DHC Newsletter

Bench-to-Bedside Research in Pediatric Digestive Disease

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Cincinnati DHC Digestive Health Center

Cincinnati Children's

University of Cincinnati

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Reminder Pilot and Feasibility Applications Due December 3 at 5:00 pm

The Digestive Health Center (DHC) is accepting applications for pilot projects to conduct basic, translational, patient based, or outcomes research broadly relating to pediatric digestive disease. Funding for projects will range from $40,000 to $50,000 depending on the number of selected applications.

Applications are due Monday December 3, 2012 at 5:00 pm to cynthia.wetzel@cchmc.org**.** The application forms and submission guidelines are available on the DHC website.

For further information contact: Aaron Zorn, PhD at aaron.zorn@cchmc.org or Cindy Wetzel, PhD at cynthia.wetzel@cchmc.org.

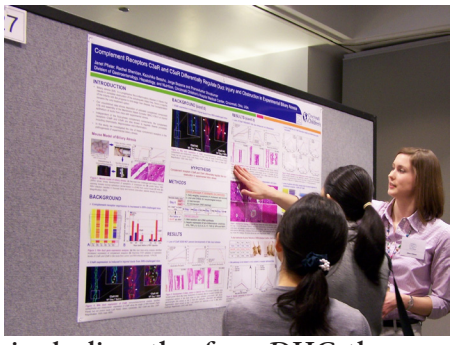
Reminder: Markham Family Award Applications Due

The DHC invites applications for an additional Pilot and Feasibility Award focused on liver disease and/or liver transplantation in children. Research topics of investigation include translational, clinical and outcomes research in the pathogenesis of liver diseases, biomarkers, acute liver failure, and liver transplantation in children. Eligibility criteria and application submission are similar to DHC Pilot and Feasibility applications. The $40-50,000 award is made possible by a generous donation from the Markham Family.

The forms and submission guidelines are available on the DHC website. **Applications are due Monday December 3, 2012 at 5:00 pm** to cynthia.wetzel@cchmc.org**.** For further information contact: Cindy Wetzel, PhD.

Annual Scientific Retreat- Tuesday February 26, 2013

Poster Session: 9:30 to 11:45 am;
Location S Room 1.203 and 1.204
Keynote Address: Brent Polk, MD
Location R Room 3381 (Research Auditorium)



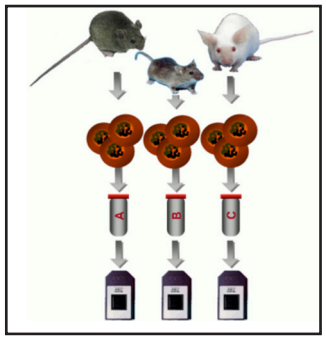
The DHC will host its Annual Scientific Retreat and External Advisory Board Meeting on **Tuesday February 26, 2013**. The day will include a poster session and keynote address by Dr. Brent Polk from Children's Hospital of Los Angeles. Building on the success of previous years, the poster session will feature work related to any area of digestive disease, including the four DHC themes: 1) Chronic Liver Disease 2) Inflammatory and Diarrheal Diseases 3) Obesity and the Digestive System and 4) Development and Digestive Diseases.

You do not have to be a member of the DHC to submit an abstract. Prizes will be given to students and trainees for the best poster presented. Visit the DHC website for abstract submission form and instructions. Abstracts must be submitted electronically by **Friday February 8, 2013** to cynthia.wetzel@cchmc.org.

Tips for Well-Designed Gene Expression Experiment

The DHC Bioinformatics Core provides experimental design and computational analysis for the complex experiments performed in the Gene Expression and Sequencing Core. Discussing your experimental design with the Bioinformatics Staff before you start your project will ensure that you will obtain useful data. Below are some guidelines for designing your experiment.

1. Controls. Always include controls and choose them carefully.
2. Replicates. Unless replicates are included an experiment can only be used for the generation of hypotheses. Without replicates you can only find a fold-change between treatments, with no way of computing a significance level. With mouse experiments, 3 replicates per condition are fine, but with human experiments more is always better.
3. Avoid pooling samples. If you must pool samples, be sure to include the same number of mice per pool, match for age and gender, and use littermates receiving the same treatment.
4. Avoid processing in batches. If you must process in batches, ensure each treatment and controls are represented in each batch, and try to have a single technician run all batches. Watch carefully for potential confounders (for example time of tissue harvest, gender, common environmental exposures in human studies), that if not properly controlled may yield gene lists unrelated to your experimental treatment.



For specific experimental design contact Bekah Karns, PhD at rebekah.karns@cchmc.org

Welcome New Administrative Assistant to DHC

As the DHC continues to grow in membership and the number of core services we provide to the members, we are pleased to announce the addition of Kristin Pegram as our new Administrative Assistant. She will be working closely with Cindy Wetzel, PhD, the DHC program manager.

Kristin graduated with an education degree from the University of Cincinnati in 2003. Since then, she has acquired executive level administrative experience and will be utilizing those skills to advance the DHC. Kristin is delighted to join the DHC team and looks forward to supporting the members of the center.

Please join us in welcoming Kristin!

Winter/Spring Seminar Series

Our winter/spring seminar series will begin **Tuesday January 15, 2013** at noon in Location S Room 6.125. The series will include the following external distinguished speakers:

- Nikolai Timchenko, PhD; Baylor College of Medicine on January 22, 2013
- Ben Stanger, MD, PhD; University of Pennsylvania on January 29, 2013
- Randy Matthews, MD, PhD; Children's Hospital of Philadelphia on March 12, 2013

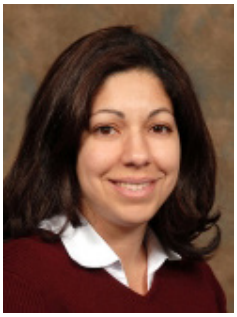
- John Chiang, PhD; Northeast Ohio Medical University on April 16, 2013

See page 4 for a complete schedule.

New DHC Executive Committee Member

The DHC Executive Committee consists of the Director, Associate Directors, Program Manager, the directors of the Biomedical Cores, and one DHC Investigator (representing the membership). The committee is instrumental in overseeing the operation of the DHC while developing new initiatives to advance the center.

For the past 3 years Susan Waltz, PhD (Professor in the Department of Cancer Biology at the University of Cincinnati) was representing the DHC membership-at-large. Her successor is Yana Zavros, PhD, who is an Associate Professor in the Department of Molecular and Cellular Physiology at the University of Cincinnati.



The DHC leadership thanks Dr. Waltz for her time as well as her invaluable scientific input and programmatic guidance.

We welcome Dr. Zavros to the DHC executive committee.

New Digestive Health Center Members

The Digestive Health Center is pleased to welcome three new members:

Andra Blomkalns, MD is an Associate Professor in the Department of Emergency Medicine at the Univeristy of Cincinnati. Dr. Blomkalns digestive disease research investigates the effect of the gut microflora on immunity and aortic vascular disease.

Atsuo Sasaki, PhD is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Internal Medicine; Division of Hematology and Oncology at the University of Cincinnati. Dr. Sasaki's research examines the role of GTP metabolism in metabolic disorders and how hepatocytes monitor cellular GTP energy levels.

SingSing Way, MD, PhD is an Associate Professor in the Division of Infectious Diseases, Department of Pediatrics at Cincinnat Children's. Dr. Way's digestive disease work focuses on defining the role of regulatory T cells in intestinal inflammation.

Interested in Becoming a Member?

By becoming a DHC member, you will receive subsidies on many core services and resources. Your orders will receive priority at the cores. Membership is open to all Cincinnati Children's and University of Cincinnati principal investigators involved in digestive disease research. If you are interested in joining, visit our website for further instructions.

For all publications, please acknowledge the DHC as follows:
"This project was supported in part by PHS Grant P30 DK078392 (include the name of the core that you used of the Digestive Disease Research Core Center in Cincinnati)."

Seminar Series- Tuesdays at Noon, Room S6.125

Date	Presenter	Title
01/15/13	Keith Marsolo, PhD CCHMC: Bioinformatics	"Research, Clinical, Public and Administrative Datasets Available to Investigators at CCHMC"
01/22/13	Nikolai Timchenko, PhD Baylor College of Medicine	"Mechanisms of Age-Associated Hepatic Steatosis and Liver Cancer"
01/29/13	Ben Stanger, MD, PhD University of Pennsylvania	"Tempting the Fates: Manipulating Cell Identity in the Mammalian Liver and Pancreas"
02/05/13	Shekhar Gandhi, PhD CCHMC: Gastroenterology and UC: Department of Surgery	"Protecting the Liver: A Critical Function of Hepatic Stellate Cells"
02/12/13	Joseph Palumbo, MD CCHMC: Hematology	"Mechanisms Linking Thrombin to Colitis Pathogenesis"
02/19/13	SingSing Way, MD, PhD CCHMC: Infectious Diseases	"The Balance Between Immune Stimulation and Suppression in Health and Disease"
02/26/13	DHC Annual Scientific Retreat Keynote Address by: D. Brent Polk, MD Children's Hospital of Los Angeles "Epidermal Growth Factor Receptor in Intestinal Inflammation and Repair: Like Real Estate its All About Location" *Distinct Location: Research Auditorium	
03/5/13	Atsuo Sasaki, PhD UC: Dept of Internal Medicine Division of Hematology & Oncology	"The Impact of GTP-Metabolism on Liver Functions"
03/12/13	Randy Matthews, MD, PhD Children's Hospital of Philadelphia	"Insights Into Pediatric Liver Disease Using Zebrafish"
03/19/13	Chip Montrose, PhD & Chet Closson DHC Live Microscopy Core	"Confocal Microscopy: A Primer on Advanced Fluorsecence Microscopy"
03/26/13	David Hildeman, PhD CCHMC: Cellular and Molecular Immunology	"Pre-Exisiting Immune Phenotype Impacts the Host Response and Surviving During Sepsis"

For more information regarding the DHC visit our **website** or contact one of the following:

Director:	Jorge Bezerra, MD	jorge.bezerra@cchmc.org
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