GSA Newsletter - March 2007

Make sure to visit our website for all of the news you need to know: http://eden.rutgers.edu/~jmbgsa/

SYMPOSIUM

The GSA would like to thank everyone who participated in the 1st annual Graduate Student Symposium. The event was an overwhelming success, thanks in large part to the excellent quality of our student presenters. A special thank you also goes out to GSBS, the RWJMS GIC committee, the Department of Neuroscience and all of our corporate sponsors for making the event happen.

POSTER COMPETITION

The winners of the symposium poster competition have been decided. Congratulations to our 1st place winner, Melissa Wood! The top three posters were judged as follows:

1. Melissa Wood, PhD student in Neuroscience and Cell Biology.
Numbers of oligodendrocyte lineage cells and axons in the corpus callosum are reduced in mice with reduced BDNF

2. Marcelo Rocha, PhD student in Neuroscience.
Effects of the Na+/H+ exchanger inhibitor 5-(N-ethyl-N-isopropyl)-amiloride on malonate-induced changes in striatal dopamine and lactate overflow in vivo

3. Ye He, PhD student in Neuroscience and Cell Biology
Activation of histone deacetylase by Yin Yang1 is essential for oligodendrocyte differentiation and myelination.

Melissa will receive a new iPod Nano! Our second and third place winners will receive gift certificates to Panera Bread.

***All Winners must be present at our next GSA meeting to claim their prizes.***

GSA MEETING

Our next GSA general meeting will be on March 20th at 11:45 am in Waksman 1001. We will be awarding the winners of the symposium poster contest, introducing the new 1st year GSA representatives, and discussing our upcoming events.

REMINDERS

We will be hosting the 1st "Alternate Careers in Science" Job panel on March 27th, 5:30 pm to 7:30 pm in the Dean's Conference Room. The panelists will include professionals with PhD’s in science, whom have branched into non-traditional scientific careers. The careers that will be represented are Investment Banking, Management Consulting, Regulatory Affairs, Patent Law/Intellectual Property and Medical/Scientific Writing.

Each panelist will give a brief talk, and then we will conclude with open questions and mingling periods. This event is open to graduate students ONLY, and you must register online at http://www.eden.rutgers.edu/~jmbgsa/careerpanel.html to RSVP for a spot. This is your chance to network and see what else is out there besides Academia and Industry!

On April 6th, we host Scott Gilbert as our annual Speaker. Please attend the monthly meeting to hear more details about the seminar and the lunch we will be hosting at noon of the same day with Dr. Gilbert.
FIRST YEAR COMMITTEE

A first year committee was created consisting of Andrea, Carmen, Courtney and Alexandra. We met with Dr. Martin in order to discuss the problems that first year students are having finding labs to rotate in and picking a PI. If you have had any problems with a professor or are experiencing these same troubles, we urge you to contact any of your peers on the committee. The GSA, along with Drs. Martin and Leibowitz are working to help those in need right now and to make things better for the students in the years to come. We cannot do this, though, unless we know about the problems.

UPCOMING EVENTS

March 20, 2007 at 11:45 am - GSA Monthly meeting. The winners (listed above) must attend to receive their prize. Pizza and drink will be served.

March 27, 2007 at 5:30 pm in the Dean's Conference Room - Alternate Career Panel. Hear about career paths other than academia and industry. Registration is required because of limited space. Fill out a simple form at http://www.eden.rutgers.edu/~jmbgsa/careerpanel.html to register.

April 6, 2007 at 3 pm, location TBA - Speaker of the year. Scott Gilbert will be presenting his work.

Second week of May, location TBA - Self Defense Class. Learn techniques to protect yourself if you are attacked.

Q&A

If you have any questions please feel free to contact the GSA and we will do our best to answer them or point you in the right direction. They can be about class, student affairs, events, the GSA, the molecular biosciences program, etc. We would like to include them in the newsletter (anonymously if desired) to help out other students that may be afraid of bringing it up!

FEEDBACK

If you have any feedback regarding this newsletter, please feel free to contact me, Chuck O'Brien at ceobrie@waksman.rutgers.edu

Any feedback regarding the website http://www.eden.rutgers.edu/~jmbgsa/index.html should be directed to Ayelet Klartag at jmbgsa@eden.rutgers.edu.

Any of the GSA officers may be contacted for all other comments or suggestions:
Tanya Borsuk: borsuk@cabm.rutgers.edu
Sunanda Baliga: Baliga@biology.rutgers.edu Kevin Bray: kbray@eden.rutgers.edu