

Cellular Biology and Anatomy 2018 Retreat

Summerville Campus
May 09, 2018, Wednesday

Retreat JSAC Ballroom Noon – 5:00 pm

12:30 - 1:30 pm	<i>Lunch and poster sessions</i>
1:30 pm - 2:00 pm	Welcome and Annual Report <i>Dr. Sylvia Smith, Chair and Regents' Professor</i>
2:00 pm - 2:30 pm	<i>Departmental Picture taking (Soul Drones) + Coffee break</i>
2:30 pm – 3:00 pm	<i>Graduate Program (Moderator: Dr. Hamrick)</i> (Raffle tickets drawing: 10 third prize winners)
3:00 pm - 3:45 pm	<i>Teaching/Education (Moderator: Dr. Hryniuk)</i> (Raffle tickets drawing: 5 second prize winners)
3:45:00 pm - 4:30 pm	<i>Research (Moderator: Dr. Gonsalvez)</i> (Raffle tickets drawing: 1 Grand prize winners)
4:40 pm - 5:00 pm	<i>Take down posters then head to reception</i> at the Maxwell Alumni House on the corner of Katherine and McDowell Streets (.2 miles from the JSAC Ballroom)

Cellular Biology and Anatomy 2018 Annual Retreat Summary

The fifth annual retreat of the Department of Cellular Biology and Anatomy was held on Wednesday, May 9, 2018 at the Jaguar Student Activities Center on the Augusta University Summerville campus. All members of the department were invited to this celebration. Dr. Zheng Dong, Regents' Professor and Charbonnier endowed chair of cellular biology and anatomy was the master of ceremonies. Members of the retreat organizing committee were Drs. M. Hamrick, G. Gonsalvez and A. Hryniuk. Dr. Dong welcomed the members of the department and invited all to enjoy the lunch and poster session. Posters were presented by students, post-doctoral fellows as well as the managers of the cores and the body donor program.

At 1:30, Dr. Sylvia Smith presented an update of the department highlighting many accomplishments over the past five years. Currently, the department has 86 members

and manages a budget in excess of \$9M. Highlights of the past few years include outstanding accomplishments in research and education. We currently have 25 active grants, 16 from NIH and 9 non-NIH including NSF, VA, ADA, FFB. Nine faculty are co-investigators on 20 additional grants. Over the past five years we have had 415 grants submitted, more than 500 publications and more than 650 abstracts and presentations at meetings. Individuals who are active in research were recognized for their achievements including special news stories about Drs. Chen, Liu, Watsky, Dong, members of the P01 (Hamrick, McGee-Lawrence, Hill). Awards have been presented for research to Drs. Dong, Hamrick, McGee-Lawrence (emerging scientist award, outstanding young faculty award) and McNeil (lifetime achievement award). The first endowed chair in cell biology and anatomy has been awarded to Dr. Zheng Dong. The collective energy within the department for contributions to the research initiative is inspirational! The exemplary garnering of extramural support as co-I or PI by Drs. Liu, Dong, Hamrick, Hill, McGee-Lawrence, Chen, McNeil, Watsky, LeMosy, Gonsalvez, Zhang, and Smith is testimony to the superb collaborative spirit within the department. Strong support of the research mission by our cores (EM/Histology and Imaging) is a key factor in success of the CBA enterprise as are the contributions of post-doctoral fellows, research scientists, research associates and other technical staff members.

The other mission of the department is Education. The CBA faculty contribute more than 70% of the contact hours for the Phase 1 medical curriculum. The efforts of the primary educators in the department, Drs. Nichols, Edmondson, Pearson and Hryniuk were recognized and each of these faculty have garnered awards for outstanding or exemplary teaching. The contributions to other colleges (Graduate School, Allied Health Sciences) is significant and many faculty members contribute to the education mission. The contributions of Drs. Pearson and LeMosy for oversight of the pre-matriculation program have contributed significantly to success of many students. The excellent Anatomical Donations program was recognized for their dedication and respectful oversight of this essential part of our educational mission.

Finally, there was recognition of our graduate students for their success and the efforts of their mentors to ensure success. Their oversight of the recently launched G. Lombard Kelly lectureship has brought outstanding keynote speakers to the institution and we are very proud of the student leadership of this initiative. Dr. Hamrick is an excellent program director and works closely with our Graduate Program council to oversee a very successful program. Two of our students recently defended their PhDs and graduated on May 11, 2018. The update concluded with recognition and a standing ovation for Dr. Paul McNeil, Professor of Cellular Biology and Anatomy who joined the faculty in 1992 and will retire July 13, 2018.

Following the update, the CBA members convened on the lawn outside the ballroom for a group photo.

There were three sessions that followed. Dr. Hamrick described the 3-minute thesis presentations and recognized Jingwen Cai and Khaled El-Masry for their selection as awardees for outstanding presentations. Dr. Hamrick presented awards to several

students including Jessica Pierce, Khaled El-Masry, Lawrence Hicks, Devi Boggupalli. Dr. Alexa Hryniuk described the educational activities of the department, particularly related to medical education. She invited a medical student, Rachel Corbitt, to present a 10 minute talk about education research to the department. The work has been selected for an oral presentation (invited speaker) at the AAA meeting in San Diego in April, 2018. Dr. Hryniuk gave an overview of the Learning Community initiative that Dr. Pearson is overseeing and plans to possibly continue that program into the 2nd year of medical school. Dr. Gonsalvez was the final session leader, he was charged with recognizing especially individuals who are involved in bench research – especially post-doctoral fellows, research scientists, technicians, research associates. He mentioned a number of people who had been highly productive from several laboratories including the Liu and McGee-Lawrence lab. Dr. Jing Wang (Smith lab) was recognized for her first authorship on a recent paper published in PNAS.

A number of prizes were given to members of the department to celebrate their contributions to the CBA education and research missions. There was a great sense of camaraderie during the retreat that continued on to the reception held at the Maxwell House on the Summerville campus. A special aspect of the reception was the honoring of Dr. McNeil's service to the department. A number of guests were present to congratulate Dr. McNeil including former CBA department chair, Dr. Dale Bockman and Dr. McNeil's son, Tristan McNeil. The festivities concluded at 7:00 p.m.