Dr. Sergio Ulloa Visits EBI

On July 21, 2015, Dr. Sergio Ulloa, former Edison Biotechnology Institute (EBI) Undergraduate Student, visited EBI. It was a pleasure to have Dr. Ulloa here to share his experiences with students while visiting EBI. Dr. Ulloa is an Athens native, alumni of Athens High School and Ohio University. While at Athens High School, Ulloa fell in love with orthopedics and sports medicine. Dr. Ulloa had the opportunity to work in Dr. John Kopchick’s lab at EBI as an Undergraduate Student during his time at Ohio University.

In 2007, Dr. Ulloa graduated from Ohio University’s Heritage College of Osteopathic Medicine. He completed his residency in Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio, at the Summa Western Reserve Hospital where he was named Chief Resident and twice awarded Outstanding Resident. Dr. Ulloa moved to Cleveland to complete his fellowship at the Cleveland Clinic where he served as Assistant Team Physician for the Cleveland Browns, Indians, and Cavaliers. Upon completion of his fellowship, Dr. Ulloa, his wife and three children returned to Athens where he has joined Athens Medical Associates as an Orthopedic Surgeon.

Centered in the front row are Dr. John Kopchick, Distinguished Professor, Goll-Ohio Eminent Scholar, Ohio University (white polo shirt) and Dr. Sergio Ulloa, Orthopedic Surgeon (green polo shirt) pictured with faculty, staff, post-docs and students from Dr. John Kopchick’s lab.

Save the Dates

✧ Chromatin and Epigenetics in Cancer
  ✧ September 24-27, 2015 • Loews Atlanta • Atlanta, GA
✧ Appalachian Health Summit 2015
  ✧ September 25, 2015 • Ohio University Inn & Conference Center • Athens, OH
✧ Fourth AACR International Conference on Frontiers in Basic Cancer Research
  ✧ October 23-26, 2015 • Pennsylvania Convention Center • Philadelphia, PA
✧ The Fourth Appalachian Regional Cell Conference
  ✧ November 21, 2015 • Huntington, WV
EBI’s Annual Authority Board Meeting

Edison Biotechnology Institute’s (EBI) annual Authority Board Meeting was held on July 28th, 2015 at the Ohio University Inn and Conference Center. With 19 people in attendance, the meeting had a great turnout, 8 of which are Authority Board Members. Dr. Roderick McDavis, President, Ohio University Dr. Joseph Shields, Vice President of Research, Ohio University and Dr. John Kopchick, Distinguished Professor, Goll-Ohio Eminent Scholar, Ohio University, were among the members in attendance. The Authority Board plays a large role in the direction of EBI. Each of the members bring a variety of knowledge, experience and ideas to the Board. This annual meeting is an important time to update the Board members with what is going on within EBI from year to year. This meeting is a time to reflect on the past, discuss the future and make sure EBI is continually headed in the right direction.

During the meeting, Dr. Shiyong Wu, Director of EBI, presented a review of activities that have taken place over the past year and described his 3-year strategic plan. There are several projects in the works at EBI, such as the Natural Products Research Center, Core Service Facility and Centers, Entrepreneur Team, as well as Regional and International Collaborations. Guests were introduced as well as newly hired EBI Employees: 4 new Post-Doctoral Fellows, Dr. Yanrong Qian, Dr. Lingying Tong, Dr. Haotong Chen and Dr. Hyun Young Park, and our new Accountant & Office Manager, Ms. Rachel Beha.

Ms. Beha presented a review of EBI’s financial status. She reviewed the past fiscal year, the outcome of the current fiscal year, and projected into the future for fiscal year 2016. Lunch was served at noon while presentations and discussion continued. Dr. Edward List, Scientist II at EBI, presented details about his project entitled “Experimental Use of An Alternative Form of Growth Hormone.” He received the 2015 Grant for Growth Innovation award to support this research. Dr. List is the first non-clinical scientist to receive this prestigious award, which provides up to $500,000 to advance growth related research. Dr. Hao Chen, Director of the Bioanalytics Center, Associate Professor of Chemistry and Biochemistry, and EBI Associate Fellow, presented on his recent work of using Mass Spectrometry to solve problems in proteomics, electrophoresis, and gas phase ion chemistry. Several new mass spectrometric devices built in Dr. Chen’s lab were introduced.‘

The meeting was adjourned at 1:00 p.m. EBI’s new Post-Doctoral Fellows had the opportunity to ride in one of Ohio University’s private jets as 3 of the Authority Board members were returned to their hometowns. The ride provided the opportunity for some of the newly hired employees to have further discussion with a few of the Authority Board members. Overall, the meeting was a success; topics of importance were addressed with positive, healthy discussion.
EBI Attends FASEB 2015

The Growth Hormone (GH)/Prolactin (PRL) chapter of the Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology (FASEB) Research Conference series was set at the picturesque location of Steamboat Springs in Colorado, from July 12th – 17th. A group of five student researchers, led by Dr. John Kopchick, Distinguished Professor, Goll-Ohio Eminent Scholar, Ohio University, represented EBI at this bi-annual meeting. This meeting was also attended by legendary figures as well as graduate students from this niche field of endocrinology, from all over the world. The conference comprised of a week-long poster session and eight short-talk sessions on the most recent advances as well as unpublished work on varied aspects of GH and PRL in physiology and disease.

The conference presented the attendees, especially the students, with a rare opportunity to interact with the global milieu of senior researchers in the field about their concerns, questions and seek guidance, through individual sessions. An ample scope of interaction and networking was made possible through a number of off-site activities organized on the breathtakingly beautiful landscapes of the ski-resort town in Colorado. Dr. Kopchick led the final session of the conference, while Amrita Basu, a final year PhD student from his lab, who gave an oral presentation on her research. Ross Comisford, Brooke Henry, Silvana Duran-Ortiz, and Reetobrata Basu from EBI, presented their individual researches on GH axis in adipose tissue and melanoma, during the poster sessions.

This conference was notably successful and engaged all the attendees in a passionate and extended discussion on science and research, which fostered an atmosphere of collaboration and mutual growth. The attendees from EBI presented several highlights of this informative and useful conference to their peers following their return and highly recommended attendance to this chapter of FASEB Research Conference in 2017.

Photo Courtesy: Vivid Visions Photography.
Interview

Star of the Month--Shinei Gibbs

Before joining Edison Biotechnology Institute (EBI) Shinei Gibbs said, “I almost gave up on medicine all together.” Shinei held a passion for neurosurgery ever since high school. But when asked to describe her lab experiences prior to working at Edison Biotechnology Institute (EBI), she explained that working in other labs was depressing and discouraging. “The labs were small and dark and the students were not very friendly.” However, working at the Konneker Research Laboratory at Ohio University’s Edison Biotechnology Institute was a much different experience that rekindled her passion for science and biology and motivated her to pursue a career in acupuncture and natural medicine.

In the fall of 2010, Shinei Gibbs began research in Dr. Shiyong Wu’s lab. The research was based on how UV radiation effects a cancer cell’s DNA. Although Shinei was not specifically interested in cancer research, Dr. Wu’s approach to medicine inspired her to explore different fields in medicine. “Dr. Wu was a great leader and mentor. He cared a lot for his students and wanted to see them succeed. He was very wise and gave great advice.”

During her time at EBI, Shinei faced several challenges; but the biggest struggle she faced was life balancing. “I had school, friends, and work. I didn’t want to stretch myself too thin. I wanted to leave the lab knowing I gave enough effort. Dr. Wu and the other students were very understanding and accommodating.” Shinei explained that her favorite part about working at EBI was working with a wonderful group of people and leaving the lab every day with a sense of worth.

To other students working at EBI, Shinei extends two pieces of advice. First, learn to prioritize. “Stop doing things that keep you from growing as a person.” Second, try new things. Shinei began college expecting to emerge a neurosurgeon. However, with the help of her peers and mentors, she found a new passion in natural medicine. “If you are not happy, explore something else.” Shinei left the Konneker labs in 2011 and is currently working as a Campus Coordinator while studying acupuncture. Shinei hopes to continue studying natural medicine and travel in Ohio and Florida as a volunteer to provide services to victims of natural disasters.

Written by: Lydia Richardson