

Graduates of the Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology
(Brody School of Medicine at East Carolina University)

Heather Teague, PhD (2014)

Advisor: Saame Raza Shaikh, PhD

Dissertation: "N-3 Polyunsaturated Fatty Acids Differentially Enhance B-cell Mediated Immunity in Lean & Obese Mice"

J. Kaitlin Morrison, PhD (2014)

Advisor: Brett Keiper, PhD

Dissertation: "The Involvement of Cap-Independent mRNA Translation in Cell Fate Decisions"

Nathaniel Kingsbury, MS (2014)

Advisor: Joseph Chalovich, PhD

Oral Examination: "Fesselin an Intrinsically Disordered Smooth Muscle Protein Organizers and Stabilizes Actin-Myosin and Myosin"

Ryan F. Overcash, PhD (2012)

Advisor: Maria J. Ruiz-Echevarria, PhD

Dissertation: "An examination of the functional role of TMEFF2 in prostate cancer and the translational regulatory mechanisms controlling its expression"

Postdoctoral: Laboratory of Ann Marie Pendergast, PhD; Department of Pharmacology and Cancer Biology, Duke University School of Medicine

Drew Rockett, PhD (2012)

Advisor: S. Raza Shaikh, PhD

Dissertation: "Fish oil disrupts B cell plasma membrane lateral organization and immunological synapse formation"

Postdoctoral: Research Assistant Professor, Department of Physiology and the East Carolina Diabetes and Obesity Institute, East Carolina University

Tamra L. Hunsaker, PhD (2012)

Advisor: Brian Shewchuk, PhD

Dissertation: "Resolving the Role of POU1F1 in Human Growth Hormone Locus Activation"

Postdoctoral: Bert O'Malley, MD, Department of Molecular & Cellular Biology, Baylor College of Medicine

Alona O. Nakonechnaya, PhD

Advisor: Shewchuk, Brian, PhD

Dissertation: Effects of Exogenous and Autocrine Growth Hormone (hGH) on Prostate Cancer Cell Function

Postdoc: Cynthia G. Goodyer, PhD, Department of Pediatrics, McGill University

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(Brody School of Medicine at East Carolina University)

Vince Contreras, PhD (2010)

Advisor: Brett D. Keiper, PhD

Dissertation: "Multiple Translational Factor eIF4G (IFG-1) Isoforms Regulate Germ Cell Apoptosis"

Postdoctoral: US Public Health Service Commission at the National Institutes of Health, Bethesda, MD. (Lab as yet undetermined)

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Vesna Ann Karschner, PhD (2010)

Advisor: Phillip Pekala, PhD

Dissertation: "Post-Transcriptional Regulation of mRNA Metabolism during Differentiation of 3T3-L1 Cells: Role of HuR"

Postdoctoral: Christopher Geyer, PhD., Department of Anatomy & Cell Biology, The Brody School of Medicine, East Carolina University

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Svetlana S. Khaymina Hamden, PhD (2010)

Advisor: Joseph M. Chalovich, PhD

Dissertation: "Fesselin and Caldesmon: Natively Unfolded Proteins in Smooth Muscle Regulation"

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Mohit C. Mathur, PhD (2009)

Advisor: Joseph M. Chalovich, PhD

Dissertation: "The Distribution of Regulated Actomyosin States is Central to Cardiac Muscle Regulation and Disturbance of this Distribution Leads to Congenital Cardiomyopathies"

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Melissa Anne Henderson, PhD (2009)

Advisor: Brett D. Keiper, PhD

Dissertation: "The Unique Roles of IFE-1, a Germline-Specific Isoform of Eukaryotic Translation Factor 4E, During Gametogenesis"

Postdoctoral: Steve L'Hernault, PhD, O. Wayne Rollins Research Center, Emory University

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Tara Ann Cartwright, PhD (2009)

Advisor: Ruth A. Schwalbe, PhD

Dissertation: “The Biochemical Characterization of Neuronal K⁺ Channel N-Glycans and their Role in Regulating K⁺ Channel Function ”

Postdoctoral: David L. Armstrong, Ph.D., Laboratory of Neurobiology, NIEHS, Research Triangle Park, NC

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Brent M. Beall, PhD (2002)

Advisor: Joseph M. Chalovich, PhD

Dissertation: “The Effect of Fesselin, a Synaptopodin-Like Protein on Actin Dynamics”

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Steven C. Pohnert, PhD (2002)

Advisor: James A. McCubrey, PhD

Dissertation: “Abrogation of Cytokine Dependency in Hematopoietic Cells by RAF and PI3K/AKT”

Postdoctoral: Sanders Williams, MD, Duke University

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Joseph Francis Bower, PhD (2001)

Advisor: Hisham Barakat, PhD

Dissertation: “Ethnic Differences in Glyceride Synthesis in Adipose Tissue”

Postdoctoral: Ted M. Ross, PhD, East Carolina University

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Samar Itani, PhD (2000)

Advisor: G. Lynis Dohm, PhD

Dissertation: “Involvement of Protein Kinase C in Skeletal Muscle Insulin Resistance and Type II Diabetes”

Postdoctoral: Neil Rudermann, MD, Dphil. Boston Medical Center, Boston University

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Lilla Sommerville, PhD (1999)

Advisor: Joseph G. Cory, PhD

Dissertation: “P53 – independent Cell Cycle Block and Apoptotic Signaling Pathways”

Postdoctoral: William E. Evans, PharmD, St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital

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Paul MacLean, PhD (1999)

Advisor: Hisham Barakat, PhD

Dissertation: “The Role of Insulin and Insulin Resistance in the Regulation of Cholesteryl Ester Transfer Protein (CETP)”

Postdoctoral: G. Lynis Dohm, PhD, East Carolina University

Ai Wu He, PhD (1997)

Advisor: Joseph G. Cory, PhD

Dissertation: “Cellular Responses of Drug-Resistant Cells that Lack P-53”

Postdoctoral: Simon Taylor, MD, National Institutes of Health

Anindita Sen, PhD (1997)

Advisor: Joseph Chalovich, PhD

Dissertation: “The Role of the Competition Between Caldesmon & Myosin-S1 in the Regulation of Actomyosin Interactions”

Postdoctoral: Van Bennet, PhD, Duke University

Renu Jain, PhD (1997)

Advisor: Phillip Pekala, PhD

Dissertation: “Tumor Necrosis Factor-alpha Mediated Activation of Signal Transduction Cascades and Transcription Factors in the 3T3-L1 Adipocytes”

Postdoctoral: Channing Der, PhD, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Qian Zhou, PhD (1997)

Advisor: G. Lynis Dohm, PhD

Dissertation: “Mechanisms Regulating Insulin Sensitivity in Skeletal Muscle”

Jared Jones, PhD (1997)

Advisor: G. Lynis Dohm, PhD

Dissertation: “Transcriptional Regulation of Glucose Transporter GLUT-4 and Hexokinase II Genes in Skeletal Muscle”

Postdoctoral: Hisham Barakat, East Carolina University

Barbara D. Leinweber, PhD (1997)*

Advisor: Robert Thurber, PhD and Joseph Chalovich, PhD

Dissertation: “Maintaining the Localization of Actin in Smooth Muscle: α -Actinin, Filamin, Calponin and SM85/SM95”

Postdoctoral: Kathleen Morgan, PhD, Boston Biomedical Research Institute, Harvard University

* (Although a graduate of the Department of Physiology the thesis research was all performed in the laboratory of Dr. Chalovich)

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Ivan Shibley, PhD (1996)

Advisor: Sam N. Pennington, PhD

Dissertation: “The Molecular Basis of Fetal Alcohol Syndrome: Ethanol-Induced Alterations in Kinase-Mediated Regulation of Mitogenic and Metabolic Functions in the Developing Embryo”

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Christopher Torrance, PhD (1995)

Advisor: G. Lynis Dohm, PhD

Dissertation: “Effects of Thyroid Hormone Transporter (GLUT4) Gene Expression and NIDDM”

Postdoctoral: Bert Vogelstein, PhD, Johns Hopkins University

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Wei Min Lu, PhD (1995)

Advisor: Joseph Chalovich, PhD

Dissertation: “Caldesmon and Calponin Effects on the Myosin-Actin Interactions”

Postdoctoral: John Hammer, PhD, Duke University

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Sheree Long, PhD (1995)

Advisor: Phillip Pekala, PhD

Dissertation: “Lipid Mediators of Insulin Resistance”

Postdoctoral: Yusuf Hannun, PhD, Duke University

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Kevin McGowan, PhD (1995)

Advisor: Phillip Pekala, PhD

Dissertation: “Tumor Necrosis Factor-Alpha Regulation of Glucose Transporter (GLUT1) mRNA Turnover: Contribution of the 3'-Untranslated Region of the GLUT1 Message”

Postdoctoral: Pierre Collumb, PhD, Johns Hopkins University

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Julie Carey, PhD (1994)

Advisor: G. Lynis Dohm, PhD

Dissertation: “Mechanism(s) of Insulin Resistance in Skeletal Muscle”

Postdoctoral: Kirk Ways, MD, East Carolina University

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Darrell Neufer, PhD (1993)

Advisor: G. Lynis Dohm, PhD

Dissertation: "The Regulation of GLUT4 Glucose Transporter Expression in Skeletal Muscle"

Postdoctoral: Sanders Williams, MD, Southwest Medical Center

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Jackie Stephens, PhD (1992)

Advisor: Phillip Pekala, PhD

Dissertation: "The Regulation of Glucose Transporter Gene Expression in 3T3-L1 Cells by Tumor Necrosis Factor"

Postdoctoral: Paul Pilch, PhD, Boston University

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Laly Valez, PhD (1991)

Advisor: Joseph Chalovich, PhD

Dissertation: "Regulation of the Interaction Between Myosin & Actin by Caldesmon and Its Subfragments"

Postdoctoral: Fred Schachat, PhD, Duke University

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Mark Hemric, PhD (1990)

Advisor: Joseph Chalovich, PhD

Dissertation: "A Catalytically Inactive Myosin-Caldesmon-Actin Complex"

Postdoctoral: Joe Haeberle, PhD, University of Vermont

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Peter Cornelius, PhD (1989)

Advisor: Phillip Pekala, PhD

Dissertation: "Monokine Regulation of Lipoprotein Lipase and Glucose Transporter Gene Expression"

Postdoctoral: Daniel Lane, PhD, Johns Hopkins University

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Russ Price, PhD (1984)

Advisor: Phillip Pekala, PhD

Dissertation: "The Regulation of Lipoprotein Lipase Synthesis in 3T3-L1 Adipocytes by Endotoxin-Induced Macrophage Monokines"

Postdoctoral: Martha Vaughan, PhD and Joel Moss, PhD, National Institutes of Health