

Medical Scientist Training Program

Joint Summer Retreat

Jason Siu and Kelly Regan

On July 8-9, 2013, the MD/PhD training programs of The Ohio State University and Case Western will host the first joint annual summer retreat at the beautiful Mohican State Park near Loudonville, OH. This retreat aims to establish communication between two of Ohio's top dual-degree training programs and to facilitate sharing of ideas and research. Highlights for the 2-day retreat include a joint grant-writing workshop, talks by leadership from each university, and a talk on the future of MD/PhDs by distinguished speaker Dr. Chuck Stiles of Harvard University. Students will participate in a joint post session/Happy Hour to bond over research, and the evening will be capped off with karaoke - a Case Western favorite. In addition to the science, attendees will be able to partake in outdoor activities such as hiking, swimming, canoeing and ziplining. OSU will also conduct its orientation for first-year MSTP matriculants and last, but not least, students will compete for the coveted Larry Award.



Bromfield's Dining Room at the Mohican State Park Lodge

Research Day 2013

Stephen Bergin

The OSUWMC's 12th annual Research Day took place Thursday, April 11, 2013. To kick-off the event, the Center for Clinical and Translational Science sponsored a talk entitled "The Collaborative Era in Science" by Dr. Caroline Wagner from the Glenn School of Public Affairs. The day included two poster sessions with participants from stages of research training from undergraduates to postdocs. The keynote research speaker was Dr. Helen Hobbs MD, a Howard Hughes Medical Institute Investigator at UT Southwestern Medical Center, who lectured on "Nature, Nurture and Fatty Liver disease". MSTP student Joseph Ostler served on Allan Yates Distinguished Research Scholars Panel, and Ohio State's Dr. Christopher Breuer (Tissue Engineering) and Dr. Ray Hershberger (Human Genetics) shared their groundbreaking work in the State of the Art Research Update Lecture Series.

Many MSTP students contributed to a successful Research Day. Behind the scenes Katherine Hartmann and Amanda Harper served as Co-Chairs for the Research Day Planning Committee, and Steven Scoville served as Vice Chair. MSTP trainees Edward Briercheck, Nima Milani-Nejad, and Bin Ni won travel awards for their research.

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Alumni Spotlight - Kenneth May

Stephen Bergin



Dr Kenneth May graduated from Ohio State's MD/PhD program in 2006, and completed his residency in Internal Medicine at Brigham and Women's Hospital, and a clinical fellowship in Hematology/Oncology at Dana-Farber Cancer Institute/Brigham and Women's Hospital/Massachusetts General Hospital, all of Harvard Medical School. While many professionals are passionate about improving patient care in underserved regions, the unique combination of Dr May's strong training, his desire to make a huge impact, and his willingness to trail-blaze has driven him to the Bozeman Deaconess Cancer Center in Montana, a state where access to top-of-the-line cancer treatment at an academic medical center is often a plane flight away. As Dr May cares for his cancer patients, he is also working to build a regional cancer center that brings the-latest-and-greatest therapies to the surrounding communities. Guidance from his mentors at Ohio State and his proactive planning throughout his training have equipped him to carry out this challenging and rewarding endeavor.

While at Ohio State, Dr May chose a PhD committee that brought a variety of physician-scientist mentoring experiences to his translational research. He attributes much of his scientific development to studying tumor immunology with his advisor Dr Yang Liu. Dr Michael Caligiuri provided invaluable guidance for translational research, collaborations, and big-picture career development; and Dr Caroline Whitacre supplied important research oversight. Committee member Dr Edward Martin, a surgical oncologist whose biotech company Dr. May worked for prior to medical school, provided continuity of mentorship throughout both the MD and PhD portions of his training. Dr May's clinical development during his PhD years was fostered by several surgical residents and fellows who worked with Dr May in the lab and Dr Martin in the hospital, providing connections for early exposure to clinical experiences.

Re-entry into medical school is a challenging stage of the MD/PhD training. In addition to the new material, it can be humbling to go from a sophisticated researcher back to the bottom of the totem pole. Dr May explained the intangible benefits of active engagement with clinical faculty during the PhD. "Planning during the PhD was useful for re-entry. You only have one-shot to do things right and picking rotations that play to your strengths can help." The surgeons working next to him in the lab compelled Dr May to attend surgeries, shadow in clinics, and to begin thinking about clinical rotations. When he returned to the wards, his PhD experiences helped distinguish him from other medical students as he could engage residents and faculty in scientific conversations about oncology.

"It is important to appreciate the fact that for some residencies even if you have stellar medical school credentials, it can be hard to stand out among the pool of applicants." MD/PhD training offers opportunities to establish a unique continuity of research and clinical relationships. "New relationships are constantly having to be formed and reformed throughout medical training, but if you can develop relationships that can continue to grow and develop throughout your whole training, you can become more than 'just another medical student' on the wards. Faculty that know you personally from your PhD experiences will pay attention to you and look for opportunities for you." The tumor immunology research background helped him to excel in hematology and bone-marrow transplant rotations at OSU and then to impress faculty during an away-rotation at Brigham and Women's Hospital, where he ultimately became a resident.

Dr May's planning and deliberate integration of training enabled him to navigate a successful training career. However, he also stresses the importance of professional "dabbling" outside your expertise. "There are a lot of opportunities that can be amazingly valuable, such as teaching or helping organize a conference. Walking a well-trodden path to success is important, but keep your eyes open. Exploring a variety of areas can broaden your experience and give you many options." The trouble-shooting skills of research, the clinical skills of being a good oncologist, and the leadership skills learned in MSSO, have equipped Dr May to turn the medical impact he envisions into a reality. As a recently appointed Clinical Instructor of Medicine for the University of Washington, Dr. May is excited to continue on the pathway of a physician-scientist as he builds the professional infrastructure necessary to bring high-quality cancer care to southwest Montana.

Dr May recently described the inspiration for his professional journey in a column published on the Prostate Cancer Foundation website.

http://www.pcf.org/site/c.leJRIRORepH/b.8582243/k.CAE6/Letters_from_Bozeman_8211_Kenneth_May_Jr_MD_PhD.htm

Alumni Summit

Edward Briercheck

Generations of OSU MSTP students came together last month for the 1st annual Alumni Summit. Those in attendance included Brad Blaser, Sanjida Cabot, Corey Clay, Ken May, Ryan Roberts, Sameek Roychowdhury, and Chadwick Wright, along with current MSTP students. The 1st Alumni Summit was focused on reconnecting OSU MSTP alumni with each other and the program. Alumni reported the desire to know where and in what fields other alumni are working and it was obvious from the summit's discussion that forming a robust alumni network is helpful both to our alumni and students. Alumni can use this network for grant revisions, job opportunities, and scientific collaborations. Current students are able to get a wide range of perspectives on training programs and long-term career strategies from alumni at various points in their careers. The future goals of the alumni program will be to invite alumni on an individual basis to give talks and hold at least one annual alumni event. Finally out of town alumni should plan on digging out their scarlet and gray, as the next alumni event will likely include cheering on the football or basketball Buckeyes in person. Alumni who have an interest in being part of the alumni program, ideas for alumni engagement, or have news to share should contact Ashley Bertran (ashley.bertran@osumc.edu)

SUCCESS

Meg Sprague

The Ohio State University Medical Scientist Training Program (MSTP) is excited to announce that the SUCCESS (Summer Undergraduate Course Creating Excellence in Scientific Study) Program will welcome its second class of students to Columbus on June 3, 2013. This nine week program is focused on fostering the careers of students interested in biomedical research by enhancing the students' laboratory experience and providing valuable professional development courses. The 20 SUCCESS students represent a cross-section of excellence from diverse backgrounds, including 19 different undergraduate institutions spanning 14 states, 5 of the incoming students are from underrepresented in medicine groups, and 14 are females. Two of these students hold MARC (Minority Access to Research Careers) Fellowships, a prestigious NIH award available to minority students interested in research. After their summer here, it is our hope that most of these students will eventually pursue MD/PhD or graduate training programs at OSU or other top-tier institutions of biomedical research and will become future leaders in the field.

APSA Conference

Theresa Relation

The American Physician Scientist Association (APSA) held its ninth annual meeting during the weekend of April 26-28 in Chicago, IL. APSA is a national organization that strives to promote the development of physician scientists at all

stages in their training. Each year, the annual meeting is held jointly with the American Society of Clinical Investigators (ASCI) and the American Academy of Physicians (AAP), offering the attendees the opportunity to interact with leading national and international physician scientists. The 2013 Annual Meeting offered trainees the opportunity to attend lectures by innovative scientists in a wide variety of fields, to participate in mentoring workshops, and to attend panel discussions with faculty from institutions across the country. Notable speakers included Dr. Francis Collins and Dr. Shinya Yamanaka, Nobel laureate.

This year's conference featured a strong presence from Ohio State's MSTP program. Of the 77 training programs represented, OSU ranked 8th in attendance. 6 students attended, with many students participating as leaders. Kate Hartmann serves as Annual Meeting Chair, Dylan Nielson served as Public Relations Chair, and Steven Scoville served as University representative. Additionally, Dr. Robert Baiocchi from OSU's new Physician Scientist Training Program participated in the conference and OSU Internal Medicine resident Dr. Nicole Grieselhuber served on the Residency 101 panel.



5th year MSTP trainee Dylan Nielson is Chair of APSA's Public Relations Committee and is coordinating the 2013 Midwest Regional Meeting at OSU on November 9th, 2013

White Coat Sponsorship Program

It is a time-honored tradition that incoming medical students are welcomed into the medical community by receiving their White Coat. The College of Medicine solicits donations from alumni to provide each student with a coat. (<http://giveto.osu.edu/whitecoat/>)

The MSTP invites alumni to donate a coat specifically to an incoming MD/PhD student to initiate a mentorship relationship. Upon receiving his or her white coat, the student writes a note or makes a phone call to say thank you, and we hope this enables Ohio State MD/PhDs to connect with one another and strengthen our training community. Prior to making a donation through the College of Medicine's website please contact MSTP student Stephen.Bergin@osumc.edu to ensure your coat matches to an MSTP student.

Recent Graduates Reflect



Christopher Alvarez-Breckenridge

I am heading to Massachusetts General Hospital for residency in neurological surgery. I am hoping to develop into a surgeon-scientist who is technically competent, compassionate, and able to balance the demands of medicine and raising a family with my newborn daughter. Having spent all of my training years in Columbus, I owe a great deal to Ohio State. It has provided me with the resources to develop my medical knowledge base, arrange a team of scientists to tackle the scientific questions of my PhD dissertation, and the flexibility to develop my leadership skills. Eight years is a long time so I could probably share advice for each stage of the training. However, advice that is applicable to all stages of trainees include: a) when an opportunity presents itself to you, always say yes; b) take one day at a time and trust in the training you are receiving—at the end of the day, everything will come together and work out for the best; and c) hard-work and dedication trumps good fortune.

Dustin Donnelly

I am going to SUNY Downstate in Brooklyn, NY for Anesthesiology, and planning to one day specialize in neuro-critical care and continue my research in CNS trauma and inflammation. Ohio State gave me the opportunity and support to pursue whatever career path I wished. The MSTP is rigorous and a long road, but never lose the relations with your family and friends because you will need their support; and never forget to make time for yourself and the things that you enjoy.

Hui-Zi Chen

I will be staying in Columbus at The Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center for a residency in Internal Medicine and fellowship in Medical Oncology. I hope to make valuable contributions to both patient care and patient-centered research as a resident physician. I look forward to working with my co-residents and becoming great friends with some if not all my colleagues. I hope to remain humble and dedicated to my profession, even through the difficult times that may arise. My years at Ohio State have contributed indelibly to my growth in the professional and personal arenas. I could not have asked for a more caring and talented group of teachers, mentors, students, colleagues and administrative staff.

I benefited from the superb research faculty and facilities of the Comprehensive Cancer Center during my graduate studies, and became very well prepared for internship by choosing to do nearly all my clinical rotations at the University hospital.

I am looking forward to the next step in my professional journey with of course a little bit of trepidation but mostly excitement and enthusiasm! I think the most exciting part of MSTP training is the level of supervised independence that is afforded to every student. I would encourage each person to find his or her passion, lead a balanced life (when possible!), keep in touch with your families and appreciate their love and support and do not be afraid to speak up. Most of all, be who you are and never change that for anyone.

Recruitment Recap

Stephen Bergin

The deadline for applicants to select a single MD/PhD program was April 30th, and for Ohio State this date marked the conclusion of its largest recruitment effort ever. Spanning four interview weekends from November to February, we interviewed 48 students from an applicant pool that had increased 25% from the 2011-2012 recruitment efforts. Eighteen students returned for second-look weekend and twelve students have accepted their offer. Of these twelve students (6 male, 6 female), ten will join the Biomedical Sciences Graduate Program, one the Biomedical Engineering program, and one the Neuroscience Graduate Program. Overall, 240 interviews were conducted by faculty members and the current student body.

A total of 33 faculty members participated directly in recruitment and were responsible for 144 of the interviews. The involvement of MSTP students in recruitment efforts has been a strength of our program, and this year 70% of MSTP students participated in the recruitment efforts by conducting student question-and-answer panels, joining applicants at meals, taking them out to Jeni's Splendid Ice Creams, giving campus tours, and conducting interviews. The applicants who returned for second-look weekend saw Ohio State's research at the 12th annual OSU Wexner Medical Center Trainee Research Day. After research day, applicants were treated to dinner with Dr. Schlesinger and Dr. Kirschner and the next day participated in the College of Medicine's Second Look weekend. Thanks go out to all of the faculty, students, and staff who contributed their time and energy to make this recruitment a success.

Upcoming Dates

July 8-9, 2013 – MSTP Retreat

Oct 10-12, 2013 – MSTP Recruitment Session

Oct 31-Nov 2, 2013 – MSTP Recruitment Session

Nov 9, 2013 – APSA Regional Conference

Jan 9-11, 2014 – MSTP Recruitment Session

Feb 6-8, 2014 – MSTP Recruitment Session