CHRP and NIAID funded dissertation defense

NIH P01 grant award for Brinton

Roberta D. Brinton heads the Research Program Project entitled, “Perimenopause in Brain Aging and Alzheimer’s Disease,” funded by the National Institutes of Health in the amount of $1.7M; it will run for five years (September 2011 to August 2016).

Other PPSI faculty in the study are co-investigators, Enrique Cadenas and Liqin Zhao.  (more on p.5)

DOD grant award for Shih

Jean C. Shih, principal investigator of the project entitled, “Monoamine oxidase A: A novel target for progression and metastasis of prostate cancer,” has been awarded the Idea Development Award-Established Investigator. Co-investigators are Bogdan Olenyuk and Haiyen E. Zhaou of Cedars-Sinai (more on p.5)

Faculty Promotions

° Nouri Neamati to Professor  ° Liqin Zhao to Research Associate Professor

Other Faculty Highlights

° Ian Haworth, lead researcher in the computational work revealing a new clue about the structure of protein  [http://bit.ly/xOKb0n]
° Rebecca Romero gets C3 grant from the Center for Scholarly Technology

Department Retreat at the Marriott, Palm Desert, CA, p.6

° Postdoc awardee:  Vivian Galicia-Medina
° Graduate students awardees: Shili Xu, Sachin Jadhav, Siti Mohd Janib

Other Student Awardees  Letisha Wyatt, Megan Yardley

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We are very pleased to forward this newsletter reporting the active, successful end of our 2011 and beginning of 2012.

Since the last newsletter, Dr. Roberta Brinton was awarded a prestigious NIH Project Grant, entitled, “Perimenopause in Brain Aging and Alzheimer’s Disease,” with departmental co-investigators, Drs. Enrique Cadenas and Liqin Zhao. This grant also spans five laboratories across USC, the Keck School of Medicine, and Loyola Marymount University, and supports three core facilities.

Dr. Jean C. Shih and her co-investigator, Dr. Bogdan Olenyuk, were awarded a grant from the Department of Defense to investigate the role of the enzyme monoamine oxidase A in prostate cancer.

Drs. Rebecca Romero and Ian Haworth were awarded an intramural grant to develop alternative teaching venues in the case of a major disaster.

The 10th annual “Moving Targets” meeting organized by our Student Chapter of the American Association of Pharmaceutical Scientists (AAPS) was another huge success. This year’s meeting theme was aging and oxidative stress, with speakers invited from a number of universities, the NIH, and industry. Thank you and congratulations to our AAPS Student Chapter for sponsoring this marquee event.

We were strongly represented at this year’s annual AAPS meeting in Washington, D.C. As is tradition, two of our graduate students brought home awards for their scientific presentations; congratulations to Robert Mo and Yan Wang, both from Dr. Wei-Chiang Shen’s lab. This year marked the first year in which we set up an exhibit booth to advertise our graduate programs. The booth generated a significant volume of interest and earned kudos for the outreach idea, the “goodies,” and the Cardinal and Gold M&M’s. And, if you attended our Alumni and Friends Reception, you know that it was a fun, festive event; if not, please make sure to visit us next year.

At year’s end, we held our annual departmental holiday party luncheon for students, staff, and faculty at Luminaria’s Restaurant. In addition to the tasty and plentiful entrees and desserts, the event was highlighted by our traditional lively gift exchange and raffle.

We began 2012 with good momentum, with our first research retreat since our merger into the PPSI department. The three-day event at the Palm Desert Marriott Resort was organized by Drs. Andrew Mackay and Ron Alkana. It was extremely well-attended by faculty, post-docs, students, and staff, representing not only our department, but also our sister department, Clinical Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Economics and Policy, our Regulatory Sciences Program, the Keck School of Medicine, the Ostrow School of Dentistry, the College of Letters, Arts, and Sciences, the Stevens Institute for Innovation, and industry. The themes of the retreat were research collaborations in academia and industry, development of sustained graduate student funding, and entrepreneurship. We would like to thank Dean Vanderveen, who was also in attendance, for support and sponsorship of the event.

Finally, we celebrate the promotion of Dr. Nouri Neamati to Full Professor and of Dr. Liqin Zhao to Research Associate Professor. In addition, due to space limitations here, a number of other awards garnered by our talented graduate students could not be listed, so please congratulate and honor them by reading on and enjoying this newsletter.

Wishing you a happy and successful 2012.
FACULTY UPDATES

James D. Adams

- Presented “Chumash medicine in your healing,” at the Imagination and Medicine III Conference in Santa Barbara, California on October 21, 2011.

Roberta D. Brinton

- Spoke with Congressional staff about Alzheimer’s disease at a panel organized by the Society for Women’s Health Research, Washington DC, December 7, 2011.
  Invited Speaker:
  - The Scripps Research Institute, Departments of Cell Biology and Chemical Physiology, Estrogen Action in Brain: From Discovery to Translation to Clinical Trial, La Jolla CA, December 6.
  - Society for Women’s Health Research, Sex Differences in Alzheimer’s Disease, Washington DC, October 28.
  - Los Angeles Mayor Women’s Leaders, Alzheimer’s Disease: A women’s health issue for California, Los Angeles the Epicenter, Mayor’s Office, Los Angeles City Hall, Los Angeles, CA October 18.

Enrique Cadenas

- Co-investigator for Project 1 of the recently funded P01 grant; PI is Roberta Brinton.
- Invited Speaker, 2nd International Conference on Environmental Stressors in Health and Disease, October 5-7, 2011, Siena, Italy. Title: Mitochondrial energy metabolism in brain aging.
- Invited Speaker, Workshop on Molecular and Cellular Bases of Redox Signaling and Oxidative Stress: Implications for Biomedicine, November 2-4, 2011, Baeza, Spain. Title: The mitochondrial energy-redox axis, post-translational modifications, and cell function.

Julio A. Camarero

- Invited Speaker, 2011 ACS (American Chemical Society) 43rd Western Regional Meeting Program, Biomolecular engineering of drug carriers session, November 10-12, 2011, Pasadena, California.

Bogdan Olenyuk

- Co-PI on a recently awarded US Department of Defense Congressionally-Directed Medical Research Program (CDMRP) Prostate Cancer Idea Development Grant titled “Monoamine Oxidase A: A Novel Target for Progression and Metastasis of Prostate Cancer.” The grant duration is three years; the PI is Jean Shih, Ph.D.
- Presented a seminar titled, "Structural basis and functional consequences of direct transcriptional regulation of O2 homeostasis," at the Science Division Forum, hosted by City College of New York on October 5, 2011.

Wei-Chiang Shen

- Received 2011 Distinguished Alumni Award from Tunghai University, Taichung, Taiwan, October 29, 2011.
- Attended the Irish Drug Delivery Network Scientific Advisory Board Meeting, Dublin, Ireland, October 17-18, 2011.
Rebecca Romero

- PI of an awarded grant under the "Spring 2012 Course Continuity in a Crisis (C3) Grants" of the Center for Scholarly Technology. Ian Haworth and Brian Sutch are co-investigators. The purpose of the grant is to simulate a crisis (an earthquake for example) for one-week. The simulated emergency assumes a full or partial campus closure, but there will be a continuation of classes through the use of technology and the Blackboard. The project will explore how to keep a class in session, despite a campus closure.

Li Qin Zhao

- Serve as PI on Analytic Core ($320K for Year 1) and Co-I on Project 4 of the recently funded NIH P01 grant; PI is Roberta D. Brinton.
- Taught in 3 department graduate courses: Research Methods (PSCI599); Pharmacology (MPTX502); Drug Design and Discovery (PSCI644); Fall 2011.

Jean C. Shih

- Discussed the integrated interdisciplinary nature of pharmacology in the twenty-first century for the Academy for Polymathic Study event moderated by University Professor Kevin Starr, on January 17 at the Doheny Memorial Library.
  The Academy for Polymathic Study is an intellectual space where students and eminent faculty, through conversation, learn to integrate multiple fields of learning. Located in its own quarters on the second floor of Doheny Memorial Library, the Academy for Polymathic Study offers a series of conversational encounters intended to intensify polymathic (integrated interdisciplinary) awareness. These discussions are anchored in and structured by the Quadrants of Polymathic Inquiry: critical and integrative thinking, study of the great polymaths, tapestry of knowledge, and communication.
- Invited Speaker at the International Research Workshop in Taiwan, November 14-16, 2011. Title of talk: Translation Research in Autism and Prostate Cancer.
- "Translation Research in Autism and Prostate Cancer." National Yang Ming University (NYMU) and Veteran Hospital, Taiwan, November 2011.

Jean C. Shih with prominent doctors at the Taipei Veterans General Hospital: S.H. Chiu (eye doctor and stem cell researcher), K.K. Chen (Director of the Surgery Department), F.Y. Lin (Superintendent of Taipei Veterans General Hospital), J.C. Shih, C.W. Chi (Vice Dean of R&D department at NYMU), and Y.-Y. Lin (attending physician).
Clay Wang’s valued memento from Cambridge University: a picture of “The Structure of DNA plaque”.

**Clay Wang**

While on sabbatical from July to December 2011:
- Conducted research at the John Innes Centre in Norwich, United Kingdom, involving the genetics of natural product producing bacteria.
- Invited by Professor Michael Waring of Cambridge University in the Pharmacology department for a visit.

NIH, BRINTON (*from p.1*)

The project study will determine how the brain changes during the perimenopausal transition and how these changes can lead to the development of early risk factors for developing Alzheimer’s Disease (AD). The goal of these studies is the early identification of those at greatest risk for developing AD and the window of opportunity for interventions to prevent AD in those at greatest lifetime risk, postmenopausal women.

Co-Investigators from the Keck School of Medicine are: Caleb E. Finch, Howard Hodis, Roksana Karim, Wendy J. Mack, Todd E. Morgan and Christian J. Pike.

Michael R. Foy from the Loyola Marymount University rounds up the co-investigators.

**PPSI Seminar Series**


ENRIQUE ZUDAIRE UBANI, Radiation Oncology Branch, National Cancer Institute, “Development of a phenotypic profiling platform with high predictive value for the identification of novel antiangiogenic drugs,” November 17, 11 AM. Faculty host: Nouri Neamati.

DOD, SHIH (*from p.1*)

Medical Center. The award is under the Prostate Cancer Research Program (PCRP) of the Office of Congressionally Directed Medical Research Programs (CDMRP), Department of Defense. Total cost of the project is $615,938.

The proposed approach of the study is based on what the investigators described as exciting: the recent finding that underpins the critical role of the enzyme monoamine oxidase A (MAOA) in the progression of prostate cancer. The investigators’ earlier studies found that decreasing the activity of this enzyme significantly reduced the rate of prostate tumor growth and metastasis in experimental animals. In some cases, the tumor growth was completely eliminated.

In the proposed study, the aim is to fill the two critical unmet needs for more effective mechanism-based therapies and noninvasive diagnostic techniques for prostate cancer: (1) to deepen our understanding of the causes and consequences of prostate cancer progression and (2) to develop novel inhibitors of this enzyme (MAOA I) to diagnose and treat prostate cancer.
A three-day departmental faculty retreat was held January 4 to January 6, 2012 at the Marriott in Palm Desert, CA. The retreat was focused on science and was organized like a Gordon Conference. The goal was to facilitate inter- and intra-departmental collaboration between students and faculty, to foster collegiality and to facilitate new project development by sharing technologies and approaches across PPSI laboratories. Most participants presented either a talk or a poster.

Some targeted invitations outside PPSI brought representations from Keck, Dentistry, Chemical Engineering, LAS, Viterbi, industry, and the Stevens Institute.

Poster exhibit by students and post-docs was held on Thursday, January 5. Winners included:

1st place, Shili Xu
Poster title: 
SC144: A novel selective small-molecule gp130 inhibitor for the treatment of ovarian cancer.

2nd place, Sachin Jadhav
Poster title: 
Treatment of Thermal and Combined Radiation Injuries using NorLeu3-Angiotensin(1-7), an Angiotensin Analogue

3rd place, Siti Mohd Janib
Poster title: 
Disintegrin-targeted elastin-like polypeptides (ELPs) as therapeutic and diagnostic imaging agents.

Postdoc winner, 
Vivian Galicia-Medina
Oral presentation title:
β-Catenin inhibitor ICG-001 attenuates proliferation of hepatic tumor initiating cells in Pten deficient models.
AAPS (American Association of Pharmaceutical Scientists), Washington DC, October 24-26, 2011

At the Booth

The Reception
2011 Moving Targets, October 8, 2011, USC Davidson Conference Center

Awardees

The Amgen Young Investigator Award (with a $1,000 prize) went to Kavya Ramkumar for her poster, “Discovery of Novel Small Molecule Inhibitors of Glutathione S-Transferase Omega with Antiproliferative Properties”.

The Dean’s Young Investigator Award was shared by two students, each receiving a $500 prize: Jennifer-Ann Bayan (left of Sarah Hamm-Alvarez) for her poster entitled, “The Intrinsic and Paracrine Effects of PTEN Loss in Pancreatic Beta-cells”, and Yang Wang (right) for “Transferrin Receptor-Mediated Activation and Sustained in vivo Hypoglycemic Efficacy of Recombinant Proinsulin-Transferrin.”

Comments

“The conference is among the best I’ve attended. I’m amazed that a student group could pull this off when most conferences are organized by professional staff.” – Eric Yuen, Janssen Alzheimer Immunotherapy R&D, affiliate of Johnson & Johnson

“I wasn’t thrilled about flying to LA for a one-day meeting... but the number of students and their enthusiasm made it definitely worth it. To commend also: Harsh’s organization and perseverance.” – Felipe Sierra, National Institute of Aging

“You did a good job. Congratulations.” – Valter Longo, USC Davis School of Gerontology

“Organization of the meeting was excellent. Food and coffee breaks were also excellent. Overall you have done an outstanding job.” - Holly VanRemmen, The Nathan Shock Center for Excellence in Biology of Aging, Texas

“The student organizers were very professional. Everyone was very helpful both before the day and during the symposium itself.” - Mary Ellen Cosenza, Amgen Inc.
MOVING TARGETS 2011
10TH ANNUAL SYMPOSIUM
AGING AND OXIDATIVE STRESS

AAPS-USC Student Chapter 10/08/2011
Where is he now?

ASHUTOSH KULKARNI

Being an alumnus of a premier institution like the USC School of Pharmacy is a matter of great pride and honor to me. It is here, under the tutelage of Dr. Vincent H.L. Lee, that I honed the skills necessary to step into the real world of pharmaceutical research and development and make meaningful contributions.

I vividly remember arriving at USC in 1998 from Mumbai, India after completing my Bachelors in Pharmaceutical Sciences from the University of Mumbai. As a foreign student, I was in awe of the city of Los Angeles, the USC campus, the laboratory facilities, the type of research being done at the School of Pharmacy, and the sheer opportunities that lay ahead of me, but at the same time, intimidated as well by the whole and new environment. The administrative staff, faculty, and student colleagues at the School helped make the transition smooth and enjoyable.

My time as a graduate student was quite enjoyable and I made some really good friends during my USC tenure there. I was fortunate to have good mentors (faculty as well as senior graduate students) that made a positive impact on my learning and it motivates me now to do the same for junior scientists when the opportunity arises. One way I achieve this is by serving as a visiting lecturer in the Regulatory Science and Pharm.D. programs at USC.

My graduate studies focused on the “Structure–function relationships of the human dipeptide transporter hPepT1” and I graduated with a Ph.D. in Pharmaceutical Sciences in 2004. Presentations and attendance at scientific meetings, publications in peer reviewed journals, and in-house presentations were highly encouraged and played a key role in my development as a research scientist.

After a two-year stint as a Molecular Neuroscientist at Neurion Pharmaceuticals, I joined Allergan in mid-2006 as a Scientist in their PKDM (Pharmacokinetics and Drug Metabolism) department. The primary focus of my work was the discovery and development of drug candidates for the treatment of various ocular diseases. I worked on several projects that ranged from pre-IND (Investigational New Drug Application) to post-marketing enabling me to contribute at different levels within the organization. My role also provided me the opportunity to interact with professionals from other disciplines such as pharmacology, CMC (Chemistry, Manufacturing and Control), clinical, global regulatory affairs, and marketing – providing me with a broad view of global drug development and thus significantly enhancing my career development. My experience here enabled me to publish a book chapter titled, “Regulatory Considerations in Product Development for Back of the Eye,” in 2011. My five-year stay with Allergan was made even more memorable by my colleagues (some were USC alumni) who were absolute joy to work with.

Currently, I am a Principal Scientist in the discovery DMPK group at Celgene. I am very excited to be a part of the Celgene culture and contribute to their oncology and inflammation programs.

On the personal front, I am married to my college sweetheart, Leena Patel (also a USC alumnus) and we have a handsome little son – Saahil – born in November 2011. We live in Irvine, CA and are big fans of USC football.
Letisha Wyatt

Selected for and attended the 2011 Compact for Faculty Diversity, Institute on Teaching & Mentoring, sponsored by the USC Graduate School and National Science Foundation (NSF) EDGE Program. On its fifth year, the national-level institute took place in Atlanta, Georgia, on October 20-23, 2011. Letisha joined a group of highly talented USC Ph.D. students from the Dornsife College of Letters, Arts, & Sciences, Annenberg School for Communication & Journalism, and Davis School of Gerontology. The Institute was attended by over one thousand students representing universities across the U.S., as well as a number of faculty and academic administrators.

Highlights included: Opportunities to share research and to acquire feedback on scholarly ideas; Networking with graduate students, faculty, and deans; Learning about fellowships, postdoctoral opportunities, research funding, and faculty job opportunities; Sessions on balancing the multiple roles of graduate students; Overviews on the ins and outs of a tenure track faculty position; Sessions on the importance of teaching and mentoring students as a faculty member; Panels on the multiple roles of faculty: teaching, research, publishing, service; and, Topical workshops on various professional development areas.

Letisha is a member of the Ronald Alkana and Daryl Davies laboratories.

Megan Yardley

Selected to attend the Spring 2012 Ten-Week Series of the USC Graduate School Academic Professional Development Program. The program is supported by the USC Office of the Provost and academic departments university-wide. Participants will have the unique opportunity to enhance academic professional skillset in a supportive, learner-centered environment alongside an interdisciplinary cohort of doctoral students.

Highlighted in the application process is Megan’s latest research interest focusing on the development of novel therapeutic strategies for the effective treatment of Alcohol (ethanol) use disorders (AUDs).
GRADUATE STUDENT SEMINARS

SITI MOHD JANIB
Faculty Mentor: J. ANDREW MACKAY
Title: Cancer nanotechnology using elastin-like polypeptides
October 5, 2011 Student Host: Shili Xu

NICK MORDWINKIN
Faculty Mentor: STAN LOUIE
Title: The effects of angiotensin-(1-7) on type 2 diabetes-induced inflammation and immune dysfunction.
October 12, 2011, Student Host: Siti Mohd Janib

HAN ‘FLORA’ HAN
Faculty Mentor: PETER JONES
Title: Combinatorial Epigenetic Therapy- Targeting DNMT1 and LSD1
October 19, 2011, Student Host: Nick Mordwinkin

YUMNA SHABAIK
Faculty Mentor: NOURI NEAMATI
Title: Mechanistic studies of a novel small-molecule for the treatment of pancreatic cancer
October 26, 2011, Student Host: Flora Han

HSIEN-CHUN LO
Faculty Mentor: CLAY WANG
Title: Molecular genetic mining of the secondary metabolome in Aspergillus nidulans
November 2, 2011, Student Host: Yumna Shabaik

HELEN HA
Faculty Mentor: NOURI NEAMATI
Title: The Design and Discovery of Novel Classes of CXCR2 Inhibitors
November 9, 2011, Student Host: Flora Han

MEGAN YARDLEY
Faculty Mentor: RONALD L. ALKANA/DARYL DAVIES
Title: Preclinical Assessment Of ivermectin in Reducing Alcohol Consumption In Mice
November 16, 2011, Student Host: Helen Ha

YAN WANG
Faculty Mentor: WEI-CHIANG SHEN
Title: Transferrin Receptor-Mediated Activation and Sustained in vivo Hypoglycemic Efficacy of Recombinant Proinsulin-Transferrin Fusion Proteins
November 23, 2011, Student Host: Megan Yardley

FAN DING
Faculty Mentor: ROBERTA D. BRINTON
Title: Bioenergetic fuel shift of reproductive aging: Implications for late-onset Alzheimer’s disease
November 30, 2011, Student Host: Yan Wang

LETISHA WYATT
Faculty Mentor: RONALD L. ALKANA/DARYL DAVIES
Title: Ethanol Modulation of Neuronal P2X4 Receptors
December 7, 2011, Student Host: Fan Ding

KAVYA RAMKUMAR
Faculty Mentor: NOURI NEAMATI
Title: Design of GRP78 inhibitors as novel therapeutics for breast cancer
December 14, 2011, Student Host: Letisha Wyatt

YIYU LI
Faculty Mentor: IAN HAWORTH
Title: Computational modeling of the fibril structure of human islet amyloid polypeptide (hIAPP)
January 11, 2011, Student Host: Kavya Ramkumar

MARTHA PASTUSZKA
Faculty Mentor: ANDREW MACKAY
Title: Development of a thermally responsive intracellular switch
January 18, 2011, Student Host: Yiyu Li

Image of a cell with a fully transitioned ELP inside.

DIVYA PATHANIA
Faculty Mentor: NOURI NEAMATI
Title: Design and discovery of novel redox modulating anticancer agents
January 25, 2011, Student Host: Martha Pastuszka
VISITING SCHOLARS

Julia Nilsson

Julia Nilsson is a student of Lund’s Institute of Technology (LTH) in Sweden pursuing a Master’s degree in biotechnological engineering, specializing in pharmaceutical technology. She finished her International Baccalaureate in Malmö Borgarskola, Malmö, Sweden and had her International General Certificate of Secondary Education in The Netherlands. She will spend six months, from September 2011 to March 2012, in Wei-Chiang Shen’s laboratory at USC to work on a research project, which is focused on controlled release of cell-penetrating peptides, as part of her thesis for her Master degree from LTH.

“I am very grateful that I got the opportunity to work in Dr. Shen’s lab and I would like to thank Dr. Shen and everyone in the lab for welcoming me! Spending these months at USC has been very rewarding and I’ve learnt a lot. Doing my thesis research project in Dr. Shen’s lab has also convinced me to try and pursue a Ph.D. in The Netherlands when I am back in Europe. My time in LA has been great, I got to experience a lot outside of the lab as well and I hope to be back soon to visit,” Julia declares.

Keisuke Oda

Keisuke Oda is an assistant professor (for special program) and a Ph.D. candidate in Pharmaceutics and Therapeutics at Hiroshima University, Japan. He holds a master’s degree in pharmaceutical sciences since 2009. Keisuke is a recent visitor at the lab of Wei-Chiang Shen from October 15 to December 15, 2011, to learn research techniques in pulmonary drug delivery.

“Everything was amazing in LA. I met good friends and they took me to various nice places. Of course, I learned a lot about research. I noticed that there was little difference in research method between Dr. Shen’s lab and my lab in Japan. For example, how to culture the cells, how to use the radio-active materials and so on. All experience will help me a lot in the future.”

Julia (centermost) and Keisuke (left next to Wei-Chiang Shen) with Shen Lab members:
(back row L-R) Chunmeng Sun, Randall Kenien, Robert Mo, Likun Fei, Jennica Zaro, Yu-Sheng Chen;
(front row L-R) Yan Wang, Hsin-Fang Lee, Daisy Shen, Manali Shah.
**PUBLICATIONS**

**James D. Adams**

**Marco Bortolato**

**Enrique Cadenas**

**Robert D. Brinton**

**Ian Haworth**
Julio Camarero

Nouri Neamati

Bangyan L. Stiles

Sarah Hamm-Alvarez
- Contreras J, Hsueh PY, Pei H, Hamm-Alvarez SF. Use of nucleofection to efficiently transfect primary rabbit lacrimal gland acinar cells. Cytotechnology. 2011 Dec 3. [Epub ahead of print] [Link](http://1.usa.gov/zsvbmt)

Juliana Hwang-Levine

Curtis Okamoto
Wei-Chiang Shen


Jean C. Shih


Rajindar S. Sohal


Clay C.C. Wang


Liqin Zhao


Contracts & Grants Updates

by Sharon Wallace

New NIH Salary Cap

The NIH budget approved December 23, 2011 reduces the salary cap from Executive Level 1 ($199,700) to Executive Level II ($179,700). The lower level is effective with FY2012 awards where the initial issue Date of the award is on/after December 23, 2011. For FY2012 awards issued on/before December 22, 2011 (competing and non-competing), the effective salary limitation remains at Executive Level 1, $199,700.

Inflationary Increases for Future Years

Inflationary increases for future year commitments will be discontinued for all competing and non-competing research grant awards issued in FY2012, however adjustments for special needs (such as equipment and added personnel) will continue to be accommodated. FY2012 awards that have already been issued will be revised to adjust the award level and future year commitments in accordance with these principles.

Ruth L. Kirschstein National Research Service Awards (NRSA)

The NIH will implement a two-percent increase at all stipend levels.

Submitting and Tracking Administrative Supplement Requests Electronically

All grantees will have the option to submit their administrative supplement requests electronically. Submitting through eRA Commons should be quick and easy. You will find much of the supplement application pre-populated with information from the parent grant data, and the system will guide you through the rest of the application. This is a pilot, so electronic submission of administrative supplement requests is not required at this time. It will be eventually, so it would be good idea to try the system now.

(News items taken directly from NIH Office of Extramural Research Newsletter and USC Contracts and Grants NewsFlash).

A trimester publication for the faculty, staff, students, alumni and friends of the Department

**Holiday Party** Luminarias December 16, 2011

The Give Aways

“Don’t forget your raffle tickets!”

Full house and festive!
"I got the goodies in my hands."

They got to take the poinsettias home!

"That’s mine; for my wife and new baby!"

The White Elephant game was fun!

... lost this big, nice gift...

... lost many nice gifts, too, but what could beat these?

Gag gifts? Who cares? We had fun!

Yanbin Ji also won, but gave it to Angie for her family to enjoy!

Yes, every winner signs a receipt—audit SOP.
Other Holiday Traditions

Enrique Cadenas and lab members host a hallway reception on the 6th floor.

Neamati Lab always plays games after their Holiday lunch.

Just like their work, they take their games seriously ... as there are prizes and gifts at stake.

It’s gourmet Chinese food for the Shih Lab.

Camarero Lab goes to San Antonio Winery.