



Department Newsletter: July 2024

## Awards & Accomplishments

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Congratulations to Ghazaleh Behnammanesh for successfully defending her dissertation on July 1st, titled "A Novel Isoform of Myosin 15 is Essential for Hearing and Controls Stereocilia Architecture in Cochlear Hair Cells." Ghazaleh will be graduating Summer 2024 and continue as a postdoc in the lab of Dr. Bird.

Every year Stem Cell Reports' editorial team selects outstanding papers from the works published in the past 12 months for our Best of Stem Cell Reports issue.

This year, Dr. Holger Russ and his team have received this recognition by the international stem cell community for their paper titled "Generation of functional thymic organoids from human pluripotent stem cells."

Dr. Russ and his team are truly honored that their work was selected by such a highly esteemed group of researchers.

Congratulations to the following faculty members for their recent promotions! In order of the photos, Dr. Jonathan Bird was promoted from Assistant Professor to Associate Professor with tenure. Dr. Daniel Kopinke was promoted from Assistant Professor to Associate Professor with tenure. Dr. Nikhil Urs was promoted from Assistant Professor to Associate Professor with tenure. Dr. Dan Wesson was promoted from Associate Professor to Professor. Dr. Stephen Jahn was promoted from Lecturer to Senior Lecturer. Please help us congratulate these faculty as you see them around campus.

## **Newly Awarded Grants**

**Dr. Gemma Casadesus**

- Sponsor: NIH NIA R21

*"Evaluation of Chorionic Gonadotropin as a Treatment for Sepsis-induced Neuroinflammation and Cognitive Dysfunction in the Aged Brain"*

**Dr. Kimberly Gomez**

- Sponsor: NIH NINDS K99  
*"Lymphocyte Antigen 6 (Ly6) Proteins: New Players in Chronic Pain"*

**Dr. Tyler Nelson**

- Sponsor: NIH NINDS K00  
*"Dissecting the Parabrachial Nucleus's Role in the Development and Maintenance of Neuropathic Pain"*

**Dr. Dan Wesson**

- Sponsor: NIH NIDA R34  
*"Harnessing biological rhythms for a resilient social motif generator"*

## **Recent Publications**

**From the Sweeney Lab:**

"Cardiomyopathy in Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy and the Potential for Mitochondrial Therapeutics to Improve Treatment Response"

Shivam Gandhi, H. Lee Sweeney, Cora C. Hart, Renzhi Han, & Christopher G. R. Perry

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## **New Additions to the Department**

## **Upcoming Events**

Please save the date for our upcoming department retreat, and we look forward to seeing everyone there!

### **Have news to be featured?**

Click the button below to submit your information for the next update.

[Submit News, Awards or Accomplishments](#)

