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Edison Biotechnology Institute Newsletter

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# Edison Biotechnology Institute

Fall Edition

September - December 2016

## EBI Hosted Annual Authority Board Meeting

Written By: Rachel Beha

On October 25th, 2016, EBI members and guests gathered at The Ohio University Inn and Conference Center for the annual EBI Authority Board Meeting. The meeting lasted from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. and included a working lunch. The agenda included welcoming remarks by OHIO President Dr. Roderick McDavis, introductions of board members and guests, and a review of financials by EBI Accountant and Office Manager, Rachel Beha. Dr. Shiyong Wu, Director of EBI, provided an overview of ongoing and future EBI activities. A new Principal Investigator, Dr. Dhiraj Vattem, Director for the School of Applied Health Sciences and Wellness and Professor of Nutrition, gave a presentation of his research interests. Dr. Lingying Tong, EBI Assistant Investigator, and Dr. Yanrong Qian, EBI Postdoctoral Fellow, gave presentations on their recently funded research projects. Dr. John Kopchick, Goll-Ohio Eminent Scholar, presented on a newly funded EBI partnership. There was a nice discussion amongst all with ideas and suggestions provided about the current activities and the future of EBI.

This is a significant year for the EBI Authority Board, as several longstanding board members will retire, while four new members joined. It is also the final year for President Dr. McDavis to serve as Chair due to his upcoming retirement. It has been our pleasure to have him serve as our Chair for many years. In honor of his final EBI Authority Board Meeting, a photo was captured of some meeting attendees with President Dr. McDavis, as seen below.



From left: Dr. Dhiraj Vattem, Dr. E. Terry Finocchiaro, Robert Silva Jr., Dr. Kelly M. George, Jennifer Horner, Rachel Beha, Dr. Chasity Andrews, Dr. Sonia Najjar, Dr. Shiyong Wu, Dr. Roderick McDavis, Dr. Jeffery Wiseman, Dr. Herbert Bresler, Dr. John Kopchick, Dr. Byron Hoogwerf, Dr. Reetobrata Basu, Dr. Yanrong Qian and George Dunigan II.

## EBI Welcomed New Authority Board Members

Written By: Emily Leber

EBI added four new members to the Authority Board: George Dunigan II, Dr. E. Terry Finocchiaro, Dr. Kelly M. George, and Dr. Byron J. Hoogwerf to the existing board, which includes President Dr. Roderick McDavis, Dr. Joseph Shields (Vice President of Research, Ohio University), Dr. Shiyong Wu (Director, EBI) Dr. John Kopchick (Goll-Ohio Eminent Scholar), Dr. Sonia Najjar (Associate Dean for Research and Innovation, HCOM), and Dr. Herbert Bresler (Chief Scientist, Battelle).

George Dunigan II is currently the Director of Governmental Affairs at the Ohio University College of Osteopathic Medicine. Mr. Dunigan has impacted the Ohio political and health care delivery landscape for forty years where he has engaged in many health-related policy issues. Mr. Dunigan is a long-standing leader in public health policy and medical education.

Dr. E. Terry Finocchiaro is a highly creative food science executive that has worked for many different companies, ranging from global Fortune 100 companies to start-ups. Dr. Finocchiaro is currently the Senior Director of Global Nutrition Science R&D, Dietary Supplements at Pfizer Consumer Healthcare (PCH) in Madison, New Jersey where he has been since 2013. At his current position, Dr. Finocchiaro is accountable for all nutrition activities. Dr. Finocchiaro obtained his PhD. in Food Science from the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

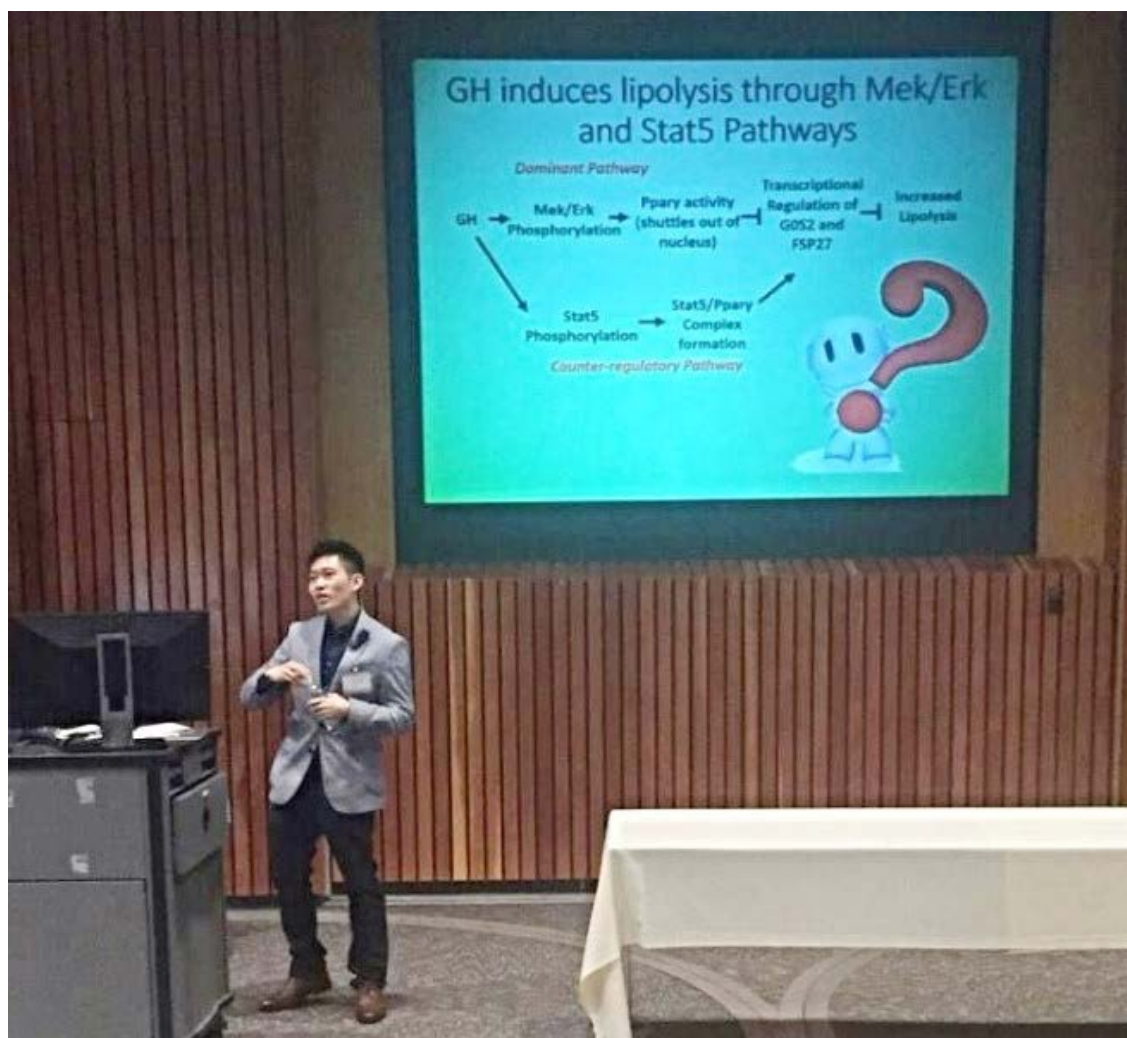
Dr. Kelly M. George is a dynamic innovator and accomplished project leader. She has ten years of pharmaceutical research and consumer product development experience. Dr. George is currently an Associate Principal Scientist for L'Oreal USA in Clark, New Jersey, where she has been since 2012. Dr.

George obtained her PhD. in Organic Chemistry from the University of Pennsylvania.

Dr. Byron J. Hoogwerf is currently a Clinical Research Physician with Eli Lilly and Company in Indianapolis, Indiana. Prior to joining Eli Lilly in 2008, Dr. Hoogwerf was a staff physician with the Cleveland Clinic Foundation for over thirty years. Dr. Hoogwerf obtained his M.D. from the University of Minnesota Medical School. Dr. Hoogwerf has coauthored over 150 peer-reviewed publications, served as a reviewer for many journals, and held positions on many committees and boards.

## Graduate Students Presented Research at Appalachian Regional Cell Conference

Written By: Debra Walter



Quyen Jason Luong

Photo Credit: Xinhao Liu

On October 2nd, 2016, the 5th annual Appalachian Regional Cell Conference (ARCC) was held at West Virginia University in Charleston, West Virginia. This year, the organizers from Ohio University, Marshall

University, the University of Kentucky, and West Virginia University were pleased to expand attendance to other universities in the Appalachian Region, including Fairmont State University, the University of Charleston, and West Virginia State University. Undergraduate students, graduate students, and post-doctoral fellows came together for the day to present their research, both in seminar and poster format. This year's keynote speaker was Alfred Goldberg, PhD, from Harvard Medical School, who spoke about his work as a pioneer in the discovery of proteasome function and using this discovery for disease therapy. He offered young scientists a bit of advice about their future, "if you are not having fun, stop doing it".

In addition to providing trainees an opportunity to present their research in an open forum, the ARCC provided the opportunity to network with others in the Appalachian region and to learn about resources available at surrounding universities for future collaboration and interdisciplinary research. Attendees compared notes about applying to graduate school, post-doctoral fellowships, faculty positions and other common early career questions.

Ohio University's Quyen Jason Luong was selected this year to give an oral presentation on his doctoral research project, entitled "Growth hormone regulates lipolysis through down-regulating FSP27/G0S2". Xuan Wang, a student performing her graduate research at EBI, was awarded second-place for her poster presentation on her doctoral research project, "A new type of drug resistance in cancer: extracellular ATP-induced resistance through ATP internalization and ATP-drug competition".

Thanks to the ARCC's generous sponsors, Ohio University, EBI, Marshall University, West Virginia University, and the University of Kentucky, the conference remained completely free for all those in attendance.

## **EBI Members Presented Research at the International Congress of the GHR and IGF Society**

Written By: Dr. Reetobrata Basu





Front Row: Alison Brittain, Dr. Reetobrata Basu, Silvana Duran-Ortiz, Dr. John Kopchick, Katie Troike, Mathew Buchman, and Jonathan Young. Back Row: Brooke Henry and Dr. Darlene Berryman.

**Photo Courtesy of:** Silvana Duran-Ortiz

“It is a great time to be in the field of growth hormone research,” aptly remarked Dr. Pinchas Cohen (President, GRS-IGF Society), starting off the 8th International Congress of the Growth Hormone Research and IGF Society, with Dr. Jesse Roth as the keynote speaker, at the picturesque city of Tel-Aviv, Israel, from November 6th-9th, 2016. A group of ten researchers from Dr. John Kopchick’s lab at EBI participated and presented their work at this prestigious meeting, attended by endocrinologists, pediatricians, molecular biologists, oncologists, and clinicians from 15 different countries throughout the world. EBI had a notable presence at the meeting, with poster presentations by EBI faculty and Executive Director of the Diabetes Institute, Dr. Darlene Berryman, and graduate students from the Kopchick lab; Kevin Funk, Brooke Henry, and Alison Brittain; short talks by EBI post-doctoral researcher Dr. Reetobrata Basu, as well as, graduate students from the Kopchick lab; Jonathan Young, Silvana Duran-Ortiz, and Katie Troike. The research from Dr. Edward List and Dr. Yanrong Qian was also presented as talks at the meeting by their colleagues. EBI faculty Dr. John Kopchick was the immediate ex-president of the GRS-IGF Society and chaired the session on basic aspects of growth hormone research at this year’s meeting. He also had the pleasure of honoring his colleague, friend and a pioneer in growth hormone research, Dr. Zvi Laron, for the Lifetime Achievement Award from the GRS-IGF Society this year. For all the participants from EBI, this meeting was a highly valuable opportunity to learn, network, and get inspired in the company of their peers worldwide, as well as the foremost leaders and pioneers in the field of growth hormone research. A final high point of this meeting was the opportunity to visit the holy city of Jerusalem on the final day, arranged by the meeting organizers. EBI researchers return rejuvenated and eager to assimilate their experience into work.

The details of the talks and presentations, as well as valuable highlights of the meeting can be accessed at: [www.grs-igf2016.com](http://www.grs-igf2016.com)

## Five EBI Students Were Awarded the Provost's Undergraduate Research Fund

Written By: Staff Reports from the Office of Research Communications

This fall, 41 students received the Provost's Undergraduate Research Fund providing a total of \$49,962 to fund their original research. The Research Fund is funded by the Executive Vice President and Provost and administered by the Research Division. There were 83 proposals with a total of \$98,732 requested in funding.

Five undergraduate students working on projects at EBI were awarded:

Nathan Arnett, mentored by Dr. John Kopchick, received \$1,500 for his project, titled: "Effect of reduced growth hormone action on mouse melanoma cell line growth."

Stephan Bell, also mentored by Dr. John Kopchick, received \$1,500 for his project, titled: "Motor activation assessment in adult onset growth hormone receptor knockout mice."

Savannah McKenna, mentored by Dr. Edward List received \$1,450 for her project, titled: "Effect of an alternative form of growth hormone on liver triglycerides."

Patrick Ruz, also mentored by Dr. Edward List, received \$1,425 for his project, titled: "Effect of an alternative form of growth hormone on bone mineral density."

Cody Wilson, mentored by Dr. Darlene Berryman, received \$1,350 for his project, titled: "Analysis of white adipose tissue fibrosis using growth hormone deficient mice."

To read more and see the complete list of recipients, [click here](#).

## Five EBI Students Received John J. Kopchick Awards

Written By: Research Division Staff from the Office of Research Communications



Front row: Student award recipients Yanyang Cao and Lydia Richardson. Back row: Char Kopchick, Assistant Dean of Students; student award recipients Sarah Benner, Nikki Meyer, Nathan Arnett and Austin Stevens; Distinguished Professor Dr. John Kopchick; student award recipients Samuel Kirkeng and Benjamin Colvin; faculty award recipient Dr. Amir Farnoud.

**Photo credit:** Kaitlin Owens/Ohio University.

The John J. Kopchick awards were received this fall by ten Ohio University students and one faculty member for a total of \$54,863. This money was given in grants and fellowships to advance research. The awards were presented at a ceremony on November 19 in Nelson Commons.

Two graduate students working on projects at EBI were awarded Kopchick fellowships.

Alison Brittain, mentored by Dr. John Kopchick was awarded \$10,000, for her project, "Mechanisms of Glomerular Damage Induced by Growth Hormone Action in Podocytes".

Yanyang Cao, mentored by Dr. Xiazhuo Chen was awarded \$10,000, for her project, "ATP as a Contributor and a Therapeutic Target in Cancer Cell Invasion and Metastasis".

Three undergraduate students working on projects at EBI were awarded Kopchick support funds.

Nathan Arnett, mentored by Dr. John Kopchick was awarded \$1,500, for his project, "Effect of Reduced Growth Hormone Action on Mouse Melanoma Cell Line Growth".

Lydia Richardson, mentored by Dr. Shiyong Wu, was awarded \$1,500, for her project "The Role of Nitric Oxide Synthase upon Low Dose UVB Radiation".

Austin Stevens, mentored by Dr. Edward List was awarded \$1,500, for his project, "Determining the Chemoresistance Effects of Growth Hormone (GH) and Growth Hormone Receptor (GHR) Action in Human Pancreatic Cancer and Hepatocellular Carcinoma".

To read more about the awards and see the complete list of recipients, [click here](#).

## EBI Members Attended the Women in Bioscience Conference

Written By: Priscilla Pham

In November of 2016, BioOhio hosted its second annual Women in Bioscience Conference. BioOhio focuses on building the future of Ohio's bioscience industry to improve global quality of life and more importantly, encourages and inspires women to excel in their careers in the biosciences. Members from surrounding cities gathered in Columbus to cover topics such as advocating for oneself, networking via social media and success in entrepreneurship. Other topics included strategies for approaching negotiation and transforming technical and scientific information into concepts. Among the attendees from Ohio University were Dr. Chasity Andrews, Dr. Ishrat Jahan, Misaka Hata and Priscilla Pham from EBI. Additionally, Ms. Jennifer Simon from the Innovation Center moderated a panel and Dr. Gerardine Botte from the Department of Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering and Dr. Korie Counts from the Technology Transfer Office attended the meeting.



From left: Dr. Chasity Andrews, Priscilla Pham, Misaka Hata and Dr. Ishrat Jahan

## Natural Products Group Attended Conference in Orlando

Written By: Dr. Haotong Chen





In the fall of 2016, the natural products group from EBI traveled to Orlando for the International Society for Nutraceuticals and Functional Foods (ISNFF) conference. ISNFF is an annual international conference, established in 2008 in response to widespread recognition of the role of natural health products, including functional foods, nutraceuticals and dietary supplements on health promotion and disease risk reduction. ISNFF aims to bridge the existing gaps among the scientific community, industry and consumers. EBI members attending this meeting included Drs. Shiyong Wu, Dhiraj Vatter, Jeffery Wiseman, Chasity Andrews, Lingying Tong, Haotong Chen and Hyunyoung Park. Dr. Chen and Dr. Park each presented posters detailing their research of maca root. Travel to ISNFF was supported by Ohio University Innovation Strategy pre-seed grant funding for "Establishment of a Natural Product Research Center & Commercialization Platform".

The 2016 conference included participation of delegates from 30 countries, giving 124 presentations, 9 keynote presentations and 95 poster presentations. The presentations were from world-renowned experts, covering almost every aspect of nutraceuticals and functional foods, including lipid oxidation and antioxidant action, cosmeceuticals, nutricosmetics and skin health, plant bioactives, carbohydrates, bioactive proteins and peptides and traditional Chinese medicine. They not only exhibited their novel discoveries, but also left a big impression on understanding the efficacy, metabolism, mechanism of action, absorption, safety and marketing of functional foods. In addition to the conference content, there were also opportunities to meet the executives, leaders, and outstanding researchers in this field, learning from their experiences and establishing more networks.

## First Annual Growth Hormone

## Symposium Brought Together Students, Scientists and Faculty

Written By: The Diabetes Institute

The First Annual Symposium on the Effects of Growth Hormone on Metabolism brought together 58 faculty members, physicians, research scientists, and students in the month of December. The Symposium, sponsored by Pfizer, The Diabetes Institute, the Department of Biomedical Sciences and EBI, featured guest speakers Dr. Dawn Brasemle from Rutgers University in New Jersey, and Dr. Jens Otto Jorgenson and Dr. Niels Jessen from Aarhus University in Denmark.

## Dr. Wu Was Appointed to The American Cancer Society Review Committee

Written By: Emily Leber

Dr. Shiyong Wu, Director of EBI, was appointed as a member of the American Cancer Society Peer Review Committee for Nutrition, the Environment, and Cancer. The members are responsible for reviewing and making recommendations on actions related to grant applications, including occasional site visits and interviews with applicants. The term of membership is five years, from January 1st, 2017 to December 31st, 2021.

## Save the Dates

**March 2nd** -Natural Products and Medicine Symposium hosted by EBI. [Click Here](#) for more information and to register.

**April 1-4** - The 2017 ENDO Meeting. [Click here](#) for more information.

**October 2-7** - The Annual American Association for Respiratory Care (AARC) Meeting. [Click here](#) for more information.

[EXPLORE EBI](#)

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