



BIOSPHERE

The Weekly Bulletin of Biology

Biology Colloquium: Friday, 21 February 2014, 2:00 pm in CR 5125

“How much did you spend on lunch today?”

Peggy Lemaux, Ph.D.
UC Berkeley

New Publications

Dr. **Steeve Comeau**, Dr. **Peter Edmunds**, **Nate Spindel**, and Dr. **Robert Carpenter** have a paper out in *Marine Ecology Progress Series*, “Diel pCO₂ oscillations modulate the response of the coral *Acropora hyacinthus* to ocean acidification.”

Editing for Algal Journal

Dr. **Steve Dudgeon** has been appointed an Associate Editor for the *Journal of Phycology*.

CSUPERB

CSUN Biology had a big presence at the annual CSUPERB meeting. Dr. **Michael Summers** hosted a table conversation on “Bacterial synthesis of high-value compounds.” Dr. **Jonathan Kelber** hosted one on “Cancer research within the CSU and beyond.”

Shannon Wood gave a talk invited as a finalist for an award, “(p)ppGpp-mediated synthesis of factors controlling DNA replication and cell size in

response to a block in lipid biosynthesis in *Caulobacter crescentus*”

Posters were presented by the following students (only presenting authors are cited here, although professors and many other students usually contributed to the work):

- **Dinesh Gupta**, “Production of 2-methyl-3-buten-2-ol, a potential biofuel in *E. coli*”
- **Ram Wolman** and **Ignacio Arvizu**, “Two distinct bacterial mechanisms of resistance to the antibiotic cerulenin”
- **Andrew David Gisis**, “Genes regulating sensitivity of human leukemic Sup-T1 cells to chemotherapeutic agents”
- **Malachia Hoover** and **Daniel Brambilla**, “Role of ITGA1 in cell cycle regulation of pancreatic cancer cells”
- **Yvess Adamian**, “Analysis of the cytoskeletal-associated protein RAI14 as a new molecular target in pancreatic cancer”
- **Brandon Wallace**, “DOCK9 suppresses pancreatic cancer cell proliferation”

- **Jamie Lee**, “Determination of the SigG regulon in *Nostoc punctiforme*”
- **Victor M. Lewis**, “Characterization of chemically generated molting deficient lines in the nematode *Pristionchus pacificus*”
- **Veronica Guizar**, “Monitoring changes in obi-1 transcripts in response to host pheromone exposure by real-time quantitative PCR”
- **Michelle Mojadidi**, “Modifying globin gene expression by genome editing strategies in sickle cell disease”
- **Mehrsa Mehrabi**, “Characterizing an in-vitro model of idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis”
- **Jenny Han and Michelle Reyes**, “Evolution of glial cell missing gene in metazoans and new cnidarian species identification”
- **Jessie Lopez and Richard Mansfield**, “Cellular stress induces a protective heat response in *C. elegans*”
- **Stefanie Kapucija**, “Comparisons of native and cultivated prairie soil microbial communities reveal impact of continuous cultivation”
- **Jimmy Escobedo**, “Expression of a nematode lipid binding protein in *E. coli* and human embryonic kidney cell line”

Alumni News

Dr. **Lisa-ann Gershwin** (B.S. '97) has been in the [NEWS](#) lately regarding a giant jellyfish that washed up on an Australian Beach. She says it is an undescribed (AKA: new) species. Ever since her time at CSUN, she has increasingly become a, if not the, leading expert on sea jellies.

Crowd Funding Thesis Research

Charities, politicians, and entrepreneurs do it. Now scientists are doing it too. We are turning to family, to friends, and now to complete strangers for contributions to make research possible. The new thing is fund raising with built-in outreach—bringing the broader community closer to science.

Two grads are giving it a try. Click on a title to check out a video of each project, or better yet kick in a few bucks to help fund their research.

- **Shannon Bayliss**: [Can genetic diversity preserve a friendship?](#)
- **JR Clark**: [In the bedroom with the Giant Sea Bass: Investigating mating behavior of an endangered megacarnivore](#)

Fabulous Birthday Cake

As part of Darwin’s Birthday celebrations last Wednesday, undergrad **Jared McGowan** sculpted a cake with a bust of the old guy and some of his favorite organisms. Here is a close up:



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Department of Biology

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