



Biosphere

The Weekly Bulletin of Biology

Biology Colloquium

Friday April 21, 2-3pm, CR5125

Dr. Gulcin Pekkurnaz

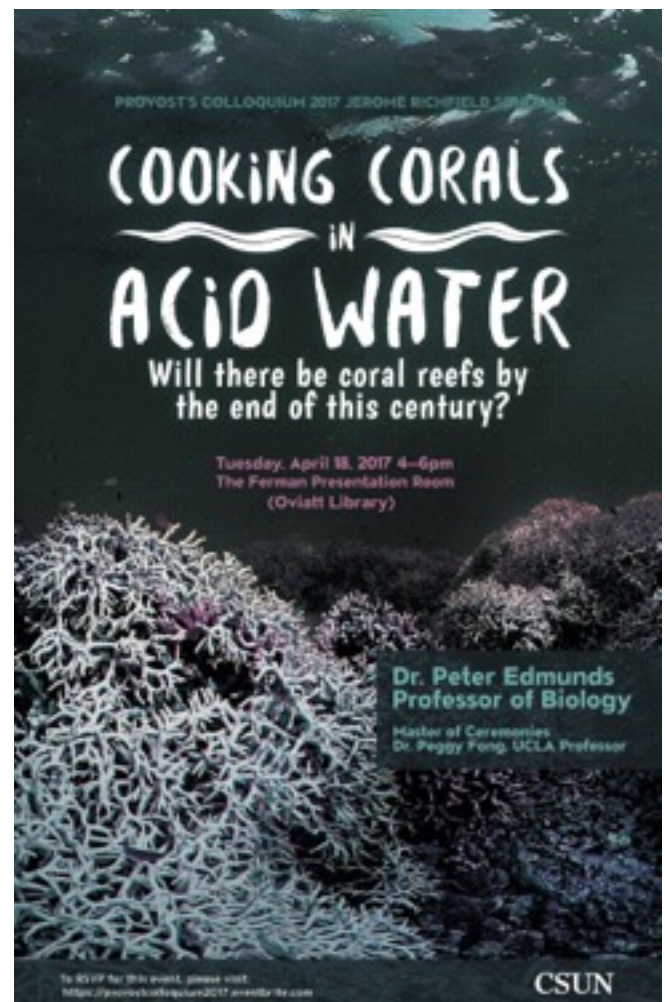
University of California, San Diego

“Regulation of Mitochondria in the Nervous System”

New publications

Two former students from the Summers lab, **Nicole Cassel** and **Jamie Lee**, were co-authors on a recent publication in *Molecular Microbiology* titled "Characterization and *in vivo* regulon determination of an ECF sigma factor and its cognate anti-sigma factor in *Nostoc punctiforme*". Nicole is now a high school biology teacher at Chaminade, and Jamie Lee is a Research Associate at C3J Therapeutics, Inc.

Cody Russell, a grad student in the Schiffman Lab, recently coauthored a paper in *Northeastern Naturalist*, titled "Climate-growth relationships of *Pinus rigida* at the species' northern limit, Acadia National Park, ME". Cody and several coauthors conducted the research while enrolled in the 25th Annual Dendroecological Field Week, an intensive workshop on methods for studying tree rings.



New CSUN Research Grant

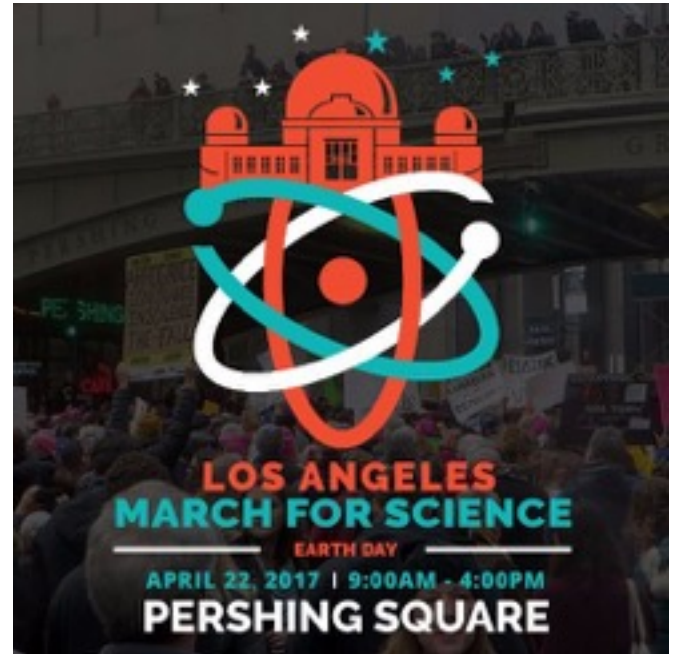
Drs. **Mary-Pat Stein** and **Stan Metzenberg** have been awarded a \$110,000 grant by the *Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation* for a project entitled “Biochemical informatics for guiding decisions in an artificial pancreas”.

CSUN @ the March for Science

On Saturday April 22, scientists across the Earth will gather to **March For Science** and celebrate the crucial roles that science plays in driving economic growth, preserving the environment and protecting our health.

Dr. Maria Elena Zavala will be one of the speakers, addressing a crowd of about 50,000 science supporters.

Marchers will gather in Pershing Square. For more information, visit the [LA March for Science website](#).



2017 CSUNposium Awards

Here is a list of awardees from the Department of Biology at the *21st CSUN Student Research and Creative Works Symposium* (CSUNposium). Our sincerest congratulations to all our winners, their mentors and everyone who once again participated in a wonderful event that showcased the excellent research by CSUN students.

10-minutes Oral Presentations

Sa la Kim (UG, Kelber Lab) - ITGA1 is an early biomarker in pancreatic cancer that potentiates stem-like cell survival and TGF β /collagen-induced EMT, therapy resistance and metastasis - 1st place (session 4).

Heather Carstensen (UG, Hong Lab) - Characterization of a Dauer Constitutive Mutant in a Nematode - 1st place (session 6).

Melissa Kurman (MS, terHorst Lab) - Variable responses of Giant Kelp (*Macrocystis pyrifera*) individuals and populations to warming - 1st place (session 7).

Lena Vincent (MS, Bermudes Lab) - Heterologous Expression of Multigene Toxins in a Tumor-Targeted *Salmonella* - 1st place (session 8).

- Chiemelie Onyekonwu** (UG, Huynh & Stein Labs) - Examining the Relationship Between Ethnic-Racial Socialization and Stress Among Latino/a Students - 1st place (session 11).
- Joshua Manning** (MS, Carpenter Lab) - Differential effects of wounding and ocean acidification on tropical crustose coralline algae - 1st place (session 16).
- Desiree Goetting** (MS, Van Buskirk Lab) - Multiple signaling pathways mediate plasticity in sleep drive - 1st place (session 17).
- Samantha Hain** (UG, Butler Lab, UCLA) - Deriving Sensory Spinal Interneurons from Human Pluripotent Stem Cells – 2nd place (session 4).
- Gabriela Alvarez Azanedo** (UG, Malone Lab) - FoxP3 Δ 3 Regulation of PD-L1 Expression in Bladder Cancer Cells - 2nd place (session 6).
- Carlos Vargas** (UG, Espinoza Lab) - Going Green Takes Guts: Plant-Eating Specializations in Gut Form and Function in the World's Largest Skink - 2nd place (session 6).
- Zoe Scott** (MS, terHorst Lab) - Effects of the invasive foundation species, *Watersipora subtorquata*, on fouling community structure are environmentally dependent – 2nd place (session 7).
- Alex Burkert** (MS, Mackelprang Lab) - Identifying Changes in the Active, Dead, and Dormant Microbial Community Structures across a Chronosequence of Ancient Alaskan Permafrost - 2nd place (session 8).
- Russell Dauksis** (MS, Steele Lab) - Top-Down Versus Bottom-up Processes in a Protected Eelgrass Bed (*Zostera Marina*) - 2nd place (session 16).
- Alina Adamian** (MS, Malone Lab) - Small Lymphocytic Lymphoma Associated miR-155 Promoter Isolation, Characterization and Analysis - 2nd place (session 17).

Poster Winners

- Tanya Estrada Gomez** (UG, Ruiz Rueda Lab) - Contamination by Carbapenem-Resistant Bacteria in the Public Transportation System in the San Fernando Valley – 1st place.
- Jamie Carrafa** (MS, Bermudes Lab) - Characterization of Bacteria-Secreted Chimeric Protease Inhibitors – 2nd place.
- LaFrance Daniels Jr** (MS, Malone Lab) - Comparing Expression of Protein Markers in Small Cell Lung Cancer Cell Lines Cultured in 2D Versus 3D Cancer Organoid System – 2nd place.
- Erin Jaco** (MS, Steele Lab) - Species-specific responses to protection in Marine Protected Areas measured with stereo-video – 2nd place.