I am very pleased to welcome 11 new graduate students (including 3 international, and 2 MD/PhD students) into the Neuroscience Graduate Program this fall: Robert Duncan (U. of Oregon), Eerik Elias (New Mexico Tech), Olena Filchakova (Kharkiv National U.), Cornelia Stacher Horndli (U. of Zurich), Eli Iacob (U. of Michigan), Shaili Johri (Maharaja Sayajirao U.), Rebecca Parker (U. of Utah), Andrea Schwager (Drake U.), Elliott Smith (U. of Washington), Ryan Constantine (U. of Utah, MD/PhD Program), and James Tucker (U. of Utah MD/PhD Program).

Congratulations to the first year students Eerik Elias, Eli Iacob and Rebecca Parker and the second year students Eric Bend, Renee Bend and Randi Rawson for their appointment to the NIH Neuroscience Training Grant.

I would like to thank the Neuroscience Admissions Committee (Alessandra Angelucci, Jeanne Frederick, Bradley Greger, Ray Kesner, Shannon Odelberg, and Gary Rose) for their time and excellent work in our recruiting efforts. They reviewed more than 100 applications and personally interviewed 23 applicants this past spring. In addition, we greatly appreciate the help from additional Neuroscience Faculty who participated in interviewing the candidates. Special thanks to the current graduate students Fred Federer (Angelucci lab), James Anderson (Marc Lab), Sean Flynn (White Lab), Shushruth (Angelucci lab), and Andrew Zayachkivsky (Dudek Lab) who hosted the candidates and helped organizing the recruitment days.

And special thanks to Tracy Marble, our Program Coordinator, who is invaluable for organizing our admission and recruitment activities. Lastly, I thank all those who presented posters at our successful recruitment reception last February.

For our Admissions efforts in 2008, the Admissions Committee will continue to serve (however, additional members are welcome!). Furthermore, we have a great service opportunity for one of our junior faculty: we are looking for a Chair of Recruitment to enhance our recruitment efforts for future candidate students (e.g. for identifying opportunities to contact US and minority undergraduates in colleges and universities, for attending career day events for undergrads etc.). Finally, please, mark your calendar for two important events: the 2007 Welcome Reception for our new students will be held on Thursday, September 20th at the JCC. The 2008 Recruitment Reception with dinner and poster presentations will be held February 16th, 2008 (Friday of President’s weekend).
****ALUMNI NEWS****

Arie Sittichai Mobley (Lucero lab) is starting a postdoc at Yale University for Dr. Charles Greer, Dept. of Neurosurgery beginning Sept. 10th.

Ben Albensi (Filloux lab) has been awarded 2 new grants: July ‘07 - June ’08: Regulation of GABAergic Interneuron Migration and Differentiation in the Vertebrate Forebrain by DLX Transcription Factors. Manitoba Inst. of Child Health (MICI), Co-Applicant, $45,000 CAD. 2006 - 2007: Programmable Stimulus Generator and Multielectrode Array to Investigate New Electrical Stimulation Protocols for Relief from Seizure-Like Activity, Natural Sciences and Research Council of Canada (NSERC), Research Tools and Instruments Grant. Co-Applicant $79,835 CAD.


Terry van Raay (Vetter lab) has accepted a tenure-track faculty position as an Assistant Professor at the University of Guelph in Ontario, Canada. He will start on July 1, 2008. It is an excellent university and a beautiful campus.

Darin Messina (Tresco lab) has been promoted to Senior Research Scientist at the Stem Cell Internal Venture, a division of Johnson & Johnson, Radnor, PA.


Mary Logan (Vetter lab) was awarded a postdoctoral fellowship: $138,000 American Cancer Society Postdoctoral Fellowship, 3 years.


Andrew Pittman (Chien lab) has started a postdoctoral position in Marc Tessier-Lavigne’s lab at Genentech (San Francisco, CA). He is studying the mechanisms of axonal regeneration.

****POSTDOC AWARDS****

Felix Vazquez (Marc and Levine Labs) was awarded three fellowships to fund his salary and project on the “Modulation of retinal glial activation using cell-cycle inhibitors”: NIH Developmental Biology Training Grant fellowship, Fight for Sight fellowship, and The International Retinal Research Foundation’s The Charles D. Kelman, M.D. Postdoctoral Scholar Award. His manuscript “Genetic influences on retinal gene expression and wound healing” has been accepted for publication in 

****CURRICULUM COMMITTEE****

As we prepare for fall semester I want to welcome all of our new students and make sure that everyone is aware of recent changes to the Neuroscience Policies and Procedures, which have now been updated online: (http://neuroscience.med.utah.edu/Policies_Procedures2.html).

First, we have implemented curriculum guidelines for MD/PhD students who will earn their PhD through the Neuroscience Program. Please consult the Policies and Procedures for details. I am also happy to answer any questions from prospective students or faculty.

Second, we have changed the guidelines for the qualifying exam. Most importantly, students are now required to submit two pre-proposal abstracts instead of three. Further, we ask the faculty on the committees to keep the abstract selection meeting focused on assessing which abstracts instead of three. Further, we ask the faculty on the committees to keep the abstract selection meeting focused on assessing which pre-proposal is likely to be developed into a successful proposal and providing constructive feedback to the student.

Third, I want to welcome our new student representatives to this committee: Fred Federer (Angelucci lab) and Samantha Covington (Capecci lab). Students with any concerns about the curriculum can ask these student reps to bring concerns to the committee so that we can resolve any problems as soon as possible.

Finally, Franz Goller, Biology, has agreed to take over as Chair of the Neuroscience Curriculum Committee beginning in Spring Semester, 2008. I know he will do a wonderful job and serve the students well. Thank you Franz.

Thank you to everyone serving on this committee. We all appreciate your work and look forward to a successful year.

Monica Vetter Chair, Neuroscience Curriculum Committee

****POTPOURRI****

Matt Riedy (Keefe lab) and Jessica Nordstrom were married in Ohio on August 25th. They will honeymoon in Europe where Matt will be presenting part of his dissertation work at the Triennial International Basal Ganglia Meeting in The Netherlands, Sept. 2-6.

For those of you who missed the State of the Program meeting and/or the Mentoring the Mentors meeting, both held June 5th, you can see the presentation for both meetings on our web page: http://neuroscience.med.utah.edu
**Important Dates**

**Sept. 20:** New Graduate Student Reception. Our annual reception devoted to welcoming the incoming Neuroscience graduate students will be held at the Jewish Community Center, 2 North Medical Drive, Thursday from 5:00-8:00 pm. There will be the usual amounts of food and drink.

**Sept. 25:** Bioscience Symposium. University Marriott Park Hotel, 1:00-7:00pm. Dinner at 7:00pm. Pre-registration required.

**Oct. 12:** Annual Neuroscience Program Symposium @ Snowbird
http://neuroscience.med.utah.edu/Snowbird
1:00-7:00pm. Dinner at 7:00pm. Pre-registration required.

**Sept. 25:** Bioscience Symposium. University Marriott Park Hotel, 1:00-7:00pm. Dinner at 7:00pm. Pre-registration required.

**Nov. 3-7:** The Society for Neuroscience Annual Meeting held this year in San Diego, CA.
RECENT PUBLICATIONS CONTINUED:


