

Cancer Biology Graduates

2015 Graduates



Ila Datar, Ph.D.

Dr. Datar successfully defended her dissertation entitled "Positive and Negative Regulators of Tumorigenesis and Metastasis" on July 23, 2015 (Mentors: Dr. Kam Yeung and Dr. Ivana de la Serna). Dr. Datar has accepted a Postdoctoral Fellowship with Kurt Schalper, M.D., Ph.D., Dept. of Pathology, Yale School of Medicine. She will be working on predictive biomarkers of lung cancer.



Archit Trivedi, Ph.D.

Dr. Trivedi successfully defended his dissertation entitled "Bromodomain Containing Proteins in Melanocyte Differentiation and Melanoma" on July 15, 2015 (Mentor: Dr. Ivana de la Serna). Dr. Trivedi has accepted a postdoctoral fellowship with Dr. Lewis A. Chodosh, Dept. of Cancer Biology, Perelman School of Medicine, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia. He will be working on tumor dormancy, recurrence and related mechanisms. of SWI/SNF

Chromatin Remodeling Enzymes in Melanocyte Differentiation and DNA Damage Response to Ultraviolet Radiation" on July 13, 2015 (Mentor: Dr. Ivana de la Serna). Dr. Aras has accepted a postdoctoral fellowship with Dr. M. Raza Zaidi, Dept. Biochemistry, Fels Institute for Cancer Research and Molecular Biology, Temple University School of Medicine, Philadelphia, PA. She will be working on molecular mechanisms of ultraviolet radiation induced melanomagenesis.



Gaurav Mehta, Ph.D.

Dr. Mehta successfully defended his dissertation entitled "Role of Transcription Factor MITF and SWI/SNF Chromatin Remodeling Enzyme Subunit BRG1 in the Regulation of Pathological Cardiac Hypertrophy" on June 3, 2015 (Mentor: Dr. Ivana de la Serna). Dr. Mehta has accepted a

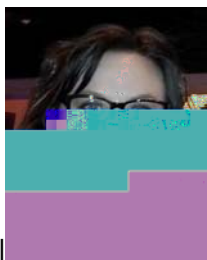
Postdoctoral Fellowship with Dr. Jonathan Epstein, Dept. of Medicine, Penn Cardiovascular Institute at Perelman School of Medicine, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia.

2014 Graduates



Akshada Sawant, Ph.D.

Dr. Sawant successfully defended her dissertation entitled "Role of Base Excision Repair and Mismatch Repair Proteins in the Processing of Cisplatin Interstrand Cross-Links" on June 19, 2014 (Mentor: Dr. Steve Patrick). Dr. Sawant has accepted a postdoctoral fellowship at Wayne State University, Karmanos Cancer Center.



Meghan Wyse, Ph.D.

Dr. Wyse successfully defended her dissertation entitled "CXCL12 Mediated Regulation of the Cytoskeletal Regulator mDia2 Formin Induces Amoeboid Conversions and Cellular Plasticity in Migrating Human Breast Carcinoma Cells" on June 3, 2014 (Mentor: Dr. Kate Eisenmann). Dr. Wyse has accepted a postdoctoral fellowship at UCSD.



Jessica Arden, Ph.D.

Dr. Arden successfully defended her dissertation entitled "Diaphanous-Related Formin Hyperactivation is Superior to its Inactivation as an Anti-Invasive Strategy for Glioblastoma" on May 29, 2014 (Dr. Kate Eisenmann). Jess will return to medical school in July to complete years 3 and 4 to receive her M.D. degree.

2013 Graduates

Qiming Duan, Ph.D.

Dr. Duan successfully defended his dissertation entitled "Cardiac Na/K-ATPase in Ischemia-Reperfusion Injury and Cardioprotectoin" on December 20, 2013 (Mentor: Dr. Sandrine Pierre). Qiming and has accepted a Postdoctoral Fellowship at Case Western Reserve University, Cleveland, OH



Venkatesh Chari, Ph.D.

Dr. Chari successfully defended his dissertation entitled "Drug Targets to Improve the Outcome of Hormonal Adjuvant Therapy in Breast and Prostate Cancers" on November 12, 2013 (Mentor: Dr. Manohar Ratnam) and has accepted a position as Staff Scientist at Life Technologies, San Francisco, CA

2012 Graduates



Venkata Srinivas Mohan Nimai Dangeti, Ph.D.
 Dr. Dangeti successfully defended his dissertation entitled "Processing of Cisplatin Interstrand Crosslinks (ICLSs) by DNA Repair Proteins" on October 31, 2012 (Mentor: Dr. Stephan Patrick). Dr. Dangeti accepted a postdoctoral fellowship in the lab of Dr. James Bieker, Dept. of Developmental and Regenerative Biology, Mt. Sinai School of Medicine, New York, NY.



Suneethi Sivakumaran, Ph.D.
 Dr. Sivakumaran successfully defended her dissertation on August 9, 2012, entitled "Role of Androgen Receptor in Folate Receptor Alpha Regulation and in Prostate Cancer" (Mentor: Dr. Manohar Ratnam). She has accepted a postdoctoral fellowship at Vanderbilt University, Nashville, TN.



Sanjeevani Arora, Ph.D.
 Sanjeevani successfully defended her dissertation on June 29, 2012, entitled "Identifying and Targeting Cellular ... 9, ncer" ' llerstPh.Dle # d lan) Ph.o. ×

2012 Graduates

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Mesfin Gonit, Ph.D.

Mesfin successfully defended his dissertation on June 20, 2011, entitled "The Androgen Receptor as a Transcriptional Co-activator: Implications in the Growth and Progression of Prostate Cancer" (Mentor: Dr. Manohar Ratnam). He has accepted a postdoctoral research fellowship at the National Institutes of Health in Bethesda, MD.

2010 Graduates



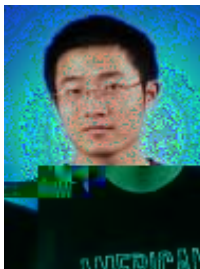
Kristen Koterba, Ph.D.

Kristen successfully defended her dissertation on April 14, 2010, entitled "Regulation of Autophagy and Cell Death in Breast Carcinoma Cells" (Mentor: Dr. William Maltese). She accepted a Postdoctoral Fellowship at Genentech.



Bridget Keenen, Ph.D.

Bridget successfully defended her dissertation on April 12, 2010, entitled "The Role of SWI/SNF Chromatin Remodeling Enzymes in Melanoma" (Mentor: Dr. Ivana de la Serna). Dr. Keenen is a Field Application Scientist for Applied Biosystems.



Kun Liu, Ph.D.

Kun successfully defended his dissertation on June 14, 2010, entitled "Defining the Roles of FSP27 in Lipid Droplet Formation and Apoptosis" (Mentor: Dr. Cynthia Smas). He has accepted a postdoctoral research fellowship with Dr. Mark Czaja, Professor of Medicine at the Albert Einstein College of Medicine, Bronx, NY.



Marcela d'Alincourt Salazar, Ph.D.

Marcela defended her dissertation on June 28, 2010, entitled "Genomic Effects of Hormonal Adjuvant Therapies that Could Support the Emergence of Drug Resistance in Breast Cancer" (Mentor: Dr. Manohar Ratnam). Dr. Salazar will hold the position of Assistant Professor of Medicine at the University of Toledo Cancer Center in translational research.



Saravanan Kaliyaperumal, Ph.D.

Saravanan Kaliyaperumal successfully defended his dissertation entitled "hMSH6 Protein phosphorylation: DNA mismatch repair or DNA damage signaling?" on January 27, 2009, and has been awarded his Ph.D. Dr. Kaliyaperumal was mentored by Kandace Williams, Ph.D. He will begin a residency in the Experimental Pathology program at the New England Primate Research Center affiliated with Harvard Medical School.



Vipul Bhrigu, Ph.D.

Vipul Bhrigu has been awarded his Ph.D. after successfully defending his dissertation entitled "Replication of adeno-associated virus in murine fibroblasts with mouse adenovirus provided helper functions" on January 22, 2009 (Mentor: James P. Trempe, Ph.D.). Dr. Bhrigu has accepted a Postdoctoral Fellowship in the laboratory of Dr. Theodora Ross, Cancer Center/Geriatric Center, University of Michigan School of Medicine.



Joyce Bevington, Ph.D.

Joyce Bevington has been awarded her Ph.D. after successfully defending her dissertation entitled "Cellular response to adenovirus and adeno-associated virus co-infection" on January 8, 2009. Dr. Bevington is completing her 4th year of medical school and will be awarded her M.D. in June. Dr. Bevington was mentored by James P. Trempe, Ph.D.

Joyce received the Outstanding MD/PhD Student in the Biomedical Sciences Program at Graduation

2008 Graduates



Yu Wu, Ph.D.

Yu Wu has been awarded her Ph.D. after successfully defending her dissertation entitled "Identification and functional characterization of adipogenesis-related genes" on October 14, 2008 (Mentor: Dr. Cynthia Smas). Dr. Wu has accepted a Postdoctoral Fellowship in the laboratory of Dr. Robert Casero, The Sidney Kimmel Comprehensive Cancer Center, The Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine, where she will investigate the antineoplastic drug development targeting the polyamine metabolic pathway.



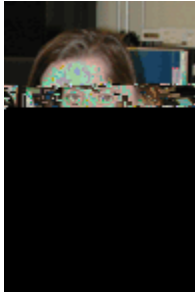
Juan Zhang, Ph.D.

Juan Zhang has been awarded her Ph.D. after successfully defending her Ph.D. dissertation entitled "New mechanisms of androgen receptor signaling" on September 2, 2008. Dr. Zhou was mentored by Dr. Manohar Ratnam, Ph.D. Dr. Zhang has accepted the position of Associate Director of Tumor Pathology at Crown Bioscience Inc., Beijing, P.R. China.





Tai Li successfully defended his Master's dissertation entitled "Base excision repair of 7,8-dihydro-8-oxoguanine in DNA mismatch repair proficient and mismatch repair deficient human cells" on August 10, 2007. Mr. Li studied under the direction of Kandace Williams, Ph.D.



Sandra M. Beach, Ph.D.

Sandra M. Beach has been awarded her Ph.D. after successfully defending her Ph.D. dissertation entitled "Transcriptional regulation of RKIP and its involvement in prostate cancer progression" on May 16, 2007. Dr. Beach's studies were under the direction of Dr. Kam Yeung.



Michael A. Edelbrock, Ph.D.

Michael A. Edelbrock was awarded his Ph.D. after successfully defending his dissertation entitled "Cell cycle



Jennifer Timpe, Ph.D.

Jennifer Timpe was awarded her Ph.D. after successfully defending her dissertation entitled “Effects of Adeno-associate virus on adenovirus replication and cell viability” on July 20, 2006. Dr. Timpe’s studies were under the direction of Dr. James P. Trempe. She has accepted a postdoctoral fellowship in the laboratory of Dr. Jane McKeating, Ph.D., University of Birmingham, Department of Infection & Immunity, Birmingham, UK, working on the project entitled “Functional Analysis of Hepatitis C Virus Glycoproteins.”



Jun Ma, Ph.D.

Jun Ma was awarded his Ph.D. after successfully defending his dissertation entitled “Characterization of tumor-initiating cells in neuroblastoma” on March 30, 2006. Dr. Ma’s studies were under the direction of Dr. Han-Fei Ding. Dr. Ma has accepted a position with the Ordway Research Institute.



Baochun Zhang, Ph.D.

Baochun Zhang was awarded his Ph.D. after successfully defending his dissertation entitled “NF-kB2 is an autoimmunity regulator and its mutation leads to lymphomagenesis in mice” on March 23, 2006. Dr. Zhang’s studies were under the direction of Dr. Han-Fei Ding. Dr. Zhang will continue his research as a postdoctoral fellow with Dr. Ding.