

Billiar Lab News

Volume 16

November & December 2012

Volume 1

Laboratory Updates

Billiar Staff Meeting

- The mailboxes will be removed from the lunchroom and be replaced with a bulletin board where employee notices will be posted.
- The order database is undergoing updates. A working shortcut has been placed on the two computers in the Billiar lab. If you need to look up an old order, see Kathy.
- An updated phone tree will be circulated for use in emergencies and poor weather.
- The last day for orders before the holiday break will be Dec 13th
- A standard operating procedure will be sent out explaining how to handle animal transfers.
- The BioRad qPCR will be ordered to replace the Stratagene. When it arrives, it will be located in NW649
- We have been allocated more bench space in NW634. A plan is still being determined as to who will be moving into it.

University Winter Recess

The University and the lab will close for Winter Recess starting on December 24th and re-open on January 2nd.

In order to start the New Year off on a good foot, please clean up your bench, freezer, and refrigerator space before break.

Procedure for Travel and Business Expenses Changes

Starting November 5, 2012 all T&B requests for reimbursements will be done online in the PRISM system here at the University. Particularly of note, is the fact that you as a traveler will receive an email from the PRISM system to once your expenses are entered in the system, asking for your approval. Please do not ignore this email. Your reimbursement will not go

Important Dates

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Simmons Research

Tu 8:00am & Th 8:30am

F-1275 PUH

- Dec 4 Ankur Shukla
- Dec 6 Daolin Tang
- Dec 11 Khalid Almahmoud
- Dec 13 Joanna Manson
- Dec 18 Trang Nguen
- Dec 20 Matthew Rosengart

Billiar Lab Meeting

Th 12:15pm

F-1275 PUH

- Dec 6 Juan Wang
- Dec 13 Zhixia Chen
- Dec 20 Sophie Darwiche

Danger Signals Meeting

Tuesday 2:00pm

F-1275 PUH

- December 11

Journal Club

Th 12:15pm

F-1275 PUH

Faculty Highlight



Melanie Scott

I grew up in the South of England and went to medical school in Liverpool (in the NW of England). During medical school, I spent a year in the Honors program and got a Bachelors of Science (BSc) in Cell Biology. After that year in the lab, I knew I wanted to do more research and even considered completing a PhD at that time before continuing medical school. I graduated from medical school with commendation and began surgical training. For this, I stayed in the Mersey region in the NW of England. I passed my exams to be admitted to the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh in 2000, then got the opportunity to go to Louisville, KY to do some surgical research. Originally, I planned to do research for 2 years, but was given the chance to pursue a PhD in Immunology in Louisville and so these plans changed into 3 years. I really enjoyed my time in Louisville working with Dr. Bill Cheadle in the Department of Surgery and I learned a lot about immunology in a short space of time. Towards the end of my PhD, I was looking for a surgical post in the UK, but I was also considering more research as a post-doc. I met Dr. Yoram Vodovotz at the Shock conference one year, and he suggested I think about a post-doc in Pittsburgh. After visiting for an interview I decided that I would like to do more research, and I moved to Pittsburgh in October 2003 to start as a post-doc in Dr. Billiar's lab. I am now a research assistant professor in surgery, and Director of Post-graduate Education for the lab.

I live in Lower Burrell, just to the north east of Pittsburgh, with my husband and two cats. Most of our free time (and all of our money!) is spent renovating the house. Anyone who has done any house renovation knows that this is slow work, and so I think this will keep me busy for another few years at least! I really enjoy cooking and gardening, and I'm a big sports fan (really missing the hockey this year).

any further until you take this step. You will submit your receipts the same way that you always have. If you have any questions regarding this procedure, contact [Kathy DiGiacomo](#)

Animal Ordering Policy Reminder

Prior to placing an animal order, you will need to submit an experimental outline that includes:

- the experimental groups
- number of mice/strain per group endpoints
- timeline of experiment-when the experiment will begin and expected end date.

If a Core Technician will be performing or aiding in your animal experiment, then a schedule (calendar) needs to be submitted also showing the schedule experiment details.

Animal orders will not be placed until the experimental plan has been reviewed and approved.

If you have any questions or concerns on this matter, contact [Deb Williams](#).

Workplace Injury

As of Jan 1, 2012, updated information regarding injury and illness reporting procedures is available at: <http://www.cfo.pitt.edu/wc/>

Bloodborne Pathogens and Contaminated Sharps

If on the job injury involves a bloodborne-pathogen exposure (such as a needle stick, contaminated sharp, blood/body fluid splash, etc.), medical evaluation and treatment must be obtained immediately. Professional evaluation is available at:

Employee Health Services
3708 Fifth Ave
Medical Arts Building, Suite 500.59
Pittsburgh, Pa 15213
412-647-3695

If the bloodborne pathogen exposure occurs when Employee Health Services is not open, immediately proceed to the UPMC Presbyterian Emergency Department.

Also, the OSHA Bloodborne Pathogen Standard requires additional reporting for these types of injuries. A Sharps Injury Report Form Must be

completed by the injured employee's supervisor or departmental designee.

- [Reporting Injuries by Contaminated Sharps](#) (PDF)

Complete this form and fax to the Department of Environmental Health and Safety (EH&S) at 412-624-8524



Animals or Animal Facilities

If on the job injury involves an animal or occurs in an animal facility, medical evaluation and treatment must be obtained by Employee Health Services.

Medical Emergency

If the workplace injury requires emergency medical attention, call 412-624-2121

Worker's Compensation

- [Workers' Compensation Home Page](#)

- [Contact List](#)
- [Frequently Asked Questions](#)

Closure of Transgenic and Gene Targeting Core

Transgenic and Gene Targeting Core of the Schools of the Health Sciences will be closed permanently, effective Nov. 1, 2012. No new projects will be accepted. The closure is a business decision made after careful consideration of many factors. If you have any questions concerning this announcement, please contact Mr. Paul Wood at pgw@pitt.edu or (412) 648-9618.

Dr. Khillan will continue to be available to advise investigators on vector construction and study design for the generation of gene-modified mice. He will also be available to consult with investigators on developing appropriate narrative about preparation of gene-modified mice for grant applications and manuscripts. Dr. Khillan can be reached by telephone at (412) 383-6987 or by e-mail at khillan@pitt.edu.

Lab Holiday Luncheon

The date for the annual Holiday Luncheon is Wednesday, December 5th. The party will start at 11:30am in the 9th floor EBST hallway. Food tables will be set up in the W995 BST Conference Room. Mark your calendars now!

We are again asking that you bring an item that can cover 10 people to the party. Please bring your item according to your last name:

A to M: Covered Dish; N to S: Dessert; T to Z: Salad or Appetizer

Sign-up sheets will be posted in the BST and Montefiore for dishes as well as set-up and clean-up. Help is appreciated!

See Kathy, Sue, or Deb if you have any questions.

Messages from Dr. Levine

Guidelines for Research Data Management

I am writing to call to your attention the University policy regarding research

Staff Highlight



Lauryn Kohut

Lauryn Kohut was born and raised in Ocala, Florida, an area of Florida known to many as "horse country." Ms. Kohut trained and showed horses for the first part of her life. She graduated from Florida State University with a Bachelor of Science in Psychology (focus in neuroscience), won the Department's Howard D. Baker Undergraduate Research Award for research related to pain behaviors and the gracile nucleus, and earned a Master of Arts in Organizational Leadership from Duquesne University. She now resides in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania with her husband, Byron, and three young children, twins Corben and Gaheris, and Karyna.

Ms. Kohut began her career at the University of Pittsburgh in 2001. She began in the Department of Pulmonary Allergy and Critical Care Medicine under Dr. William Calhoun performing surgical manipulations to assist in understanding pulmonary and allergy medicine as it relates to lung and muscle physiology. Following five years in the Department of Pulmonary, Ms. Kohut was hired into the Department of Surgery under Dr. Timothy Billiar. Ms. Kohut currently is the lead animal research technician in Dr. Billiar's laboratory performing research and surgery in the hemorrhagic shock core facility. She has expertise in the design and completion of multiple surgical techniques that assist in the exploration of animal related questions while assisting in the research training of residents, fellows, and collaborators from around the globe. In order to assist the Department's current international outreach efforts, Ms. Kohut visited two laboratory locations in China to introduce surgical techniques and build new collaborations. In addition to her research objectives, she ensures the laboratory follows current IACUC policies and procedures and updates the IACUC animal protocols to ensure the associated animal research is in line with standard operating procedures. For recreation, Ms. Kohut is a competitive racquetball player. She currently holds the position of secretary for the Pennsylvania State Racquetball Association. She also serves as the tournament director for the Penn Hills Baseball Association. She enjoys the outdoors and spending time with her family. She enjoys learning and is happy to help with the development of new animal models and/or research questions or concerns.

data management. The required practice is found in Guidelines on Research Data Management, available at www.provost.pitt.edu/documents/RDM_Guidelines.pdf.

Briefly, research data belong to the University of Pittsburgh, which can be held accountable for the integrity of the data even after the researchers who generated the data have left the University. Although the primary data should remain in the laboratory where it originated (and hence at the University), consistent with

the precepts of academic freedom and intellectual integrity an investigator no longer in the laboratory may retain copies of the research data and certain materials created by him/her in the course of the research.

The University of Pittsburgh, as the grantee for sponsored research, has an institutional responsibility to retain research records for a minimum of seven years following the conclusion of a grant. As the policy states, the research records should remain in the laboratory

where they were created. If that is not possible, the research records should be retained in the department or institute administrative office.

Please see that all investigators within your program are aware of this policy and that it is observed whenever an investigator leaves the University. (Several recent legal inquiries cannot be readily addressed by the University because the research data in question cannot be located here.)



United Way

Dear Health Sciences Colleagues:

Every year the University of Pittsburgh is proud to be one of the largest workplace contributors to the United Way of Allegheny County. The United Way of Allegheny County is

instrumental in supporting the Pittsburgh community through the programs that our donations help fund. These programs focus on three initiatives: helping children and at-risk youth succeed; providing critical support to frail seniors and persons with disabilities; and,

supporting financially struggling families.

Recently, the United Way has made progress in improving its own efficiency as well as the accountability of recipient agencies. In May, United Way of Allegheny County received its second



consecutive 4-Star Rating from Charity Navigator. Ken Berger, President of Charity Navigator, explained: "Only 16% of the charities we rate have received at least 2 consecutive 4-star evaluations, indicating that United Way of Allegheny County outperforms most other charities in America. Designation from Charity Navigator differentiates

United Way of Allegheny County from its peers and demonstrates to the public it is worthy of their trust." United Way-supported agency programs are now vigorously reviewed by local volunteers for efficiency, effectiveness and measurable results.

Charitable giving is a personal decision, and many of us give as generously as we are able to support charitable organizations and research. The United Way offers many options for giving, including the Impact Fund, which supports

effective, innovative and collaborative programs that reach some of the most vulnerable citizens in our local community.

As Pitt campaign coordinators and representatives in the schools of the health sciences work to increase participation among faculty and staff, please consider the United Way in your giving this year.

Sincerely,

Animal Order Deadlines and Delivery Changes Due to University Closures

Due to the University's Winter Recess closure from Monday, December 24, 2012 through Tuesday, January 1, 2013, no animals will be delivered and no orders will be processed.

The ordering deadline will be 5:00 PM Tuesday, December 18 for delivery Wednesday, January 2 through Friday, January 4, 2013.

To reiterate, if you need an animal delivered from January 2 through January 4, 2013, the order must be placed by 5:00 PM Tuesday, December 18 and the delivery date must be noted on the order.

Vendor delivery schedules for the week of December 31 will be as follows:

- Hilltop will deliver Wednesday, Jan 2.

- Charles Rivers will deliver on Thursday, Jan 3.
- Taconic will deliver on Thursday, Jan 3.
- Jackson Laboratory will deliver on Wednesday, Jan 2.

ATTENTION Harlan users:

Harlan will deliver on Tuesday, December 18, 2012 and will not deliver again until Tuesday, January 8, 2013. To receive a delivery on December 18, please make sure your order is placed by

New Faces



Please welcome the following new people into our labs:

Visiting Students from Xiangya University in China

Hongbo Xu (Billiar Lab)

Jinshen He (Transplant)

Hong Liu (Tzeng Lab)

Jinze Wu (Chen Lab)

Quan Zhuang
(Orthopedics)

Good Luck



We'd also like to extend our best wishes to Christine Chen as she moves on from the Billiar lab to pursue further education.

5:00 PM Tuesday, December 11, 2012.

The normal DLAR ordering and delivery schedule will resume on Tuesday, January

8, 2013. Orders placed by 5:00 PM Tuesday, January 8 will be scheduled for delivery the following week, January 14 - 18, 2013.

IACUC Update

Further Improvements in Animal Research Online (ARO)

The IACUC's electronic protocol processing system, ARO, has recently incorporated new features requested by University of Pittsburgh investigators. This message describes the new features.

New Features:

Protocol Copy

It is now possible to completely copy an approved protocol in the ARO system as a starting point for writing a new protocol. To do this, go to the protocol's home page and click on "Make Copy of Protocol" under "Activities" in the menu on the left-hand side of the page.

Please make sure that you remove any information from the protocol copy that is not pertinent to the new study (i.e., drugs, personnel,

procedures, etc.). The IACUC will expect that you faithfully follow the approved protocol, so it is important that the submitted protocol accurately reflects your study.

Improved Display of Approval Letters

The ARO system previously displayed only the original approval letter on the protocol's home page. By popular demand, the improved system displays both the original approval letter and the most recent approval letter.

Pre-Population of Fields

One tedious feature in the ARO system is entering the storage and use locations of chemicals and drugs used in animal studies. ARO now provides for the pre-population of the storage and

use locations, based on previous entries. This feature should eliminate the administrative burden of entering the same information more than once.

Reminder that IACUC protocols Submitted Prior to the Implementation of ARO Can Be Transitioned to ARO

Annual renewals and modifications of existing protocols not originally entered into the ARO system must be submitted by

DLAR Notices

Pink Slips

This is just a reminder to those who are new to the University of Pittsburgh. The pink slips placed on the boxes in the animal rooms are part of the animals' medical record. **They should not leave the room or be thrown away.** If the pink slip is a death notice someone should initial the slip and either leave it on the box or place it on the clipboard in the room. If the pink slip has a health concern or needs to be treated it should remain on

emailing a Microsoft Word document to the IACUC office, as in previous years. However, it is not necessary to wait until the three-year expiration of a protocol before it is entered into ARO.

Investigators, if they wish, may enter their existing protocols into ARO before the three-year renewal, so they can benefit from the conveniences and time savings of the system. Note

the box and each time someone does a treatment it should be noted on the back of the pink slip with a date and the initials of the person doing the treatment. Once the issue is resolved the pink slip can stay on the box for me to remove or be placed on the clipboard in the room. Again, these pink slips are part of a medical record and should be treated as such. I need to collect them to close out the issue and file the Health Report. If you have any questions or concerns feel free to contact me.

that such early three-year renewals will be subject to a standard review by the IACUC.

Suggestions for Further Improvements in ARO are Welcomed

If you or members of your research team have suggested improvements for the [ARO system](#), please contact Michael Kessler in the IACUC Office (email: kesslermc@upmc.edu; phone: 412-383-2018).

Thank you for your cooperation,

Valerie Malley, CVT, RLATg
(412)383-7888

vbm5@pitt.edu

Animal Housing and Procedure Room Hoods

Please remember to turn off the fan and lights on the hoods in the animal housing and procedure rooms when you are finished. Also, do not forget that you are to wipe the surface of the hood down with the new cleaner before and after use.

Colony Status: As of November 8, 2012

Established Colonies

iNos KO	Het TLR4KO/TLR4flox	Adipose TLR4KO
Trif ^{LPS-2}	RAGE KO	HMGB1 flox
CD14 KO	C3 KO	HC HMGB1 KO
Myd88 KO*	TLR2 KO	NFKB luc
Myd88 WT*	Caspase1KO*	NFKB WT
TLR9 ^{CpG1/CpG1}	DC TLR4 KO	Pf4creTLR4 KO
Jα281 ^{-/-}	TLR4 KO/TL9 ^{CpG1/CpG1}	Pf4creHMGB1flox
HC TLR4 KO	Nalp 3 KO*	
TLR4 flox	TLR4 KO/RAGE KO	
TLR4 KO (global)	Lyz Cre TLR4 KO	

Colonies in Development

TLR4 KO x TLR2 KO	ATF3 KO	In quarantine	Caspase 11
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Strains Available from Collaborators

CAV KO (Michael Bauer)	TSP-1 KO (A. Chen)	GDF-15 KO (Yoram Vodovotz)
IFNabR KO (M. Bauer)	TSP-2 KO (A. Chen)	
IRF-2 KO (David Geller)	CD36 KO (A. Chen)	
eNos GCHtg (A. Chen)	hph-1 (A. Chen)	

Cryopreserved Strains

eNos tg	TLR2 KO	EGR1 KO
CD36 KO	AIM2 KO	IFNabR KO

Stud Colonies

TLR4 KO x CD11c	HMGB1 flox x Albumin Cre	TLR4 KO x Lyz Cre
TLR4 KO x Albumin Cre	TLR4 x Fab cre	HMGB1 flox x Pf4-cre

If you have any questions regarding the contents of this newsletter, contact Deb Williams (williamsd8@upmc.edu)

If you know of anything exciting or newsworthy going on in the lab that you want to share with others email Alicia Frank (franka@upmc.edu) with the information and she'll be sure to include it in the next issue of the Billiar Lab newsletter.

For more information, please visit the General and Vascular Surgery Labs website (<http://www.gensurgerylabs.pitt.edu/>)