Focus
30 Years of Service

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It was June 1986. Lori Frazee stepped out of her Buick Skyhawk to walk into Wilson Hall for her first day of work at the Edison Biotechnology Institute. Now, 30 years of service dedicated to the Edison Biotechnology Institute later, a little more has changed for Lori Abdella than her last name and the car she drives to work.

Previously working at the Athens Messenger for five years, Lori Abdella arrived at EBI just two years after it was established in 1984. She has never changed departments and has seen the institute go through half a dozen directors. She knows the institute better than almost anyone.

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“EBI has pretty much maintained the same atmosphere over the years,” Lori says. “It’s an honor when people ask me where I work and I can say EBI. People always say we are friendly and helpful here.”

Much of the “friendly and helpful” that people are talking about comes from Lori herself. Dr. John Kopchick began working at EBI approximately six months after EBI was established in 1984. He attests to Lori’s personality and presence being greatly appreciated at EBI.
“It’s a delight to have her taking care of not only EBI, but taking care of me and my duties around here,” Dr. Kopchick says. “If it wasn’t for her I wouldn’t know what was going on around Ohio University and Athens.”

Dr. Kopchick says he and Lori have grown up together and their dynamic is like that of a brother and sister. 30 years of working together will bring anyone as close as siblings—luckily for Dr. Kopchick and Lori (and everyone else at EBI) it’s the kind of siblings that get along. Dr. Kopchick even admits that, “whatever she says, I basically have to agree with.”

Over the years, Lori has seen EBI grow from a small wing in Wilson Hall to its many offices and laboratories it now encompasses on The Ridges. She witnessed the program change from its early first years of pioneering research; to what EBI is now—the top source of Ohio University’s licensing revenue.

“Over the years, Lori has seen EBI grow from a small wing in Wilson Hall to its many offices and laboratories it now encompasses on The Ridges. She witnessed the program change from its early first years of pioneering research; to what EBI is now—the top source of Ohio University’s licensing revenue. “

Being a first-hand witness to the growth of EBI isn’t however what Lori holds most memorable about her time in the department. Some of her best memories are those of Dr. Kopchick’s parties.

At the 2015 Christmas party, Director Shiyong Wu presented Lori with an engraved iPad for her 30 years of service at the Edison Biotechnology Institute. It is people like Dr. Wu and his friendly, upbeat attitude, and Dr. Kopchick and his friendship that Lori will miss when she decides to one-day retire.

But for now the Edison Biotechnology Institute does not say goodbye, but thanks Lori for her dedication and congratulates her on 30 years of service!
Grant for Growth and Innovation Award

Edison Biotechnology Institute Investigator, Dr. Edward List, was recently selected as the recipient of a Grant for Growth and Innovation (GGI) award, which includes a 3-year $270,000 grant funded by EMD Serono. This award will support his project entitled “Experimental Use of an Alternative Form of Growth Hormone”. Two proposals were chosen from a pool of 79 and Dr. List was invited to deliver a talk at the European Society for Pediatric Endocrinology as part of receiving the award. Diabetes Institute Executive Director and EBI Investigator, Dr. Darlene Berryman, is a co-Principal Investigator on this grant and students Kevin Funk, Brooke Henry, and Elizabeth Jensen will also be involved. Congratulations to all!

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A team of members from the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry, Edison Biotechnology Institute, Ohio University and the College of Bioengineering, Chongqing University, Chongqing, China, including Jianguo Feng, Li Li, Lingying Tong, Liling Tang and Shiyong Wu, recently had their research article published. The article titled, “The Involvement of Splicing Factor hnRNP A1 in UVB-induced Alternative Splicing of hdm2” was published in the current issue (March/April 2016) of Photochemistry and Photobiology 92:318-324. The article was identified as one of the most interesting papers in the issue and is going to be presented as the Feature article on the home page of the journal.

The article can be found at the following web address: http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/journal/10.1111/(ISSN)1751-1097;jsessionid=13051A75E050626B1239EF74CB58E943.

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EBI Employee Appreciation Luncheon

On Wednesday, December 9th in 2015, Edison Biotechnology Institute (EBI) hosted its annual Employee Appreciation Luncheon. Dr. Shiyong Wu, director of EBI, greeted all in attendance and recognized the hard work and great achievements of the faculty, staff and students during the past year as well as offered his best wishes for a happy and successful 2016. Dr. Wu also recognized and thanked Lori Abdella, Administrative Assistant of EBI, for her monumental achievement of reaching 30 years of service (and counting.) Lori was then presented with a token of appreciation for dedicating so many years to working at EBI. A time of visiting over a delicious dinner of ham, scalloped potatoes, green beans, cake and drinks followed Dr. Wu’s announcements. After enjoying each other’s company and conversation, the parted ended with the group photo as seen above.
Inventors Dr. Xiaozhuo Chen, Biomedical Sciences, EBI Principal Investigator and Dr. Stephen Bergmeier, Chemistry and Biochemistry, EBI Fellow:
“Compositions and Methods for Glucose Transport Inhibition.”

Inventors Dr. John Kopchick, Biomedical Sciences, EBI Principal Investigator and Dr. Shigeru Okada, Pediatrics, EBI Investigator:
“Growth Hormone and Interferon-Alpha 2 Glycoproteins Produced in Plants.”

Inventors Dr. Shiyong Wu, Director of EBI and Dr. Lingying Tong, EBI Postdoctoral Fellow:
“Compositions and Methods for Inhibiting UVB-irradiation Damage by Targeting Constitutive Nitric Oxide Synthases (cNOS), Including Endothelial NOS (eNOS) and neuronal NOS (nNOS).”
“Methods and Compositions of Carnosol for Inhibiting UVB-induced Skin Damage”

Inventor: Dr. Hao Chen, Chemistry and Biochemistry, EBI Fellow and Qiuling Zheng, Chemistry and Biochemistry:
“Chemical Quantification Using Electrochemical Mass Spectrometry.”

Save the Dates

STTR/SBIR Workshop
March 15 2016, Ellis 113, Ohio University, Athens, Ohio, USA

2016 Endo Annual Meeting
April 1-4 2016, Boston, MA, USA

2016 Student Research & Creative Activity Expo,
April 14 2016, Ohio University, Athens, Ohio, USA

2016 AACR Annual Meeting
April 16-20 2016, New Orleans, Louisiana, USA

Ohio Health O’Bleness Health System Race for a Reason
AMVETS Diabetes Research Institute is hosting the 3K walk.
April 23, 2016, Ohio University, Athens, Ohio USA
Register at: www.hfpracing.com/events/managed/raceforareason/register.html

American Society for Photobiology Conference
May 21-26 2016, Marriott Waterside Hotel & Marina, Tampa, Florida, USA

The 8th International Congress of the GRS and IGF Society
November 6-9 2016, Tel Aviv, Israel.