Welcome Back!

It’s shaping up to be another exciting year in the department. Our graduate program recruited two more top ranked PhD students. We are seeing successes at all phases of our tripartite mission: knowledge discovery, knowledge dissemination and service. It is a great time to be in IBP! I hope you enjoy reading the annual IBP IN FOCUS newsletter about our recent achievements and overview of expectations for the coming academic year.

Joe Metzger, PhD, Professor & Head

One metric of IBP’s success can be found in the growth of our extramural funding over the past few years. As seen in the figure above, even under challenging times for funding, the department is showing signs of strong progress and growth. Our expectations are to see continued positive growth in this area based on the strong faculty we have currently and prospects for new highly accomplished faculty to join us in the future.
The Graduate Program in Integrative Biology and Physiology (IBP) is in its third year due to our ability to recruit outstanding students. Evelyn Houang, Cherly Cero and Dalay Hirsch have successfully completed Year 1 in the program which included passing a comprehensive two-day written preliminary exam in May, 2011. They are now officially second year students and have started their thesis work. Cheryl has joined the Bartolomucci lab, Dalay is now in the Zukowska lab and Evelyne has joined the Metzger lab. Jason Foss, who is beginning his third year in the Osborn lab, passed his oral preliminary exam on September 8th. Congrats Jason!

We are excited to welcome two new outstanding students into the program this fall: Nathan Zaidman and Dan Rossi. Nathan and Dan were introduced to the IBP graduate faculty at the annual Fall Welcome event held at the Campus Club September 8th. See profiles (to the right) for more information about Nathan and Dan.

I was raised in Eagan and earned a biomedical engineering degree from the University of Minnesota and decided to return for my PhD. I am interested in using engineering techniques as they apply to the biological sciences and their potential for contributing to the future of regenerative medicine. I live in Minneapolis with my girlfriend and my cat.

I graduated with a degree from the U of MN with a B.S. in biochemistry and plant biology. After finishing my first research project in the plant biology department, I shifted my focus to medicine and spent my senior year as a clinical research associate for the Hennepin County Medical Center Emergency Department and also as a student worker for the Department of Medicine at the University of Minnesota. For the past two years, I’ve been working under the direction of Dr. Peter Bitterman, studying the role of stem cells and extracellular matrix in lung disease; namely, idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis. I’m looking forward to my first rotation in the IBP grad program with Dr. Zukowska.

Finally, we are nearing completion of an entirely new website. Please check it out at: http://www.umnphysiology.com/grad/home/.

Check out the new and improved IBP graduate program website at: http://umnphysiology.com/grad/home and.....Apply Yourself!
The education mission of the department of Integrative Biology and Physiology (IBP) is accomplished in part by both Anatomy and Physiology classes aimed at undergraduate, graduate, and professional students. We continue to see high demand for our classes and have responded by adding both new class sections and new classes. For the year ending in June, 2011, the sum of all of our Physiology and Anatomy classes yielded total tuition revenue of approximately $4,000,000, with more than 3,000 students enrolled in almost 50 IBP classes.

The IBP undergraduate physiology major serves approximately 237 junior and senior undergraduate physiology majors per year and has continually been adding new courses to allow students access to more advanced physiology courses. The undergraduate physiology survey course for non-majors is so popular that it has a long wait-list each semester and IBP has added a special summer class to accommodate the demand of over 700 students per year for this course.

Both Physiology and Anatomy sections have seen growth in classes that allow our best and brightest undergraduates to act as teaching assistants in some of our classes with lab components. Recently, our graduate students began taking a similar class that allows them to teach in the undergraduate Physiology majors program.

Dr. Peter Kernahan, MD, was recently added as Assistant Professor in IBP (teaching track) and we look forward to Peter continuing to share his surgical expertise with our Anatomy students. Also, three relatively new IBP faculty are now also directly involved with IBP Physiology teaching: Zofia Zukowska, DeWayne Townsend, and Alessandro Bartolomucci.

This coming January, 2012, IBP will again offer two short courses. The ever popular Advanced Cardiac Physiology and Anatomy short course will be offered again, as well as the newly expanded Anatomy and Physiology of the Pelvis and Urinary System. The courses are attractive to the biomedical-industrial community, as well as to graduate and undergraduate physiology majors.

Jane Barnard recently joined the IBP office staff as Student Personnel Coordinator and as Assistant to the DGS. Welcome Jane!

Finally, congratulations to Mark Cook for receiving the MMF Distinguished Teaching Award for 2011.
WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT

The generosity of individuals who recognize the importance of our Department’s work is indispensable to our success. There are many different ways to support the Department of Integrative Biology and Physiology. It is easy to donate online by going to https://www.mmf.umn.edu/give/index.cfm and selecting MMF fund #6819.

The University of Minnesota has committed to the construction of a new Biomedical Discovery District research facility to further enhance basic science research and development. The world-class cardiovascular research space will occupy and share core resources in the new 280,000 square-foot building designed to facilitate cross-disciplinary research.

The building will be the latest addition to the University of Minnesota’s Biomedical Discovery District, a collection of state-of-the-art research facilities located on the north side of the TCF Bank Stadium.