



THE CMBB QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

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CMBB STAFF:

Sanya Springfield, Ph.D., Chief
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Ms. Belinda Ash-Shaheed, Program Director
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CMBB WELCOMES A NEW PROGRAM DIRECTOR

The CMBB is pleased to announce that Ms. Belinda Ash-Shaheed has joined our office as a Program Director. Belinda received a Master's Degree in Biology from Tuskegee University and subsequently did three years post-graduate study in Zoology at Howard University. She has been with the NIH for 10 years, first with NINDS and then with NIAID. As a Program Director with CMBB, Belinda will oversee all of the Mentored Career Development Awards (K01, K08, K22 and K23) that are an integral part of the Continuing Umbrella of Research Experiences (CURE) for Underrepresented Minorities Program. She can be reached by e-mail at shaheedb@mail.nih.gov.

Welcome, Belinda. We are glad to have you here.

NCI HAS A NEW DIRECTOR

On December 6, 2001, President Bush announced that Andrew C. von Eschenbach, M.D., will head the National Cancer Institute, National Institutes of Health. Dr. von Eschenbach comes to NCI from the University of Texas M.D. Anderson

Cancer Center in Houston where he was Director of the Genitourinary Cancer Center and Director of the Prostate Cancer Research Program. He also served as Vice President for Academic Affairs at M.D. Anderson and as Executive Vice President and Chief Academic Officer, leading a faculty of almost 1,000 cancer researchers and clinicians.

We welcome Dr. von Eschenbach to the NCI and look forward to working with him.

FY 2002 ANNUAL PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOP

The dates are set; the hotel has been reserved; and we are all looking forward to this year's Annual Professional Development Workshop. All graduate students, postdoctoral fellows and junior faculty supplement recipients, as well as all of our predoctoral fellows (F31 grantees) and career development grantees that have not already attended two workshops should be receiving their invitations in January 2002. The workshop will be held in Gaithersburg, Maryland on April 29th and 30th. The Mock Study Section for K01 recipients will be on May 1st and an M.D. Working Group Meeting (for those supplement recipients with M.D.

degrees) will be on May 2nd. As in the past, we anticipate a busy agenda and lots of good information.

Our luncheon speaker this year will be **Dr. Maria E. Cardenas**, Research Associate Professor, Department of Genetics, Duke University, and a K01 Mentored Career Development recipient. Dr. Cardenas earned an M.S. degree from the National University of Mexico and a Ph.D. degree from the University of North Texas. Her postdoctoral training involved studies on the *in vivo* phosphorylation of topoisomerase II and its role as an antitumor target; these studies were conducted with Dr. Susan Gasser at the Swiss Institute for Experimental Cancer Research. Dr. Cardenas' subsequent postdoctoral studies with Dr. Titia deLange at the Rockefeller University led to the identification of a novel, vertebrate telomere-binding protein. Since joining the Department of Genetics at Duke University, her research has focused on the mechanisms of action of the immunosuppressive drugs FK506, cyclosporin A, and rapamycin. Dr. Cardenas is the author of 34 scientific papers.

If for any reason you have not attended a workshop in the past and do not receive an invitation, please call Bobby Rosenfeld at 301-496-7344 and she will see to it that you get your invitation. If we do not have your e-mail address, please e-mail it to Bobby at rr63v@nih.gov as we anticipate sending the invitations via e-mail with registration to be done on-line.

FIRST IMPRESSION

Miriam Bucheli, a National Research Service Award recipient from UMDNJ-Rutgers attended the workshop last year. We want to share her impressions about the workshop with you.

“Last year I received an invitation from the Comprehensive Minority Biomedical Branch of the NCI to attend a workshop on grant writing. As a graduate student and first time attendee, I arrived at the meeting not

knowing what exactly to expect. That was soon to change. During the meeting I received a wealth of information related to all kinds of issues related to my career. First and I think most importantly, I received personal advice on the specific steps I needed to take in order to advance my professional career. Specifically, I needed to have a postdoctoral position lined up before applying for further funding. When I returned home, I took advantage of the advice I received and have since, accepted a postdoctoral position at Harvard Medical School. I am now in the process of applying for funding. Already the information I received on grant writing has helped me delineate a proposal. In addition, having received information at the workshop about all possible routes of NIH funding has saved me time. I sincerely thank Dr. Springfield and her team for inviting graduate students to this year's workshop, and giving us the tools we need to continue to advance in our careers. I look forward to attending next year's workshop.”

MI/CCP TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE WORKSHOP (TAW)

The dates for the TAW are June 3-4, 2002. The workshop will take place at the Westin Hotel, Michigan Avenue, Chicago, Illinois. We are putting together our invitation list and agenda. Invitations will be going out in early 2002. If you would like to develop a partnership or attend the TAW, please contact Dr. Nelson Aguila at: ha60x@nih.gov.

CMBB MAKES FIRST FY2002 SUPPLEMENT AWARDS

After working for months on a continuing resolution, the CMBB has finally started recommending minority supplements for awards. The following new minority supplements have been recommended for funding - our first awards for fiscal year 2002. Congratulations to the prospective recipients.

Ms. Ronnesia Gaskins, a graduate research assistant at San Diego State

University. She will be studying and working with **Dr. Kevin Patrick**.

Dr. Babatunde Oyajobi, a junior faculty member at the University of Texas Health Science Center, San Antonio. He will be studying and working with **Dr. Gregory Mundy**.

Ms. Lorraine Chavez, an undergraduate student at the University of New Mexico, Albuquerque. She will be studying and working with **Dr. James Gale**.

Dr. Jennie Williams, a Postdoctoral Fellow at the American Health Foundation. She will be studying and working with **Dr. Basil Rigas**.

Dr. Elwaleed Mustafa. A Postdoctoral Fellow at the University of Pennsylvania. He will be studying and working with **Dr. Yvonne Paterson**.

Dr. Nancy K. Brennan, a Postdoctoral Fellow at Ohio State University. She will be studying and working with **Dr. Leo Pacquette**.

Dr. Dennie V. Jones, a junior faculty member at the University of Texas Medical Branch, Galveston. He will be studying and working with **Dr. Xianglin Du**.

Dr. Cheryl Lee, a junior faculty member at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor. She will be studying and working with **Dr. James Mule**.

Ms. Selena Nguyen and Mr. Enrique Ortega, both graduate research assistants at the University of Southern California. They will be studying and working with **Dr. C. Anderson Johnson**.

CONGRATULATIONS

John J. Ojeifo, M.D., Ph.D., on receiving an R01 grant award from NCI. In his letter advising us of his award, Dr. Ojeifo thanks the CMBB for funding his K01 grant and goes on to say that "without the guidance and support of the CMBB over the years"

the award would not have been possible. He credits the various "outstanding programs and workshops sponsored by CMBB, particularly the highly educational and motivating grant writing and career guidance workshops," that he claims taught him a great deal about how to write successful grant proposals.

Chanita Hughes, Ph.D., University of Pennsylvania, who has let us know that she moved from Georgetown to Pennsylvania where she accepted a faculty position in the Department of Psychiatry where she is developing a program in Community Cancer Prevention and Control at the UPENN Cancer Center. Dr. Hughes also received a development and idea award from the Department of Defense to develop and evaluate a culturally tailored genetic risk assessment program for African American women.

Mfon Cyrus-David, Ph.D., M.D. Anderson Cancer Center, whose paper entitled "Chemoprevention of Breast Cancer with Selective Estrogen Receptor Modulators: Views from Broadly Diverse Focus Groups of Women with Elevated Risk for Breast Cancer" was recently published by John Wiley & Sons, Ltd. In Psycho-Oncology 10: 521-533 (2001).

Natalie Eddington, Ph.D., University of Maryland, who recently published some of her exploratory work on the effect of Zot on CNS active agents (Eur J Pharm Biopharm. 2001 Sep; 52(2):145-50).

Rhonda Moore, Ph.D., M.D. Anderson Cancer Center, Houston, TX, who recently had two papers published; "Racial Disparity in Survival of Patients with Squamous Cell Carcinoma of the Oral Cavity and Pharynx" in (Ethnicity and Health 2001:6 (3/4), 165-177; and "It Wraps Around a Body: Communication Problems in Advanced Stage Non-Small Cell Lung Cancer," forthcoming in the Yale Journal of Biology and Medicine.

Thais Mather, Ph.D., Brown University, on being invited to give a keynote address at

the upcoming James W. McLaughlin Symposia titled "Hepatic Inflammation and Immunity 2002" to be held March 21-24 in Galveston, TX. The title of her presentation is "Calling in the troops: Molecular Mechanisms of Cellular Recruitment for Antiviral Defense."

Elsa Cora, Ph.D., University of Puerto Rico on being awarded a grant that was submitted in response to RFA RR-00-006, Centers of Biomedical Excellence (COBRE). Three different campuses from the University of Puerto Rico joined forces to submit a proposal entitled "Center for Research in Protein Structure, Function and Dynamics."

Lawrence Alfred, Ph.D., University of California, San Diego, and once a valued member of the CMBB staff, has been made a member of the UCSD Cancer Center as a Distinguished Advisor for his role in promoting minority investigators into cancer research.

Herbert Irving Comprehensive Cancer Center, Columbia University, on promoting their P30 CURE Supplement with an amazing website: Check it out. <http://www.ccc.columbia.edu>.

REMINDER

It is time for all minority supplement awardees, career award recipients (K01, K08, K23) going into their last year of funding to begin preparing for your next funding opportunity, a K22.

The entire staff of the CMBB hopes you all enjoyed a wonderful holiday season and we wish you all the best for the new year.

CMBB OPPORTUNITIES FOR MINORITIES IN CANCER RESEARCH

Research Supplements for Underrepresented Minorities
(PA-01-079)

CURE Supplements

✓ NCI Cancer Center (P30) Supplements for High School and Undergraduate Student Research Experiences

✓ Minority Supplements to the NCI Cancer Education and Career Development Program (R25T)

✓ Minority Supplements to Institutional Clinical Oncology Research Development Awards (K12)

✓ Supplements to National Research Service Awards (T32)

(Call us for the guidelines)

Individual AWARDS

✓ NIH Predoctoral Fellowship Awards for Minority Students (F31)
(PA-00-069)

✓ NCI Mentored Career Development Award for Underrepresented Minorities (K01)
(PAR-01-016)

✓ NCI Transition Career Development Award for Underrepresented Minorities (K22)
(PAR-01-074)

✓ Minorities in Clinical Oncology (K08)
(PAR-00-040)

✓ Mentored Patient-Oriented Research for Underrepresented Minorities (K23)
(PAR-00-042)

Minority Institution Cancer Center Program (MI/CCP) AWARDS

✓ Planning Grant for Minority Institution/Cancer Center Collaboration (P20)
(RFA-CA-02-006)

✓ Cooperative Planning Grant for Comprehensive Minority Institution/Cancer Center Partnership (U56)
(RFA-CA-02-007)

✓ Comprehensive Minority Institution/Cancer Center Partnership (U54)
(RFA-CA-02-005)

For more information go to the PA or RFA announcement listed under the mechanism or call us for the guidelines.

Check our web page:

<http://deainfo.nci.nih.gov/cmbs.htm>