Directors' Message To The Center

To members and friends of CDT, welcome to the fifth edition of CDT Monthly. This newsletter was developed to highlight the achievements of CDT fellows and faculty members, promote further interactions, and help members stay in touch.

In this issue, you will find:
- Kudos to our current fellows, students and faculty members
- CDT Spotlight article on Dr. Kathy Fange Liu
- Upcoming Fall CDT Seminar Dates

We hope you enjoy reading this newsletter and learning more about the accomplishments and goals of CDT, our faculty, staff and students.

- Jenny Yang and Binghe Wang

"Sometimes you will never know the value of something until it becomes a memory."
- Dr. Seuss
Terrell Successfully Defends Dissertation

Dr. James Ross Terrell


Drs. Ming Luo (Chair), W. David Wilson and Markus Germann were members of his Dissertation Committee. James is currently working as a Graduate Research Assistant under the direction of Dr. W. David Wilson in GSU’s Department of Chemistry. Congratulations, Dr. Terrell!

Ibhagui Receives WIMIN Scholar Award

Dr. Oluwatosin Ibhagui

Dr. Oluwatosin Ibhagui has been selected to receive the 2021 Women In Molecular Imaging Network (WIMIN) Scholar Award at the Annual Meeting of the World Molecular Imaging Congress (WMIC) on October 5-8.

Her abstract titled, "Early Detection and Staging of Lung Fibrosis Enabled Precision MRI (pMRI) by Collagen-Targeted Protein Contrast Agents" was amongst the highest scoring abstracts submitted. The former CDT Fellow (2016-2020) mentored by Dr. Jenny Yang, will also receive a Travel Stipend Award in addition to the Scholar Award. Congratulations, Dr. Ibhagui!

Hamelberg Named Interim Associate Dean

Dr. Donald Hamelberg

Congratulations to Dr. Donald Hamelberg who was recently named Interim Associate Dean for Research, Innovation and Graduate Studies in the College of Arts and Sciences.

Hamelberg, Professor of Chemistry and CDT Core Faculty member, served as Chair of the Department of Chemistry since 2018 and is a GSU alum (Ph.D., 2001). Congratulations, Dr. Hamelberg!
Dr. Kathy Fange Liu is a product of Georgia State University who is not only passionate about her own scientific work, but has created a rewarding space for students who are interested in RNA chemistry and biology.

Dr. Liu received her BS in Biology in 2008 from Capital Normal University in Beijing, China. In 2013, she earned her PhD in Biochemistry and Biophysics from GSU, where she was also a CDT Fellow (2011-2013), under the mentorship of Dr. Aimin Liu, in the Department of Chemistry.

Shortly following graduation, Dr. Liu received a Postdoctoral Fellowship and HHMI Postdoctoral Scholarship from the Institute for Biophysical Dynamics at the University of Chicago. While there, she became interested in studying the functions of RNA modifying enzymes and RNA binding proteins in neuronal development and energy metabolism regulation.

Currently, her independent research focuses on combining her knowledge of enzymology, biochemistry, spectroscopy, structural biology, and RNA biology to understand the pathologic role of aberrant epigenetic and epitranscriptomic regulators in human disease.

In 2018, Dr. Liu joined the University of Pennsylvania in a tenure track position as Assistant Professor in the Department of Biochemistry and Biophysics. This is where she and her research lab presently focus on the study of energy metabolism, particularly the regulations at the RNA level.

The Liu Lab also investigates nucleotide chemistry; in particular, the enzyme-mediated regulation and co-regulation of RNA methylation modifications, and their impact on gene expression and translation. The Lab includes two postdoctoral fellows, five Ph.D. students, and three undergraduate students.

While recognizing the importance of creating a collaborative and vibrant environment for her students, it has been Dr. Liu’s goal "to let my students have a productive and happy graduate career, it is not worthy of compromising one for the other." She continued, "It is also important to appreciate the differences among the students, be flexible, approachable, and be a nice person. We work hard at the bench and enjoy lab fun at the beach."

When asked about her experience and scientific training at GSU, Dr. Liu stated, "I feel very attached to GSU because that is where my scientific career started. I had a great lab experience in Dr. Aimin Liu’s lab. Some of my lab members still help me with grant writing these days; and I had a very productive graduate career."

"The scientific training was comprehensive and solid. My training in biochemistry and enzymology are the foundation of my current career. I can recall my former PI taking our lab to scientific conferences 3-4 times a year! I still remember all the laughs and fun we had in those minivans."

"I also had great help from other Departmental faculty: Drs. Donald Hamelberg, David Wilson, Binghe Wang, Jenny Yang, Dabney Dixon, and many more. I feel so grateful to have received all of the training; you can see their influence in my first publications as an independent PI at UPenn."

Congratulations to Dr. Liu on her success. We are very proud of her accomplishments and thank her for allowing us to document the continued progress of her professional career.
CDT Thanks You

CDT wishes to thank Dr. Hongyu Qiu, GSU Professor in the Institute for Biomedical Sciences (IBMS), and Center for Molecular & Translational Medicine (CMTM), and everyone who attended her seminar titled, "New Mechanism of Aortic Stiffening in Hypertension & Potential Therapeutic Target" on September 21. The online presentation was extremely informative and well-attended. The video link of this session is now available on the CDT website: cdt.gsu.edu at https://cdt.gsu.edu/events-and-seminars-2/current-events-and-seminars/.

We also extend thanks to Dr. Tian Liu, Associate Professor, Director and Vice Chair of Medical Physics, Department of Radiation Oncology, at Emory University School of Medicine, for her seminar titled, "How Advances in Imaging Define Precision Radiation Oncology" on October 12. The online presentation was well received and the video link is also available on the CDT website.

Fall 2021: CDT Seminar Series Guidelines

For the Fall semester, CDT is offering both in-person and online seminars from 2:30-4:00pm. All in-person seminars will be held at the Petit Science Center (100 Piedmont Avenue) in PSC 124 and will be simultaneously broadcast online via Zoom.

If you choose to attend in-person, please note that seating capacity is limited and you must register to attend by emailing cdt@gsu.edu. Also, to ensure a safe seminar series for everyone, we will be observing the following Seminar Guidelines:

- All attendees of in-person seminars are to wear an appropriate mask (covering nose and mouth) inside of the seminar room
- Guest speakers can remove their mask to maintain vocal clarity during the seminar
- An empty seat will remain between those in attendance

Upcoming Seminar

Join us for our next CDT Seminar on Tuesday, October 19. Our featured guest speaker is Dr. L. Michelle Lewis of the University of Georgia, who will be presenting, "UGA's BFF: A Resource for Biomanufacturing and Bioprocessing".

Dr. Lewis is an Associate Research Scientist in the Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology and Assistant Director of the Bioexpression and Fermentation Facility (BFF) at UGA.

This hybrid seminar will be held in-person in PSC 124 and also online via Zoom from 2:30-4:00pm. Email cdt@gsu.edu to register for in-person attendance and for the online meeting link.
FALL 2021 SEMINAR SERIES

TUESDAYS
2:30 - 4:00PM

September 7
Dr. Ming Luo
Professor & CDT Core Faculty Member
Department of Chemistry
Georgia State University

September 21
Dr. Hongyu Qiu
Professor
Center for Molecular & Translational Medicine
Institute for Biomedical Sciences
Georgia State University

October 12
Dr. Tian Liu
Associate Professor & Director of Medical Physics
Department of Radiation Oncology
Emory University School of Medicine

October 19
Dr. Michelle Lewis
Associate Research Scientist & Assistant Director
Bioexpression & Fermentation Facility
University of Georgia

November 9
Dr. Wei Wang
R. Ken and Donna Coit Professor & Co-Director, Arizona Center for Drug Discovery
University of Arizona

November 30
Dr. Youssef Zaim Wadghiri
Associate Professor of Radiology & Director, Preclinical Imaging Core
NYU School of Medicine

Contact Andrea Mahone (cdtegsu.edu) for more information.