research in Humans.

David Burke was a speaker for the NIH-NIA Summer Course on Aging Research in Ann Arbor and taught at the NIH/NHGRI/NIEHS Exposure Biology Workshop in Greensboro. He is a member of the NIH grant review panel, "Genes, Genomes, and Genetics," and was a lecturer at the University of Michigan Summer Science Camp. Dave continues his collaborations with the Geriatrics/Institute of Gerontology as a member of their Research Operating Committee and is the director of their Genome Analysis Core.

Margit Burmeister was an invited speaker at the International Society for Psychiatric Genetics in Boston. She serves on the Editorial Board of Mammalian Genome and served as an ad hoc reviewer on two NIH study sections: Genetics of Health & Disease and Brain Disorders & Clinical Neuroscience.

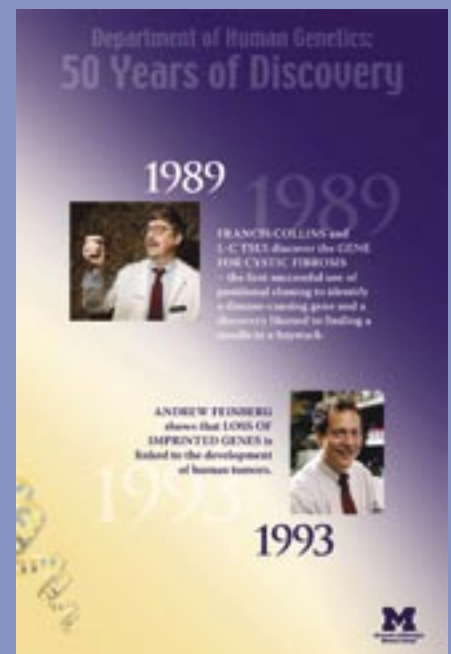
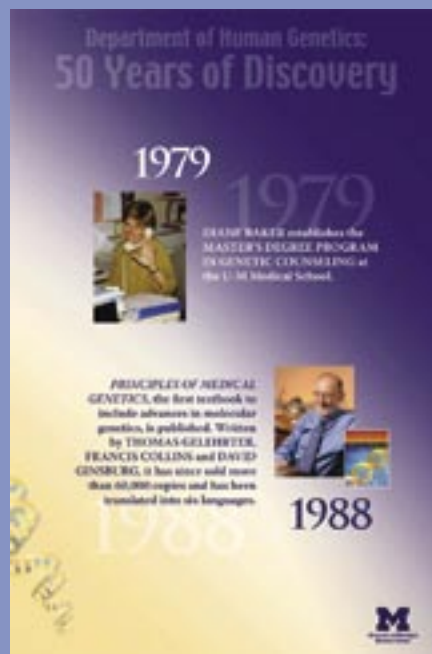
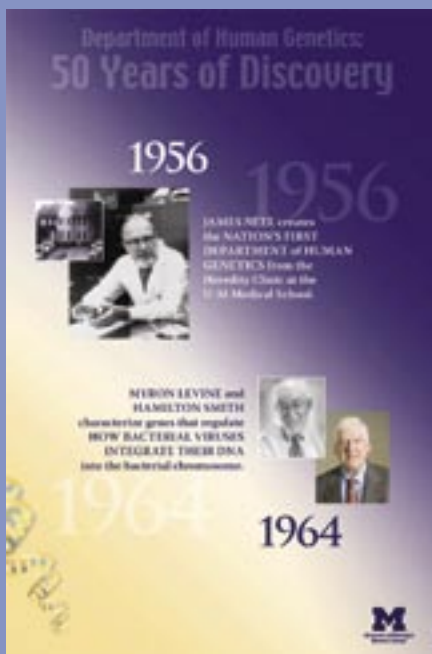
Sally Camper was the keynote speaker at the Prolactin Gordon Conference and was also invited to speak at Tokai Medical University, the Center for Child Health, and the Pfizer KIGS conference in Japan. KIGS is an international database containing information about growth hormone treatment in children and adolescents. Sally is on the editorial boards of Mammalian Genome, Mechanisms of Development, and Molecular Endocrinology. She is also on the advisory boards of the Induced Mutant Resource and the Mouse Genome Database for the Jackson Labs. She recently completed her term on the Endocrine Society Annual Meeting Program Committee.

Julie Douglas was a platform session moderator at the ASHG annual meeting in Salt Lake City and an ad hoc reviewer for the NIH Genetic Variation and Evolution Study Section. She continues to serve as a member of the NHLBI Gene by Environment Interaction RFA Program Analysis Subcommittee and raises funds for the American Cancer Society.

Eric Fearon is the current president of the American Society of Clinical Investigation. He is on the editorial boards of Molecular Cancer Research, Cancer Research, Lab Investigation, Journal of Clinical Investigation, Neoplasia, Current Biology, Genes, Chromosomes and Cancer, and Journal of Biological Chemistry. Eric gave the 3rd Annual Sarma Lectureship in Oncologic Pathology at the University of Toronto Faculty of Medicine.

Thomas Gelehrter continues to serve as the Institutional representative for the Association of Professors of Human/Medical Genetics and on the organizing committee of the International Congress on Fibrinolysis and Proteolysis. Here at Michigan, Tom continues as the course director for the Patients and Populations sequence in the medical genetics course for first-year medical students. After 25 years, he has stepped down as associate director of the Medical Scientist Training Program.

David Ginsburg gave the 24th Annual Jeanette Piperno Memorial Award Lecture at Temple University and a talk at the 60th Lerner Research Institute Anniversary Symposium for The Cleveland Clinic Foundation. He also was the Harrison Society Visiting Professor at Vanderbilt University in Nashville. David



serves on the Editorial Board of the Journal of Thrombosis and Haemostasis and is a member of the scientific advisory committees of the International Society for Fibrinolysis and Thrombolysis, Rockefeller Brothers/Charles E. Culpeper Foundation, Howard Hughes Medical Institute, Doris Duke Clinical Interfaces Award Program, The Virginia G. Piper Charitable Trust, and the NIH Specialized Center for Clinical Research grant "Molecular Basis of Coronary Artery Disease."

Thomas Glover gave the Blaffer Seminar at the M.D. Anderson Cancer Center and a seminar at the Toronto Hospital for Sick Children. He is the chair of the Lymphedema Research Foundation Postdoctoral Research Award Committee and sits on their Scientific/Medical Advisory Board. He also is a member of the Genetics of Health and Disease Study Section for NIH and on the editorial boards of Human Molecular Genetics, Genes Chromosomes and Cancer, Human Genetics, Human Mutation, Molecular and Cellular Biology, Oncogene, and Molecular and Cellular Biology. Tom is the interim chair of the Progeria Research Foundation.

Stephen Gruber was a visiting professor last March at the City of Hope in Duarte, California and an invited speaker at the Second Joint American-Israeli Conference on Cancer in Jerusalem. He is chair of the National Cancer Institute (NCI) Colorectal Cancer Family Registry Advisory Panel and serves on the NCI Physician Data Query Editorial Board. Steve is the director for the Clinical Cancer Genetics Program and co-director of Biomedical Prevention here at the University of Michigan.

Friedhelm Hildebrandt serves on the Editorial Board of Pediatric Nephrology, and has served ad hoc on the Urologic and Kidney Development and Genitourinary Diseases Study Section. He also serves as editor for Chromosome 2 for the Human Genome Organization and on the NephCure Scientific Committee. He is program director of the NIH Child Health Research Center in the Department of Pediatrics here at the University of Michigan.

Jeffrey Innis was a speaker at the 9th International Limb Development Meeting on Awaji Island in Japan. He is on the Editorial Board of Molecular Genetics and Metabolism and a member of the NIGMS Human Genetic Cell Repository Working Group. Jeff is director of the Medical Genetics Residency Program

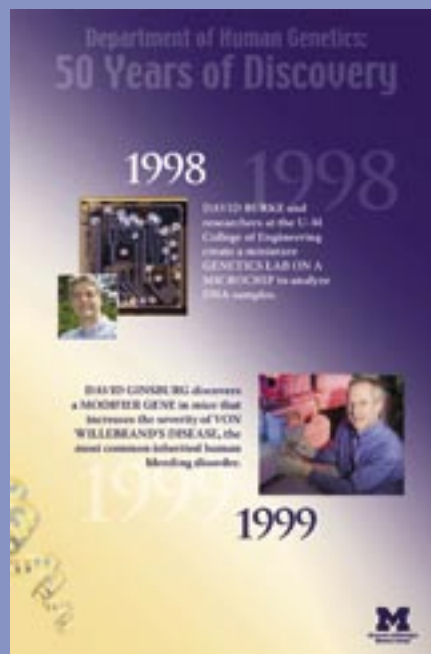
and chief of the Division of Pediatric Genetics at the University of Michigan. He is on the Board of Directors of the American Board of Medical Genetics, and successfully shepherded our Medical Genetics Residency Program through re-accreditation this year.

David Kohrman was an invited speaker in the Microbiology and Molecular Genetics Department of Michigan State University and continues as co-director of the Resident Research Committee in Otolaryngology. He has recently taken over the leadership of the Hearing and Chemical Senses Training Grant.

Jeffrey Long was a speaker at Howard University, UC Davis, and the Shock Society annual meeting in Broomfield, Colorado. Jeff chaired a special study section at NIMH, is a member of the

National Children's Study Federal Advisory Committee, and a program committee member for The American Society of Human Genetics. He also continues teaching for the Mathematical and Theoretical Biology Institute at Arizona State University in addition to his extensive teaching in statistical genetics at the University of Michigan.

Donna Martin was a visiting speaker at New York University Medical Center and gave poster presentations at the Annual Meeting of the Society for Neuroscience in Atlanta and at the Midwinter Meeting of the Association for Research in Otolaryngology in Baltimore. Donna also serves on the Research Advisory Committee for the Department of Pediatrics here at Michigan as well as on the Medical Scientist Training Program Career Advisory Panel.



Miriam Meisler was an invited speaker at the University of Antwerp in Belgium and at Columbia University in New York. She is on the Editorial Board of Mammalian Genome. She serves on the NIDCD Board of Scientific Counselors and the Genome Center Advisory Board for Wayne State University. She continues as a senior fellow of the Michigan Society of Fellows and as director of our Predoctoral Genetics Training Program.

John Moran was the keynote speaker at the Falkenthal Symposium at Ohio State University and a plenary speaker for the American Society of Microbiology on mobile genetic elements in Banff, Alberta. He is an associate editor of the American Journal of Human Genetics, and served on the editorial boards of Analytical Biochemistry and Biomedicine and Biotechnology. John is also organizing the 2007 FASEB Conference on Mammalian Transposable Elements and is on the NIH Advisory Committee for RepBase.

Elizabeth Petty serves on the NIH-NCRR Clinical Research Review Committee and on study section panels for the Department of Defense Programs in Breast and Ovarian Cancer Research. She is also an ad hoc reviewer for the Human Frontier

Science Program Organization, the Cancer Research UK Grants Committee, and the Burroughs Wellcome Trust. Liz continues to serve as the medical director for our Genetic Counseling Training Program and directs a medical genetics elective rotation for 4th year medical students.

Diane Robins was an invited speaker for the Cancer Center and Vattikuti Urology Institute at Henry Ford Hospital in Detroit, and was chosen to chair the review panel for the ACSBI fellowships for the Union Internationale Contre le Cancer. Didi serves on the editorial boards of Steroids and Molecular Endocrinology. She served as an ad hoc member of the D.O.D. Prostate Cancer Research Integration Panel and is on the External Advisory Board of the NIEHS Center for Rodent Genetics.

Noah Rosenberg was an invited speaker at the American Diabetes Association scientific sessions in Washington, DC and at the Mathematical Biosciences Institute in Columbus. He was also an invited speaker and symposium coordinator at the Society for Molecular Biology and Evolution annual meeting in Tempe, Arizona. Noah served as a grant reviewer for the German Research Foundation and taught for the Mathematical

and Theoretical Biology Institute summer program for minority undergraduates.

Jane Schuette participated in the Northern Michigan Genetics Outreach Experience and is a member of the Michigan Association of Genetic Counselors Education Committee. 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 was a semi-finalist for the W. M. Keck Distinguished Young Scholar Award and served as an ad hoc reviewer for the Journal of Cell Research, Nature, Nucleic Acids Research, Molecular and Cellular Biology, International Journal of Cancer and Biochemistry. This year she ably led a new graduate course designed to teach oral and written communication skills in grant writing, which was extremely successful.

Charles Sing was an invited speaker at the 58th Annual Scientific Meeting of the Gerontological Society of America in Orlando and the 2nd Annual Meeting of the National Centers for Systems Biology in Seattle. 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 journal. Charlie continues as an evaluator for the NIH Director's Pioneer Awards and is a member of the Baker Endowment Advisory Council for Excellence in Agronomy at Iowa State University.

David States is on the editorial boards of Cancer Proteomics, Applied Bioinformatics and the Journal of Computational Biology. He is the chair of the Scientific Advisory Board for Protein Information Resources at Georgetown University and on the Conference Committee for the International Society of Computational Biology.

Anand Swaroop was an invited speaker at the Medical Research Council Human Genetics Unit at Western General Hospital in Edinburgh, Scotland and a visiting professor at Stanford, Vanderbilt, Cornell, New York University, and the University of Toronto. Anand continues on the editorial boards of Molecular Vision and Investigative Ophthalmology and Visual Science. He

is a member of NEI special study section ZEY1 VSN. He is the director of the Center for Retinal and Macular Degeneration at the University of Michigan.

Wendy Uhlmann was a speaker at the American Epilepsy Society/American Clinical Neurophysiology Society Joint Annual Meeting in Washington, D.C. and at the National Society of Genetic Counselors Annual Education Conference in Los Angeles. Wendy serves on the Board of Directors for the Genetic Alliance and is the NSGC liaison to the National Advisory Council for Human Genome Research.

Beverly Yashar was an instructor for the Women in Science and Education Program, which is a week-long education program for middle school students. Bev serves on the Editorial Board of Perspectives (National Society of Genetic Counselors) and chairs the American Board of Genetic Counseling Nominating Committee. She also serves on the National Eye Institute's steering committee for the National Ophthalmic Disease Genotyping Network.

## Alumni News

Jennifer Fitzpatrick is the director of the Master of Science in Genetic Counseling Program at McGill University in Montreal. She is past president of the Canadian Association of Genetic Counseling.

Fred Grundbacher, Professor Emeritus of the University of Illinois College of Medicine at Peoria, is currently living in the southwest.

Patricia Howard-Peebles is retired from Genetics & IVF Institute in Fairfax, VA, and active in cytogenetics consulting.

Tony Yang, Hematopathology fellow at UCSF, completed a residency in pathology and lab medicine. He is board certified in anatomic and clinical pathology.

Eric gave the 3rd Annual Sarma Lectureship in Oncologic Pathology at the University of Toronto Faculty of Medicine.



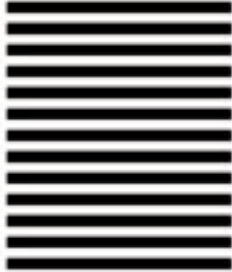




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