

## Cellular Biology and Anatomy 2016 Annual Retreat Summary

The third annual retreat of the Department of Cellular Biology and Anatomy was held on Wednesday, May 18, 2016 at the Jaguar Student Activities Center on the Augusta University Summerville campus. Our session began at 12:00 noon with lunch and poster session with introductory remarks by department chair, Dr. Sylvia Smith. Dr. Smith provided an overview of the department, faculty activities, and welcomed new students. During a brief coffee break, faculty, staff and students discussed posters and research.

During this year's retreat there were four groups that considered three/four priorities of importance to the department. Research and Core Facilities, Graduate Program, Education and Body Donor Program, and Postdoctoral Fellows and Research Scientists. Breakout groups began discussions on FY 2016 goal-setting and prioritization of action items from the 2014/2015 retreats. Following the group discussion, during a coffee break, the department took group photos in the Summerville amphitheater, courtesy of Dr. Anna McNeil.

After returning to the Ballroom, the groups provided reports to the department. For the Research and Core Facilities, Associate Professor Dr. Yutao Liu (team lead) discussed four priorities. First priority was to gauge interest from the department on obtaining an ultracentrifuge and Seahorse instrument, interest was high among the department and Drs. Yutao Liu and William Hill will take the initiative on gathering information. The second priority was to develop technology-based seminar presentations, Dr. Paul McNeil will take the lead on this project. The third priority was to have faculty research retreats and to promote more direct interaction between faculty, Dr. Yutao Liu will lead this initiative. The fourth priority is to support intradepartmental grant training and review for junior faculty, Dr. Zheng Dong is the lead on this project.

The Graduate Program discussion followed and was led by Professor Mark Hamrick. For the first priority Dr. Hamrick (team lead) discussed having seminar speakers, preferably alumni, representing a variety of career tracks (e.g., Regulatory affairs/FDA, NIH review/SRA, scientific editing, cytogenetics). These individuals can not only provide guidance on career development but can also serve as liaisons for their respective occupations. Drs. Mark Hamrick, Jiankang Chen, Wendy Bollag, and Mitch Watsky will take the initiative on this project. The second priority was to have special Topics "Techniques in Cell Biology" Workshop offering demos related to Core techniques (e.g., histology, flow cytometry, super resolution microscopy) and departmental expertise (CRISPR/Cas9 technology, exosome isolation and analysis). Drs. Mark Hamrick and Richard Cameron will lead this project. The third priority was to increase interactions between graduate students and postdoctoral fellows. Dr. Mark Hamrick and Wendy Bollag will plan to have quarterly, informal gatherings. The fourth priority was to include within journal club shorter, 15-20 min, article summaries/highlights that are less detailed than some of the longer (e.g., Cell) presentations. Dr. Yutao Liu will initiate this project.

The Education and Body Donation discussion was led by Assistant Professor Dr. William Pearson. For the first priority Dr. Pearson (team lead) discussed developing a functional education research team. Dr. Carol Nichols will assist in defining projects, goals for manuscripts and submissions. The second priority was to develop a proposal for Entrustable Professional Activities. Dr. William Pearson will create a strategy as a driver for curricular development. The third priority was to propose a plan for the vertical integration of anatomical sciences to curriculum committees/finishing tracks. Drs. Anna Edmondson and Alexa Hryniuk will take the lead on this project.

The final group of Postdoctoral Fellows and Research Scientists was led by Postdoctoral Fellow Dr. Barbara Mysona. The first priority was to organize times for grant writing with advice from junior faculty. Dr. Jing Wang will organize a brown bag luncheon to achieve this. The second priority was grant writing (part 2) emphasizing grant writing specifics, Dr. Xiaowen Lu will organize a brown bag luncheon for this project. The third priority is to develop equipment sharing ideas for postdocs and research scientists. Dr. Man Livingston will act a representative for this idea. The retreat concluded at 3:45 PM. Following the discussion, Dr. Mark Hamrick thanked everyone for attending and announced that we would have a reception at the Maxwell Alumni House. The department enjoyed craft beer and wine and a variety of goodies at the reception and gave them time to relax, interact and reflect on the days' events.

Special thanks to Dr. Mark Hamrick for organizing a well-designed retreat and for providing a variety of outstanding door prizes from the dollar store!