

INSCRIPTO

Letter from the Director

Dear Graduates, Faculty and Friends of the GDBBS:

Welcome to the second GDBBS Alumni Newsletter Edition of *In Scripto*. This is a publication of the Science Writers Association of Emory, a student group with interests in science journalism. We hope that you enjoy hearing about the GDBBS and all we have become. Even more importantly, we hope this is a window of opportunity for us to hear from you.

- Join our LinkedIn GROUPS page (Emory University GDBBS) to keep up with your peers and the GDBBS.
- Go online and update your alumni record at <http://GDBBS.emory.edu/alumniweb>. Everyone who does so from May 1 to July 31, 2011, is eligible for a drawing to win a free iPad (see page 11).
- Visit campus. Contact us at GDBBS@emory.edu if you will be in Atlanta and have a little time to come by Emory.
- If you would like to contribute an article for this publication contact Mary Puckett, editor, at meclar2@emory.edu.



In this issue we present several student-written pieces, including the first new GDBBS training program in a dozen years, the Cancer Biology Program; our Career Seminar Series informing students of the different career paths available to them; a report on two annual events that celebrate the accomplishments of our students and faculty, the GDBBS Student Research Symposium and the Annual Awards Banquet; a feature piece on a number of our graduates who have chosen to return to Emory as faculty members; and an example of life outside of science, the involvement of our students and faculty in volunteerism and service to the community.

Finally, I'd like to make a shameless request. This is recruiting season and seems an appropriate time to encourage you to keep Emory in mind when advising your students or talking with

your peers. We had our biggest applicant pool ever this year. We received 1,238 applications and their credentials were outstanding; their average GPA was 3.4 and their average GRE score was 1250 (73 percentile). More than 225 applicants were interviewed and 177 offers of admission were extended. Our fall 2011 class contains 83 new students and six MD/PhD students. Several incoming students received additional fellowships and awards, including one Woodruff fellowship, three Emory Graduate Diversity fellowships, eleven Division Scholars, one NSF fellowship, and one Gates Millennium Scholar. Most of these students had offers of admission from Duke, Vanderbilt, Washington University in St. Louis, UT Southwestern, UNC, University of Pennsylvania, Stanford, Michigan, Yale, Harvard, UCSF, etc. We are clearly competing at the top level for students, but we are always looking for the "best and brightest," so please send them our way. ■

*Keith D. Wilkinson, PhD
Director, GDBBS*



EMORY
LANEY
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**Graduate Division
of Biological and
Biomedical Sciences**

Three Questions with GDBBS Alumna: Valerie Horsley

DEESHA PATEL

Valerie Horsley began her science career at Furman University, graduating with a BS in biology. She enrolled at Emory in the fall of 1998 and was mentored by Grace Pavlath in the Department of Pharmacology. Horsley defended her dissertation, “NFATC2-Dependent Signaling Regulates Skeletal Muscle Growth,” and graduated from the Biochemistry, Cell and Developmental Biology (BCDB) program in spring of 2003.

Horsley is currently an assistant professor in the Department of Molecular, Cellular and Developmental Biology at Yale University, where she teaches undergraduate and graduate students, in addition to running her own research laboratory. The Horsley research laboratory aims to understand tissue organogenesis and homeostasis, using skin as a model system to define how epithelial stem cells and other cell types interact to regulate the function of skin cells.



Valerie Horsley, PhD

1. What attracted you to the GDBBS program at Emory?

I applied to Emory’s BCDB program because it was broad and covered a number of my interests including cell and developmental biology. When I interviewed, I was impressed by the involvement of the faculty in recruitment and the quality of the other students in the program.

2. How did your GDBBS experience prepare you for your career?

There were three aspects of my graduate training that prepared me for a career as a professor at Yale. First, my laboratory mentor, Grace Pavlath,

spent time mentoring me in science writing, presentation skills, experimental approaches, and problem solving that helped me immensely to become the successful scientist I am today. In addition, BCDB has a grants course that helped me write postdoctoral fellowships and grants to fund my laboratory. Finally, the student seminar series provided us with an opportunity to present our work to the students and faculty department annually. The seminars that we gave during our postdocs and for interviews for faculty positions reflected the presentation skills that we learned in the seminar series. In fact, the majority of the grant-writing

and presentation skills we received at Emory are not taught by other graduate or postdoctoral programs.

3. What advice would you give to current GDBBS students?

My advice regarding lab is to work hard, stay focused, and have two projects at all times. Once one project starts “working,” put the other project on hold until you finish the other. In addition to your laboratory experience, take advantage of the faculty in GDBBS to talk about your project (to get input from a wide range of people), career choices, and how to successfully balance work and life. Finally, have fun! ■

Faculty at Emory Unite Against Cancer in a New Cancer Biology Program / JUSTINE LIEPKALNS

Cancer treatments have dramatically improved during the past century. Physicians who once hopelessly sent their patients home now have a wide range of treatment options in their arsenal to improve patient outcomes. However, cancer still plagues physicians, patients, and scientists due to the differences between individual types of cancer and the ever-evolving nature of the disease. Just a few decades ago, young researchers and physicians were advised not to go into oncology due to the complexity of the disease and its disheartening clinical outcomes. However, the focus on cancer research is stronger than ever, and the Graduate Division of Biological and Biomedical Sciences (GDBBS) is introducing a new PhD program in cancer biology this fall.

Emory University has long been at the cutting edge of translational medicine while training students in hypothesis-driven research. The GDBBS is an interdisciplinary unit within the Laney Graduate School at Emory University. With the introduction of the Cancer Biology (CB) Program, the GDBBS will comprise nine PhD options for students, including Biochemistry, Cell and Developmental Biology (BCDB), Genetics and Molecular Biology (GMB), Immunology and Molecular Pathogenesis (IMP), Microbiology and Molecular Genetics (MMG), Molecular and Systems Pharmacology (MSP), Neuroscience (NS), Nutrition and Health Sciences (NHS), and Population Biology, Ecology, and Evolution (PBEE). With this new program, Emory continues to fight this multifaceted disease with a multidisciplinary approach. Faculty researchers are located throughout campus, but with a concentration in the Winship Cancer Institute (WCI), where labs are designed to foster collaboration due to their open space pattern. WCI, which recently was named a National Cancer Institute-designated Cancer Center by the National Institutes of Health, is an ideal environment for training new scientists. Students in the new CB program will have the opportunity to take advantage of cancer-focused seminars and patient resources at WCI.

Research in this program includes genetics, epigenetics, signal transduction, genetic engineering, nanotechnologies, and molecular and cell biology. The faculty members for the new CB Program come from more than fifteen different departments across campus. More than 140 applications were received for the inaugural class entering in the fall of 2011. Ten students will be in the entering class and will work with faculty who, in addition to serving in the CB Program, have experience mentoring students in other GDBBS programs.

Erwin Van Meir heads the CB Program. Paula Veritino, professor of radiation and oncology, serves as the director of graduate studies, and Lawrence Boise, professor of hematology and medical oncology, is director of recruitment. Students in the new program will be taking classes such as Basic Biological and Biomedical Sciences and Cancer Biology along with their laboratory rotations during their first year. Once a mentor is chosen, second-year students will continue taking classes on cancer pharmacology and advanced topics in clinical aspects of cancer

Emory has long been at the cutting edge of translational medicine while training students in hypothesis-driven research.

research. In addition, they will attend elective classes on hypothesis design, grant writing, and the design and analysis of experiments. In the summer following the second year, the young researchers will take the two-part qualifying exam prior to entering candidacy.

Van Meir described this new program as “a truly interdisciplinary graduate program where people will be able to get unique training to make them the leaders and researchers in cancer of the future.” All the PhD programs in the GDBBS are designed to educate students on the complexities of research. However, this new program adds an attractive interdisciplinary component for the incoming students. This diversified front allows future scientists to get closer to a cure for this multifaceted disease. ■

Returning to Emory



CHRIS VELLANO

Graduation is usually followed by relocation. Whether graduating from high school and heading off to college or moving again to attend graduate school, receiving a diploma is synonymous with moving for most people. Some, however, are lucky enough to love their school so much that they come back to build a future. Why are more and more GDBBS graduates staying at Emory? Mike Davis, an Emory Molecular and Systems Pharmacology (MSP) Program graduate, says he wanted to return to his “home base.”

Davis chose Emory’s MSP Program to pursue his graduate studies in cardiology research, graduating in 2003 under the instruction of David Harrison. As many graduates do, he left Atlanta to pursue postdoctoral training at Harvard Medical School. Although he worked at Harvard until 2006, Davis was disappointed by the lack of a collaborative environment among the labs and faculty. Looking to progress in his career, he began looking for teaching positions elsewhere. While deciding

where to go, he remembered his connections at Emory. One of the things Davis felt was lacking at Harvard and other universities was what ultimately brought him back to his Emory roots: collaboration. He made personal connections during his time as an MSP student and had maintained these ties throughout his postdoctoral work. He had even kept in contact with one of his graduate thesis committee members, Kathy Griendling, who helped bring him back to Emory. It was the support of faculty whom Davis met while a GDBBS student that made returning to the University the best fit for him.

Davis is now an assistant professor in the Department of Biomedical Engineering (BME), where he examines antioxidant delivery systems to aid in cardiac regeneration and stem cell therapy. He says that it was the diversity of the MSP Program that allowed him to bring his efforts to BME. The MSP faculty members come from various departments, from chemistry to pediatrics, but share ideas to reach a common research goal. Davis explains that having thesis committee members

such as Eddie Morgan, whose research focused little on cardiology, was important because it created an opportunity to discuss and learn different experimental approaches that Davis still uses today. Learning about a wide range of pharmacological topics from such a vast pool of faculty, he gained a well-rounded expertise in pharmacology that he has been able to apply as a BME professor and researcher. Having a broad background in the principles of pharmacology and the experimental techniques used in the field has been critical in working with the diverse group of BME students and faculty. Davis claims that the expansive curriculum of the MSP Program and its extensive range of faculty were a positive influence on his decision to return to Emory and teach in the BME department. “The MSP Program was a good representation of what BME is today,” he says. Not only has the MSP Program influenced Davis to return to Emory, it has inspired him to bring what he learned to an entirely new group of students and faculty spanning a wide spectrum of disciplines. (See table on page 7.) ■

Toxin-Induced Diseases Spur New PhD in Environmental and Health Sciences / ADONIS BOVELL

One million. That is the number of people living with Parkinson's disease (PD) in the United States. The prevalence of PD triples at age 60, making this age-related disorder a ticking time bomb for the general population. Left untreated, this disease will deteriorate brain function and lead to early death.

These sobering statistics aside, the only number that matters is one. For a significant percentage of our population, PD is a personal disease, with a friend or close family member battling its effects. Gary Miller, professor of environmental health and associate dean for research, Rollins School of Public Health, is one of those people. Years ago his grandfather was diagnosed with PD.

that some patients on dopamine agonist treatments suffer adverse effects and develop compulsive gambling addictions.

Organochloride insecticides have been shown to hasten or cause the onset of PD. Some of these toxic substances, such as DDT and dieldrin, have been banned in the U.S. since the 1970s. However, if scientists once thought the elimination of these insecticides was the answer to this problem, they were wrong. These pesticides have proven to be very persistent and are still present in small amounts in soil and in the food supply. An even greater cause for concern would be today's pesticides, which are safer but still neurotoxic. However, Guillot remains a realist and accepts that these pesticides are an indispensable part of life today. "There is just no other viable method for producing the quantities of food required by billions of people." So, we are left with a complicated balance: the need for such chemicals, along with their long-term effects. Thus, work continues to determine why the current class of chemicals

cause these neurodegenerative effects.

cause these neurodegenerative effects.

The Miller lab continues to look for answers to many remaining questions about PD, and the role of both environmental and genetic factors. A Center Grant from the National Institutes of Health established the Emory Parkinson's Disease Environmental Research Center, which fosters multidisciplinary collaborations within the Emory community and puts the work done by Emory on the national stage. This center gives researchers an opportunity to share their expertise and come up with a multipronged approach to combating the effects of PD. Because of Miller's successes with GDBBS students, and because studies on environmental exposure require different tools, he has partnered with others in the Rollins School of Public Health to develop the PhD Program in Environmental Health Sciences, which will admit its first students this fall. While not a GDBBS program, GDBBS faculty were instrumental in its formation. ■

Seven GDBBS students in the Miller lab (three currently) have studied why DDT and pesticides increase PD risk and how neurotransmitter transporter proteins control the brain's reaction to toxicant exposures. It is Miller's hope that understanding the mechanism can give insights on preventing or reversing toxicant-induced brain damage.

One of the successes of Miller and his students was the development of an animal model that captures the symptoms of PD: shaking, loss of coordination, problems with movement and non-motor symptoms such as the loss of sense of smell, sleeping problems, anxiety and depression, and an overall cognitive decline. The standard PD treatment is the drug Levodopa, which can be converted to dopamine by the body. However, dopamine treatments fail to treat the non-motor symptoms of PD. In fact, Tommy Guillot, a past student of Miller, and now research assistant professor in the Miller lab, points out



GDBBS 'GIVES' Back

CHERYL HO

If you have ever wanted to do something helpful for neighbors in need or just bring a smile to someone's face, but didn't know where to start, volunteering with GDBBS Involved in Volunteerism at Emory (GIVE) might just be a good place to begin.

GIVE is a volunteer organization within GDBBS, involving everyone—faculty, staff, and students. Its mission is to “foster civic responsibility and engagement from the GDBBS community through outreach activities.” Through its volunteer efforts, the group hopes to “foster a spirit of

altruism” and develop a “deeper connection within our communities” by donating time, efforts, talents, leadership, and service skills.

The driving force behind GIVE is Margie Varnado, GDBBS business manager. The idea for GIVE came about because Varnado “loves to help people, so this was one way I could see helping people and also get other people involved.” One thing that helped the launch and continuing success of GIVE is that many students are accustomed to being involved in their communities through service projects at their undergraduate institutions. Varnado saw GIVE as one avenue for graduate students to continue being

thoughtful citizens within their Atlanta community. “Once I had students on board to help me, that's when I realized how hungry grad students were to do volunteering. This was just one of my heartfelt initiatives, so I was really glad to see that grad students were on board, and many faculty too,” said Varnado.

The group aims to organize two to three projects every month, always including a variety of projects since people enjoy serving in different capacities. A favorite service project is volunteering at Open Hand (<http://www.projectopenhand.org/>), which provides home-delivered meals and nutrition education to the community and seeks



to prevent disability and untimely death due to nutrition-related illnesses. For this project, Emory volunteers donned hairnets, aprons, and gloves to fill and package tray after tray of prepared food to be delivered later that day.

In another project, Emory volunteers collected Christmas donations for selected needy families. Other projects have also been well-received by the Emory community, including collecting Yoplait yogurt lids as a Susan G. Komen for the Cure breast cancer research fundraiser, collecting toilets and snacks for soldiers overseas, and collecting winter clothes for local shelters.

Meriem Gaval and Alisha Epps, both GDBBS Neuroscience program students, have been actively involved with GIVE from the beginning. Gaval's favorite service project was the winter coat drive. "I was surprised by the huge amount of items that were donated. It was one of the first activities we organized, and I was encouraged by the participation of the faculty, staff

and student body," Gaval said. But what she finds most fulfilling are the connections with the Atlanta community. For her, the community ties are a good reminder of life outside of Emory because "[as] grad students, it's too easy to become immersed in our research and our course work and take for granted the fact that we belong to a greater community—the city of Atlanta and the neighboring suburbs and the state of Georgia as a whole."

For Epps, her favorite project was a Christmas gift donation drive held in 2008. Working with the High Falls Fire Department Auxiliary Club, Emory students and staff collected an overwhelming number of items to give families in need. Epps said, "Being able to see how excited and grateful the families were was such a rewarding and touching experience." In addition to serving others firsthand, Epps finds that volunteering with GIVE provides a good balance for her work in the lab. "My ultimate goal for my research is to benefit people," she wrote in an email,

"but my preclinical research is several steps removed from that goal. While I am optimistic that my research will serve as an important precursor for the experiments that will help discover better treatments for disease, it is easy to get discouraged when I lack that 'instantaneous gratification' of an immediate solution for human health care problems. Participating in GIVE activities allows me to feel that I am making an immediate contribution to society."

While composed mainly of faculty, staff, and students within GDBBS, the organization reaches out to other departments as well. In the future, Varnado hopes to see GIVE expand to include other schools and departments at Emory, facilitating more collaboration across campus. After all, community service and acts of kindness know no bounds between gender, culture, or academic discipline. ■

For more information, visit <http://sites.google.com/site/givememory/Home>.

GDBBS PhDs Who Have Returned to Emory as Faculty

Graduate	Degree	Year	Program	Advisor	Current Position	Department
Reena Oza-Frank	PhD	2009	NHS	K. M. Venkat Narayan	Adjunct Professor	SPH: Global Health
Heather Kimmel	PhD	1997	NS	Stephen Holtzman	Assistant Professor	Yerkes National Primate Center
Becky Kinkead	PhD	1997	MTT	Charles Nemeroff	Assistant Professor	Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences
James Moore	MD/PhD	1998	PPS	Ron Abercrombie	Assistant Professor	Pediatrics
Sarah Satola	PhD	1992	MMG	Charles P. Moran	Assistant Professor	Medicine
Wei Zhou	PhD	1995	BMB	Paul Doetsch	Assistant Professor	Hematology and Oncology
James Zimring	MD/PhD	1998	IMP	Margaret Offermann	Assistant Professor	Pathology and Laboratory Medicine
Elisabeth Binder	PhD	2000	NS	Charles Nemeroff	Assistant Professor	Psychiatry and Behavioral Medicine
Jing Chen	PhD	2001	BCDB	Haian Fu	Assistant Professor	Hematology and Oncology
Michael Davis	PhD	2003	MSP	David Harrison	Assistant Professor	Biomedical Engineering
Emily Allen	PhD	2004	GMB	Stephanie Sherman	Assistant Professor	Human Genetics
Mandy Ford	PhD	2004	IMP	Brian Evavold	Assistant Professor	Surgery
Deborah Backus	PhD	2004	NS	Michael Crutcher	Assistant Professor	Rehabilitation Medicine
James Nettles	PhD	2005	MSP	Dennis Liotta	Assistant Professor	Pediatrics
Amy Girard	PhD	2006	NHS	Usha Ramakrishnan	Assistant Professor	Global Health
Leslie Kean	MD/PhD	1995	BMB	J Wylie Nichols	Assistant Professor	Pediatrics
Christopher Doering	PhD	2000	GMB	Dean Danner	Assistant Professor	Pediatrics
Kelly Skelton	MD/PhD	2000	NS	Charles Nemeroff	Assistant Professor	Psychiatry and Behavioral Medicine
Jeffrey Boatright	PhD	1992	PPS	Michael Iuvone	Associate Professor	Ophthalmology
Beth McConnell	PhD	1996	GMB	Dean Danner	Associate Professor	Medicine, Digestive Diseases
Carlos Moreno	PhD	1998	GMB	Jeremy Boss	Associate Professor	Pathology and Laboratory Medicine
Nelson Oyesiku	PhD	1996	NS	Donald Wigston	Associate Professor	Neurosurgery
Keqiang Ye	PhD	1998	BMB	Harish Joshi	Associate Professor	Pathology and Laboratory Medicine
Joyce King	PhD	1995	PPS	Mario DiGirolamo	Assistant Professor	Office of Academic Advancement, Nursing
Leah Anderson Roesch	PhD	2007	NS	Allan Levey	Director, SIRE Program	Office of Undergraduate Education
Kristen Frenzel	PhD	2001	BCDB	Douglas Falls	Lecturer	NBB Program
Jennifer Holzman	PhD	2006	BCDB	Doug Eaton	Lecturer	Biology

GDBBS Showcases Student Research

ELIZABETH OHNECK

This fall marked the eighth annual GDBBS Student Research Symposium, a daylong event organized by the GDBBS Division Student Advisory Committee (DSAC), a student group comprised of a representative from each GDBBS program. This year's symposium, held October 5, included 25 talks and 61 posters presented by students from all programs within the GDBBS.

Student presentations were judged by volunteer faculty members and postdocs affiliated with the GDBBS. Awards were given to the top three oral presentations and the top three posters. This year's winners included Michael Kelly, a Neuroscience student who placed first for his talk titled "Atoh1 Can Regulate Cell Fate Specification and Cell-Cycle Control to Pattern the Mammalian Cochlea", and Maria Chacon Heszele, a BCDB student who received the first place award for her poster, "The Vertebrate Planar Cell Polarity Signaling Pathway Regulates Convergent Extension and Sensory Cell Polarity Independently in the Cochlea."

"I enjoyed sharing my work with other members of the GDBBS community," said Kelly. "I think one of the biggest advantages of presenting at this symposium is that it forces you to relate your research to a broader audience. Most of us often present our work only to people familiar with our subfield of biological sciences, and meetings like this make us take a step back."

Chacon Heszele agreed. "Participating in the symposium has been a great opportunity to practice how to present my work to an audience outside of my immediate comfort zone. I think participation in the GDBBS Symposium can be immensely helpful

to all students because, ultimately, practice is the only way to improve presentation skills that are a crucial part of good scientific training."

The DSAC students feel the annual symposium accomplishes several different goals. "First, it is a great practice forum for students to present in," said Randy Morgenstein, MMG representative and vice president of DSAC. "Second, it is an opportunity for students to see the research that other students are doing in other programs. And last, it allows the GDBBS to show off all our talented students and the hard work they have been doing."

Those involved in the symposium believe the chance to encounter such diversity of research topics is an impor-



tant benefit to the GDBBS community. "I think the symposium helps show that research led by GDBBS faculty is not defined by individual program borders, which allows trainees access to many more research topics and techniques," said Kelly. Said Chacon Heszele, "Exposure to our peers' work can potentially open the door for collaborations here at Emory by making us aware of techniques and resources that we might not have learned about otherwise."

This year's symposium concluded with the addition of the First Annual

GDBBS Awards Banquet, held at the Druid Hills Golf Club and attended by students, faculty, and administrators. Three previous directors of GDBBS gave keynote speeches. In addition to the awards presented to the symposium oral presentation and poster winners, students who received fellowships and scholarships also were recognized. Additionally, awards were presented for Student Teachers of the Year, Mentors of the Year, for Community Service, and Student of the Year for each program.

Keith Wilkinson, director of GDBBS, believes the addition of the banquet will help increase the visibility of the symposium and promote its perception as a daylong celebration of the research accomplishments and vigor of

the GDBBS, and he would like to see the awards banquet become a permanent component of the day's events. "We hope this is the beginning of a strong tradition that builds pride and community in our program." ■

■ For more see http://www.emory.edu/EMORY_REPORT/stories/2010/10/18/gdbbs.html

■ For pictures visit <http://www.flickr.com/photos/laneygs/sets/72157625025972269/> and <http://www.flickr.com/photos/laneygs/sets/72157625184150660/>.

Eighth Annual GDBBS Symposium

PLATFORM TALKS

1st Place Michael Kelly
2nd Place Daniel Manvich
3rd Place Victoria Jeisy Scott

POSTERS

1st Poster Maria Chacon Heszele
2nd Poster Eileen Sawyer
2nd Poster Katie Vance
3rd Poster Debra Cooper
3rd Poster Tim Sampson

THE STUDENT TEACHERS OF THE YEAR

2007–2008 Amanda Caster
2008–2009 Hirotomo Nakahara
2009–2010 Nicholas Bauer

MENTOR OF THE YEAR

Gary Miller
David Weinschenker

COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARDS

Career Development Committee (CDC)
Meagan Jenkins

GDBBS Involved in Volunteerism at Emory (GIVE)

Meriem Gaval Cruz
Alisha Epps

STUDENTS OF THE YEAR

BCDB Christy Larkins
GMB Chang-Hui Pak
IMP Kathryn Knoop
MMG Tim Sampson
MSP Sarah Emerson Lee
NHS Jean Welsh
NS Vasiliki Michopoulos
PBEE Julia Moore



Discovering Ways to Use the Elusive PhD

SARAH LOHSEN

While the journey to a PhD may at times seem interminable, there comes a point where one realizes that there will be a life after this quest. The GDBBS Career Development Committee is a group of student volunteers who have established a seminar series to help students decide what to do with their future degrees. The aim of the seminar series is to provide exposure to the range of opportunities available for PhD graduates and information that is essential to exploring future career directions. The topics in the career seminar series range from more traditional academic pursuits such as finding postdoctoral positions and choosing a mentor for pre- and post-doctoral work to identifying more nontraditional positions such as those in the entertainment industry or in science and technology policy.

In 2006 GDBBS Director Keith Wilkinson asked approximately a dozen students to take a leadership role by establishing the Career Development Committee. This committee was put in place to ensure that the career seminar series remained focused on the needs and interests of the students, and committee members are in charge of choosing seminar speakers to invite. The format of the career seminar series is very simple: the invited speakers (all of whom have a PhD in the sciences) give a short presentation explaining who they are, what they do, how they got to this point in their career, and they offer tips for students interested in pursuing similar career paths. There is ample time for questions from the attendees. While many of the questions are from well-informed students trying



to determine how to refine their CVs or resumes to apply for these jobs, the seminar series also provides valuable information to those completely unsure about what career to pursue. With such a variety of speakers, students may find themselves considering careers in areas they had previously not considered.

A myriad of career choices beyond those offered by academia exist, and the breadth of experiences represented by the invited speakers reflects this. A number of speakers are GDBBS graduates, which serves to emphasize that a degree from the GDBBS will get you where you want to go—in many cases via a completely untraditional career path. Topics covered in past career seminars (and some specific speakers' jobs) include science writing (freelance medical science writer), government careers (EPA, CDC, NIH), careers in biotech (business development, executive VPs), journal editing (editor-in-chief, medical editor), academic research (teaching,

postdocs), the entertainment industry (television and film script adviser, scientific adviser for the SyFy channel), technology transfer and intellectual property rights (patent law), as well as science policy and regulation (AAS policy fellows, public policy advisors).

The career seminar series is held monthly, and popular topics are revisited to ensure that successive cohorts of GDBBS students have a chance to learn about the career opportunities that interest them. In fact, they did just that for the most recent career seminar on the topic of science writing, with presentations from an associate director of scientific exchange at UCB, and a former GDBBS student from Prime Oncology, an organization specializing in medical education.

A list of speakers, audio files, and slides of past career seminars can be found at: https://secure.web.emory.edu/biomed/intranet/students/cobbs_careerseminars.htm. ■

Win a Free iPad!

ALL GDBBS ALUMNI ARE ENCOURAGED TO UPDATE THEIR INFORMATION AND BECOME ELIGIBLE TO ENTER A DRAWING TO WIN A FREE IPAD

To enter simply log on to <http://gdbbs.emory.edu/alumniweb> and update your information. Your login name is your "first name, middle initial, last name" and your password was sent to you previously. If you cannot log in just hit the "forgot password" button and we will respond with your username and a new password.

To be eligible for the drawing you must hit the "submit" button whenever asked. You do not need to provide any new information in order to be eligible, but confirming and updating your information is what we are trying to do, so your responses will be greatly appreciated.

The drawing will be held August 1, 2011. Update and win! Thank you.

