Welcome to the BMS Class of 2015

Kyle Atcheson, Trinity HS, Louisville, KY
Elizabeth Bley, Mother of Mercy HS, Cleves, OH
Daniel Brook, Sycamore HS, Cincinnati, OH
Matthew Bruni, West Allegheny HS, Imperial, PA
Luke Cheng, Strongsville HS, Strongsville, OH
Jennifer DeSalvo, Magnificat HS, Westlake, OH
Markus Harrigan, Hoover HS, North Canton, OH
Kaitlin Keenan, Stoney Creek HS, Rochester, MI
Barbara Kreider, Westerville South HS, Westerville, OH
Steven Manning, Wadsworth Senior HS, Wadsworth, OH
Gabriel Marcucci, Liberty HS, Powell, OH
Michael Neiger, Worthington Kilbourne HS, Columbus, OH
Amanda Selhorst, Eastwood HS, Bowling Green, OH
Jeremiah Shaw, Archbishop Alter HS, Yellow Springs, OH
Evan Sommer, Portsmouth HS, Portsmouth, OH
Chelsea Stiner, Reynoldsburg HS, Reynoldsburg, OH
Ted Sundin, Fairmont HS, Fairmont, WV
Poornima Venigalla, Parkway South HS, Manchester, MO
Emaline Wise, Troy HS, Troy, OH
Katherine Yates, Big Walnut HS, Galena, OH

New Leadership for the BMS Major

July 1, 2011, was the start of a new era for the Biomedical Science Major, as John Gunn, PhD, took over the lead as director. He replaced Bruce Biagi, PhD, who was the founding director of the major and retired this past June.

While new to the position, Dr. Gunn has been heavily involved with the major since its inception, mentoring BMS students in his lab, teaching an immunology and infectious disease class to BMS seniors, and interviewing prospective students. Dr. Gunn was selected as program director late in 2010, allowing him to spend a school year experiencing all aspects of the major before taking on the role full time.

A native of Painesville, Ohio, Dr. Gunn earned his bachelor’s degree in microbiology from Bowling Green State University, and his PhD from the University of Maryland. He completed postdoctoral fellowships at Harvard Medical School/Mass. General Hospital and the University of Washington. Prior to coming to Ohio State, Dr. Gunn was a faculty member at the University of Texas Health Science Center. At OSU Dr. Gunn is a Professor and Vice Chair of the Department of Microbial Infection and Immunity. In addition to his running his research lab and the Biomedical Science Major, Dr. Gunn teaches in the Integrated Biomedical Science Graduate Program (IBGP) and is on the admissions committee for the College of Medicine, the Medical Scientist Training Program, and the IBGP.

Good Bye and Good Luck, BMS Class of 2011

The class of 2011 was the third BMS to graduate, and this class really spread their wings and soared. Members of the class are working and studying in Chicago, St. Louis, Washington DC area, Baltimore, Toledo, New York City, Philadelphia and even (blah!) Ann Arbor. Others in the class decided their ‘second hometown’ of Columbus was the best place to stay.

Story continued on the next page
Members of the Class of 2011, their hometowns, and where they are now:

Sean Boone, Geneva, IL, is in medical school at Washington University.

Sarada Eleswarpu, West Chester, OH, is in medical school at The Ohio State University.

Braxton Forde, Boardman, OH, is in medical school at The Ohio State University.

Dustin Gable, Leipsic, OH, is in the MD/PhD program at Johns Hopkins University.

Qi Fu, Hamilton, OH, is in graduate school at the University of Pennsylvania.

Saamia Hossain, Dublin, OH, is in medical school at the University of Toledo.

Michael Mbagwu, Yellow Springs, OH, is in medical school at Northwestern University.

Nicole Naiman, Olmsted Falls, is working in an HIV lab at the National Institutes of Health in Bethesda, Maryland. She plans to apply to MD/PhD programs for 2013.

Jason Pradarelli, Muskego, WI, is in medical school at the University of Michigan.

Hanna Sorg, Troy, OH, is working and applying to Physician Assistant programs for 2012.

Nicholas Sutton, Tipp City, OH, is in medical school at The Ohio State University.

Katherina Timmer, North Bethesda, MD, is working in an HIV lab at the National Institutes of Health in Bethesda, Maryland and applying to medical schools for 2012.

Joe Vogelgesang, Lima, OH, is doing a one year service project though Episcopal Community Services in Chicago and applying to Osteopathic medical schools for 2012.

Kara Zang, Gibsonia, PA, is in graduate school at New York University.

Ch-ch-ch-ch-changes

In June, Ohio State will end its final Spring “Quarter” and begin its first Summer “Semester.” While there are no significant changes to what or how BMS classes are taught, the conversion to semesters has proven to be a welcome opportunity to re-evaluate the BMS curriculum. Faculty have based their recommendations on what works best and feedback from students and alumni. They have also worked together to better understand each others’ courses in order to maximize the program curriculum. The BMS curriculum has always been a point of pride, and we feel it will only be stronger in semesters.

Grever Summer Internship

Summer 2011 was the sixth summer that Michael Grever, MD, Chair of Internal Medicine at The Ohio State University Medical Center, offered a physician shadowing program for BMS students. Two rising seniors and five rising juniors participated in the internship, spending eight weeks exploring their interest in clinical medicine and better understanding how the knowledge gained in the research laboratory improves patient care. The interns worked full time, observing patient rounds, watching procedures, and working in their research labs. As it does every summer, the internship confirmed some students’ desire to become physicians, while others realized it was not the career for them. The Grever internship is only available to BMS students and is one of the outstanding programs that allow BMS students to make informed decisions about their future careers.

Winning!

As a way of recognizing all the time and work students’ put into their research, Ohio State offers a number of opportunities for student researchers to present their research and participate in a poster contest. The two main forums in with BMS students participate are the OSU Medical Center’s Research Trainee Day and the OSU Denman Undergraduate Research Forum. At Research Trainee Day 2011, BMS senior Jason Pradarelli (Muskego, WI, Muskego High School) and junior Lily Liu (Mason, OH, William Mason High School) took home the two undergraduate awards. In addition, Jason was selected to be the undergraduate presenter at the speaker forum. At Denman, BMS winners were senior Dustin Gable (Leipsic, OH, Miller City High School), junior Shauna Collins (Hoover, AL, Hoover High School) and a sophomore winner, Nick Denton (Mentor OH, Mentor High School)! Overall, a very impressive total of 22 BMS students presented at Denman.
Images from 2011

Nicole Naiman and her family pose with Dr. Gee at the BMS precommencement celebration luncheon the day before graduation.

Several BMS students visited Ecuador in December as part of the student organization MEDLIFE. Pictured left to right are Brian Hurwitz, Monica Lachey, Curtis Weisenburger, Tyler Siekmann, Erica Schmenk, Alec Graham, and Mark Rudolph.

BMS Class of 2012 members Shauna Collins and Katie Bingmer before an OSU home football game.

They made it! Graduating with the Class of 2011 are Michael Mbagwu, Jason Pradarelli, Sarada Eleswarpu, and Dustin Gable.

Looking forward to 2012

Obviously the biggest challenge facing the BMS major in 2012 is the conversion to semesters. Administratively, the semester-based BMS curriculum was approved in 2010; it is the students who face the greatest adjustment now! While there will likely be some adjustment issues the first year, semesters are viewed overall as a very positive change. BMS students will now be able to participate in more summer research opportunities at other universities and institutions, which typically operate under a semester calendar.

The graduating Class of 2012 has the most diverse career goals of any BMS class, with students applying not only to medicine and research programs, but also to dental, optometry, pharmacy, and public health programs. They are busy interviewing as this report goes to press. Stay tuned to see where the members of the Class of 2012 end up!

Finally, in 2012 several members of the inaugural BMS class (the Class of 2009) will begin applying for residency programs in anticipation of their medical school graduation in 2013. Everyone associated with the BMS program is looking forward to seeing what specialties these students choose, and where they will be for the next exciting chapter of their lives.
Highlighting the Faculty

Following is a list of the outstanding faculty who have mentored the BMS students in the classroom, the research laboratory, and in various clinical settings during 2011.

**Anatomy:** John Bolte, Ken Jones

**Bioinformatics:** Mertin Gurcan, Dan Janies, Victor Jin, Carol Powell

**Cardiovascular Medicine:** Rich Gumina

**College of Medicine:** Dan Clinchot

**Critical Care, Trauma and Burn:** Joanna Trgovcich

**Endocrinology, Diabetes, and Metabolism:** Larry Kirschner

**Dentistry:** Zongyang Sun

**Hematology:** Rob Baiocchi, Don Benson, Michael Caligiuri, Pierluigi Porcu

**Internal Medicine:** Michael Grever, Andy Thomas

**Microbial Infection and Immunity:** Mark Drew, John Gunn, Larry Schlesinger

**Molecular and Cellular Biochemistry:** Jill Rafael-Fortney, Samson Jacob, Steve Kolb, Sharmila Majumder, Michael Ostrowski

**Molecular Virology, Immunology, and Medical Genetics:** Denis Guttridge, Ginny Sanders, David Symer, Mandy Toland

**Neurological Surgery:** E. Antonio Chiocca, Balveen Kaur, Mariano Viapiano

**Neuroscience:** Candice Askwith, Tony Brown, Courtney Devries, Andy Fischer

**Optometry:** Andrew Hartwick

**Pathology:** Tania Obertyzyn, Jim Waldman, Traci Wilgus

**Pharmacy:** Lane Wallace

**Pharmacology:** Kirk Mykytyn, Frederick Villamena

**Physiology and Cell Biology:** Bruce Biagi, Art Strauch, Mark Ziolo

**School of Allied Medical Professions:** Jill Heathcock (Physical Therapy), Huey-Jen Lin (Medical Technology), Emily Patterson (Health Information Management and Systems, Jimmy Onate (Athletic Training)

**Surgery:** Ginny Bumgardner, Saswati Roy, and surgeons in the Center for Minimally Invasive Surgery

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**Biomedical Science Points of Pride for 2011**

Class of 2011 alumni were accepted into some of the most prestigious medical and graduate schools in the country, including: Johns Hopkins University, Washington University, New York University, University of Pennsylvania, Northwestern University, and the University of Michigan.

BMS students completed summer research internships at the University of Texas-Southwestern, Mount Sinai (NYC), and the German Cancer Research Center (Heidelberg, Germany), as well as a study abroad in Ecuador.

BMS students had the opportunity to present their research at several professional conferences around the world in such locales as Washington DC, Las Vegas, Seven Springs (PA), Chicago, Keystone (CO), and Brazil.

The Biomedical Science Major started a new award, which will be given to two seniors at graduation. The Dr. Bruce A. Biagi Award was established in honor of Dr. Biagi who retired last summer, to recognize students who “exemplify a spirit of enthusiasm and dedication not only to academic and research excellence, but also to the breadth of his/her own personal development.” Inaugural recipients were Dustin Gable and Joanna Katherina Timmer.

BMS Class of 2011 graduates Dustin Gable and Michael Mbagwu were named honorees for the President’s Salute to Undergraduate Academic Achievement.

BMS had its first “i” dotter! Katie Bingmer, BMS Class of 2012, is a sousaphone player in the marching band and was selected to “dot the i” in Script Ohio at the OSU vs Wisconsin game in October, which was also marked the 100 year anniversary of Script Ohio. We’ll give Katie partial credit for inspiring the Buckeye football team on to victory over the Badgers!