



BIOSPHERE

The Weekly Bulletin of Biology

Biology Colloquium: Friday, 2 March 2012, 2:00 pm in CR 5125

“Interpreter-Mediated Neuropsychological Testing: Ethical Concerns, Practical Challenges, and Empirical Data”

Rachel Casas, Ph.D.

UCLA/USC Foundation for Psychocultural Research

New Publication

Dr. Robert Espinoza and two graduate students from Argentina have a paper in *Copeia*: “Herbivory in *Liolaemus poecilochromus*, a small, cold-climate lizard from the Andes of Argentina.” Much to their surprise, even juveniles (3–4 g) of this species eat primarily plants, making them the smallest known herbivorous amniotic vertebrate.

Student Research Symposium

Biologists were abundant at CSUN’s 16th Annual Student Research & Creative Works Symposium last Friday. The following students presented with the following titles.

Oral Presentations

- 1st place in her session, **Tannaz Faal**: “Resistance to therapeutic treatment of brain cancer varies according to subclass”
- 1st place in his session, **Joshua Shipp**: “Communication of predation risk between multiple birds and a mammal”

- 2nd place in his session, **Stephen Etter**: “Survival in giant kangaroo rats”
- 2nd place in his session, **Christopher Nosola**: “Positron emission tomography for *in vivo* imaging of cellular metabolism during hematopoiesis”
- **Jessica Cinkornpumin**: “CEMA algorithm: facilitates selection of transcription factors for reprogramming”
- **Ivan Dimov**: “Isolation of basic helix-loop-helix transcription factor gene in Hawaiian silverswords and California tarweeds”
- **Allan Harrell**: “Comparative ecomorphology among sympatric cormorants in Mediterranean climates”
- **Veronika Rapoport**: “Characterization of OBI-1, a protein involved in host attraction by the nematode *Pristionchus pacificus*”
- **Anu Sadhu**: “Molecular evolution of MYB gene in Hawaiian silversword and California tarweed”
- **Jesse Tootell**: “Effects of algal abundance on herbivorous fishes of Moorea, French Polynesia”
- **Christopher Wall**: “Ocean acidification does not enhance thermal bleaching in juvenile scleractinian corals”
- **Beck Wehrle**: “Does sociality foster microbe exchange in lounging lizards?”

- **Dona Wisidagama:** “Role of HIF1a in hESC differentiation”
- **Sigfrido Zimmermann:** “Has the introduced Mediterranean House Gecko adapted to its new niches?”

Posters

- **1nd place, Tierra Johnson:** “The multiple plasmid-containing *Escherichia coli* strain V517 V 517”
- **Erin Avina:** “The effects of canopy, predation, and litter on *Euphorbia terracina* establishment in California coastal sage scrub”
- **Nicole Cassel:** “Characterization of *Nostoc punctiforme* putative ECF sigma factor in akinete induction”
- **Maryn Cook:** “Ecdysone receptor expression in *Pristionchus pacificus*”
- **Oranut Falcioni:** “Cloning, expression, and enzymatic assay of cytolethal distending toxins (Cldt) from *Salmonella* and *Escherichia coli*”
- **Anna Galstyan:** “Epidermal growth factor receptor (EGFR)-targeted bacteriophage as therapeutic agents delivering small interfering RNA (siRNA)”
- **Mari Gasparyan:** “Optimized protocols for mature motor neuronal isolation”
- **Andrew Gisis:** “Sensitivity of human leukemic Sup-T1 cells to chemotherapeutic agents”
- **James Go:** “Obi-1 homology”
- **Nicholas Gutierrez:** “Speciation and condition-dependent signaling in crickets”
- **Sarah Imam:** “Role of isocitrate dehydrogenase in human embryonic stem cell metabolism and differentiation”
- **Josh Kaiser:** “GPI-80 distinguishes transplantable human fetal hematopoietic stem cells from multipotential progenitors”
- **Fadi Kandarian:** “Determining the efficacy of human-TRIM5-cyp in inhibiting a broad spectrum of HIV viruses when stably expressed in CD34-derived macrophages”

- **Tasneem Koleilat:** “Defining the role of REST in regulating human embryonic stem cell fate”
- **Mary Kombazdjian:** “Possible neuroprotective effects of chronic ethanol consumption on the *spastic* Han-Wistar rat, a model of ataxia”
- **Christina McNeal:** “Recruitment of *Ephedra californica* in the Carrizo Plain National Monument”
- **Scott Reichelderfer:** “HIV-1 infection of multipotent hematopoietic progenitor cells”
- **Ivan Rueda:** “Genomics of root architecture”
- **G. Jonatan Saenz:** “Expression of DSCR1 in leukemic cells”
- **Daniel Sivalingam:** “Generation of iPSCs from lung”
- **Brenton Spies:** “A comparison of environmental variation in estuaries inhabited by the endangered Tidewater Goby (*Eucyclogobius newberryi*) with that of estuaries occupied by the non-endangered sister species, Arrow Goby (*Clevelandia ios*)”
- **Arash Yazdani:** “Characterization of transcriptional repressor TetR family gene NpR 3597 involved in regulation of cellular differentiation in the cyanobacteria *Nostoc punctiforme*”
- **Shahab Younesi:** “Effects of a high-fat diet on progressive neurodegeneration in the *spastic* Han-Wistar rat”

Behavior, Ecology & Evolution Reading Group

This semester, the group is meeting on Wednesdays at noon in CR 5336.

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