From the Editorial Board

Welcome to the inaugural issue of the Edison Biotechnology Institute Newsletter!

Nested in the Konneker Research Center up in the historical Ridges, the Edison Biotechnology Institute (EBI) is our boiling-pot of ideas, training ground for the future and the birthplace of discoveries. We, the EBI Public Relations Group (PRG), are very happy to bring to you, the first – EBI Newsletter. In this issue, we have brought to you the ‘New Faces’ at our institute. We have put together the ‘Conferences and Meetings’ the faculty and students of EBI attended and also the activities surrounding the ‘Visits and Visitors’, in 2015 till now. For our readers, our team has compiled interesting scientific ‘Hot Topics’. To leave you on a happy note, there is our very special ‘Last Page’. We hope you will like the EBI newsletter and will help us to spread EBI and its stories to the community at large.

Shiyong Wu, Ph.D.
Director and PI,
Edison Biotechnology Institute
Professor of Chemistry and Biochemistry

From the Editorial Board

“Greetings”

I would like to congratulate the EBI Public Relations Group for publishing their first edition of EBI’s monthly e-newsletter and thank them for their hard work in bringing us a variety of exciting stories covering current discoveries and events in EBI, as well as collaborative activities between EBI and our national and international partners. The Newsletter will also cover breaking scientific stories related to EBI’s research activities from the local level to national and worldwide. If you would like to share any related stories in our e-newsletter, please contact the Public Relations Group via email: edisonbiotechnologyinstitute@gmail.com

Shiyong Wu, Ph.D.
Director and PI,
Edison Biotechnology Institute
Professor of Chemistry and Biochemistry
**EBI New Faces**

Yanrong Qian  
Postdoctoral Fellow and EIR assistant

Yanrong Qian comes from Shanghai, China. Yanrong joined Dr. Xiaozhuo Chen’s lab in 2009 and got her PhD degree from the MCB program, Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry, Ohio University in the year of 2014. Yanrong, as a postdoctoral fellow in Dr. Chen’s lab, is currently doing research on cancer metabolism and diabetes. In addition, Yanrong is also assisting Dr. Jeff Wiseman, Executive-in-Residence (EIR) and Senior Scientist in Edison Biotechnology Institute, to promote biotech and local economic development.

Lingying Tong  
Postdoctoral Fellow

Lingying is a newly-hired postdoctoral fellow in EBI. She has been working in Dr. Wu's lab since 2009 and got her Ph.D. degree in the year of 2014. She has continued her work in Dr. Wu's lab as a postdoctoral fellow since Jan 2015. Her research interests focus on the effect of natural compounds on UV-induced skin cancer development and progression, as well as UV-induced ER stress signaling pathways.

Rachel Beha  
Accountant & Office Manager

Rachel Beha has lived in Athens County since 2002. She came to Ohio University in November of 2014 as the Accountant & Office Manager for Edison Biotechnology Institute. She graduated with an Associates Degree in Technical Studies from Hocking College in 2008 and a Bachelors Degree in Business Administration from Franklin University in 2011.

**EBI Wishes**

Edison Biotechnology Institute wishes a very **HAPPY BIRTHDAY** to

- Silvana Duran-Ortiz  
4th February
- Amrita Basu  
5th February
- Brooke Henry  
25th February
- Rachel Beha  
19th March
- Jonathan Young  
8th April
- Ken Oki  
9th April
From left to right: Dr. Janchun Lu, Dr. Shiyong Wu, Dr. Li (Alex) Zuo, and Dr. Rulong Shen.

On March 4th, 2015, Dr. Shiyong Wu, Professor of Chemistry, and Director of EBI, from Ohio University, visited Department of Radiation Oncology in James Cancer Hospital, OSU. Dr. Shiyong Wu proposed an interdisciplinary project and discussed the potential collaborations with several professors from multiple research groups within The Ohio State University. Professors who attended this event were Dr. Janchun Lu (physicist), Dr. Li (Alex) Zuo (muscle biology), and Dr. Rulong Shen (pathology).

Dr. Qiyu Qiu, MD, PhD, School of Medicine, Wuhan University; General Manager of Thousands Of People Equity Fund Management Partnership Enterprise; CEO, Full Senior Scientist, Wuhan Denuomei Bio-Medicine Inc., visited Edison Biotechnology Institute and Ohio University this month. Dr. Qiu presented his research and business entitled “Returning and Dreams: Medium and small size enterprise financing new pathway”. Dr. John Kopchick, Dr. Xiao Chen, Dr. Jeff Wiseman and others attended the seminar. Dr. Qiu had an enthusiastic discussion with both the scientific team and entrepreneurship team from EBI, Ohio University about the cutting-edge study on the development of “Combi-target cancer drugs development” and the proper “timing of projects and capitals”.

Dr. Andrea Hoeflich from Institute for Genome Biology, Leibniz University for Farm Animal Biology, Germany visited the EBI on March 16-17, 2015. He presented his research and had multiple discussion forums with faculty scientists about prospective collaborative research opportunities. He also had a number of informal sessions with graduate student groups discussing research and beyond.

The Dutch team at the EBI Auditorium on 16th March, 2015

‘The Dutch Invasion of OU’ took place on February 5th and 6th, 2015 at Edison Biotechnology Institute, led by a group of experts in clinical and basic endocrinology. The team of Dr. A J Van Der Lely, Dr. Sebastian Neggers, Dr. D Wouter and Dr. W D Herder from the Erasmus Medical Center and University presented latest research in areas of growth hormone endocrine regulation, pituitary tumors and associated disease conditions. The two-day mini symposium focused on present and future therapeutic uses of growth hormone and associated molecules for a wide variety of diseases and led to an interactive and inspiring discussion session between the Dutch group and EBI members.

Pictured from left to right are Dr. Qiyu Qiu & Dr. Shiyong Wu

Dr. Andrea Hoeflich presenting his research at the EBI Auditorium on 16th March, 2015
Endocrinology research from EBI was recently applauded at the Endocrine Society’s 97th Annual Meeting and Expo – ENDO 2015 (March 5th to 8th), held at San Diego, CA. Breakthrough research advancements and career opportunities were discussed in numerous symposia, oral presentations and poster sessions. A group of ten including Dr. John J. Kopchick (Gall Ohio Eminent Scholar) Dr. Darlene Berryman (Director, Diabetes Research Institute) and Dr. Edward List along with graduate (Amrita Basu, Silvana Duran, Ross Comisford, Kevin Funk, Reetobrata Bassi) and undergraduate (Nicole Brooks, Grant Gase, Mathew Buchman) students represented EBI and OU at a conference attended by more than eight thousand members of the global endocrine community. Although Athens had more than ten inches of snow that week, San Diego was warm and sunny and a great Spring-break offsite-research activity for the group.

NHLBI Regional Innovation Conference

Dr. Shiyong Wu, Professor of Chemistry and Director of Edison Biotechnology Institute, Ohio University, Dr. Lingying Tong, postdoc fellow, Dr. Yanrong Qian, postdoc fellow and economic development assistant, along with Jianguo Feng, and Yi Liao, graduate students from EBI, Ohio University, attended NIH, National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute (NHLBI) Regional Innovation Conference, which was held in OSU Biomedical Research Tower, Columbus, Ohio, on March, 4th, 2015. This semi-annual conference brings together small businesses, angel investors, venture capitalists, strategic partners, and business leaders from the biotech and pharmaceutical industries in various regions of the country. It features presentations by top NHLBI SBIR-funded companies with innovative technologies on the brink of commercialization, an expert panel of investors, and provides opportunities for partnering and networking. Attendees will be able to learn about the details and impacts of recent changes in the Federal SBIR/STTR program, other funding opportunities, NHLBI resources, and small-business-related expertise.

BioOhio Statehouse Day

The BioOhio Statehouse Day legislative networking event was held by BioOhio on March 10th, in the Ohio Statehouse. This event provides a unique opportunity to discuss the impact and importance of Ohio’s bioscience companies, research institutions, and educators with state officials and lawmakers, representing and advocating for the bioscience industry's continued growth in Ohio. John F. Lewis, Jr., President and CEO at BioOhio, Jennifer Palinchik, President at JALEX Medical, Senator Bill Beagle, and State Representative Andrew Brenner attended this event and gave speeches. Dr. Yanrong Qian, a postdoctoral fellow and economic development assistant, on behalf of Edison Biotechnology Institute, Ohio University, attended this event.

Save Your Date

1. Ohio University Student Research and Creative Activity Expo 2015
   The OU Student Expo will be held April 9, 2015, at the Ohio University Convocation Center from 11:30 am till 2:30 pm.

2. AACR Annual Meeting
   The 106th Annual Meeting of the American Association for Cancer Research will be held April 18-22, 2015, in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. To attend, register at http://www.aacr.org

3. Race for a Reason
   Event on April 25, 2015. If interested in the Race for a Reason, please consider supporting the "Amvets Diabetes Research Institute" located in EBI, when selecting your cause. To register, visit: www.ohioraceforareason.com
A simple and great experiment, inspires many more. We present to our readers a collage of a few such latest scientific milestones reached in the most recent past, from the leading scientific journals of the field.

**A Bigger Genetic Alphabet for Life**

All life on Earth as we know it encodes genetic information using four DNA letters: A, T, G, and C. Not anymore! Researchers have created new DNA bases in the lab, expanding life’s genetic code and opening the door to creating new kinds of microbes.

**Diabetes Cure?**

Researchers have reported a significant step toward finding a cure for diabetes. They’ve figured out how to turn human stem cells into functional pancreatic β cells—the same cells that are destroyed by the body’s own immune system in type 1 diabetes patients.

**Young Blood - Old Age**

In work with profound implications for aging, researchers showed that blood from a young mouse can rejuvenate an old mouse’s muscles and brain. If the results hold up in people—an idea already in testing—factors in young blood could help fight the ravages of aging in people. Read more: Katsimpardi L, et al, Science 2014; Sinha M, et al, Science 2014

**Manipulating Memories**

If you think you can rely on your memories, think again. Last year, scientists figured out how to manipulate specific memories in mice by zapping their brains with laser beams. This year, they managed to change the actual emotional content of memories, turning good memories bad, and vice versa.

**Cold Shock Protects the Brain**

A protein released during hypothermia has been found to affect the progression the brain’s ability to reshape its connections in response to cooling, and that the protein’s overexpression might provide therapeutic benefits in neurodegenerative disease. See more at http://www.nature.com/nature/journal/v518/n7538/full/nature14142.html.

**The Dark Side of Sunlight and Melanoma**

UV-initiated DNA photo-damage in melanocytes is found to continue in the dark, by a novel pathway with important implications for melanoma formation. See more at http://www.sciencemag.org/content/347/6224/842.long
PUZZLE # 1
The man who makes it does not want it.
The man who buys it does not need it.
The man who uses it does not know it.
What is it?

PUZZLE # 2
My life is often a volume of grief, your help is needed to turn a new leaf.
Stiff is my spine and my body is pale, but I’m always ready to tell a tale.
What am I?
Join **Edison Biotechnology Institute** for News, Updates, Career and Fun. It’s Family!