

## **The Cellular and Molecular Biology Training Grant Annual Newsletter**

We are now in our 34<sup>th</sup> year of support on the NIGMS training grant and currently support 34 predoctoral students at a stipend of \$20,772 per year, plus funds for UC fees, tuition, and trainee travel as well as limited funds for their research. In addition, there are also limited finances available to support seminar programs on campus that may be of special interest to our trainees.

There are seven Ph.D. programs that nominate students for this training grant: Biochemistry & Molecular Biology; Biological Chemistry; Molecular, Cell, and Developmental Biology; Microbiology and Immunology; Microbiology and Molecular Genetics; the Molecular Biology IDP; Neurobiology; and the ACCESS program. We continued our weekly Fall quarter ethics classes, as well as our research seminar series in the Winter and Spring quarters, where students in their final year on the grant give lessons to the other trainees and training faculty. Many thanks go to the entire training faculty who participated in these important events. Students are also encouraged to attend the MBI research conference at Lake Arrowhead which is held in October.

This year we obtained supplemental funds from the Graduate Division to help recruit underrepresented minority students to our program and to cover the increase in tuition and fees. Limited funds can also be used to purchase computer software, books, office supplies, and small electronic equipment. In addition, invited students have an opportunity to get involved in mentoring undergraduates from underrepresented minorities, increasing the pipeline of future scientists.

**Administration:** Program Director - Steven Clarke, Associate Director - Sabeeha Merchant,

Major decisions affecting the grant administration are made by the Program Director and members of the Advisory Committee: Carla Koehler, Chemistry and Biochemistry; Alex van der Blik, Biological Chemistry; Peter Bradley, Microbiology, Immunology, and Molecular Genetics; Kent Hill, Molecular Biology IDP; Volker Hartenstein, Molecular, Cell, and Developmental Biology; and Joshua Trachtenberg, Neurobiology. Besides deciding policy, the Advisory Committee is responsible for selecting the trainees for the coming year from the names submitted by each of the programs listed above.

**New Appointments:** Those who are joining the program in 2008-09 are as follows:

<b><u>Name</u></b>	<b><u>UCLA Graduate Program</u></b>	<b><u>Undergraduate Institution</u></b>	<b><u>Current Mentor</u></b>
Chang, Howard W.	Biochemistry	UC San Diego	D. Eisenberg
Domigan, Courtney K.	MCDB	UC Santa Cruz	L. Iruela-Arispe
Dwyer, Jennifer R.	MBI	U. of New Hampshire	K. Reue
Edwards, Miguel V.L.	MBI	Hunter College	S. Smale
Iyer, Shankar S.	MIMG	Cornell U.	G. Cheng
Langerman, Justin B.	MBI	UCLA	S. Smale
Rau, Christoph D.	MIMG	Harvey Mudd College	J. Lusic