The 2013 Research Conference for the Arkansas IDeA Network of Bio-medical Research Excellence (INBRE) was hosted Friday, Oct. 18, and Saturday, Oct. 19; for about 400 attendees from 27 colleges in Arkansas and several nearby states.

Keynote speaker Professor Michael F. Summers, from the University of Maryland, Baltimore County, spoke Friday evening on the topic, “Insights into the Mechanism of HIV-1 Assembly and Genome Packaging.”

Wide-ranging workshops were offered Saturday morning in the Departments of Physics, Biology, and Chemistry/Biochemistry, on the UA campus.

Undergraduate students competed with oral presentations and poster presentations in the categories of biology, physics, and chemistry/biochemistry. The award winners in all categories are listed here: [http://chemistry.uark.edu/INBRE/3642.htm](http://chemistry.uark.edu/INBRE/3642.htm).

Arkansas INBRE is funded by a grant from the National Institute of General Medical Sciences, under the Institutional Development Award (IDeA) program of the National Institutes of Health. This conference precedes the 2013 Southeast Regional IDeA Meeting, which will be hosted by the Arkansas INBRE and COBREs, Nov. 15-17 at the Little Rock Marriott and the William J. Clinton Presidential Center in Little Rock.

The 2014 Arkansas INBRE conference is scheduled for November 7-8, 2014, in Fayetteville. As available, further updates will be posted on the site: [http://chemistry.uark.edu/INBRE/3642.htm](http://chemistry.uark.edu/INBRE/3642.htm).
Faculty News

On the Go

Gopa Mandal attended the 246th American Chemical Society National Meeting & Exposition in Indianapolis, IN, September 8-12 and presented a poster “Optical properties and advanced bioimaging applications of copper-indium-chalcogenide quantum dots at the ensemble and single particle level.” Gopa’s advisor is Dr. Colin D. Heyes.


Samir Jenkins presented a poster at the ACS regional meeting in Springfield, MO on Oct. 16. “Monitoring Nanoparticle Aggregation in Complex Biological Environments” by Samir V. Jenkins, Yongbin Zhang, and Jingyi Chen.


Publications


Achievements

Suresh Kumar has been appointed to the Editorial Board of the Journal of Biological Chemistry (JBC), an official Journal of the American Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology. JBC is one of the prestigious journals in the area of Biochemistry & Molecular Biology. His appointment, as the Editorial Board Member of JBC, is for 5 years and 3 months, starting from July 1, 2014.

Joshua Sakon will be teaching a new course in the spring of 2014. The Honors College has provided seed funding for seven new interdisciplinary courses on topics ranging from opera, nations and empires, to gastronomy. The Honors College has been kick-starting interdisciplinary inquiry since 2006. To date, the Honors College has helped to develop 30 interdisciplinary courses with more than $500,000 in start-up funding. Dr. Sakon and Dr. Yajane Wang, food science, will be teaching the course: Molecular Gastronomy. This course will explore new cooking approaches pioneered by the molecular gastronomy movement, which encourages the use of scientific methods and equipment in the kitchen. Working with a variety of foods—breads, meringues, steaks, jams, and cheeses—students will study the chemical and biochemical reactions that take place in the kitchen and embrace new cooking techniques based on the fundamental principles of chemistry.
Students Admitted to Candidacy

Five students have passed their seventh cume and are now admitted to candidacy.

Lin Chen, from Qingdao, China, entered the program in the fall of 2012. Lin received his BS degree from Inner Mongolia University in 2009, and his MS degree from Texas A&M University-Commerce in 2012. His advisor is Matt McIntosh.

Jonathan Moldenhauer is from Stuttgart, AR. He entered the program in the Fall of 2012 and is advised by David Paul. Jonathan got his BS degree in 2012 from Valparaiso University.

Dharma Theja Nannapaneni, from Quntur District, India, entered the program in the fall of 2011. He received his undergraduate BS degree from Nagarjuna University in 2004 and his MS degree from Anna Malai University in 2005. Dharma’s advisor is Matt McIntosh.

Marlena Patrick is from Jefferson, TX. She entered the program in the fall of 2012 and is advised by David Paul. Marlena received her BS degree from The University of Louisiana Monroe in 2012.

Thad Vasicek, from Tulsa, OK, entered the program in the summer of 2012. He received his BS from the University of Arkansas in 2010. He is advised by Julie Stenken.

Wilkins Honored with Symposium

At the SciX 2013 meeting, Charles Wilkins presented a paper, “Hyphenated Instrumentation: Developments to Date and Future Prospects” in a 5-person Award Symposium, that included as speakers two of the previous winners of this award, Gary Hieftje (Indiana University, 1985) and Alan Marshall (Florida State University, 1990). In addition, Peter Griffiths (University of Idaho) and William Heineman (University of Cincinnati) also presented papers. The Symposium was titled “ACS Analytical Chemistry Division Award in Chemical Instrumentation Honoring Charles Wilkins.”

Thesis Defense

Carrie Snyder successfully defended her MS Thesis “Developing a Presumptive Test for Select Synthetic Cannabinoids” September 18. Her advisor is Bill Durham.

Fall ACS Meeting

Attending the Fall National ACS Meeting in Indianapolis September 8-12 were from left to right: Gopa Mandal, Colin Heyes, Colette Robin-son, and Nan Zheng. Gopa and Dr. Heyes both presented research.
Safety Tip: by Bill Durham

Perchlorate salts have a well-deserved reputation for being unpredictable explosives. Avoid using them when possible and exercise extreme care if you must. Do not, under any circumstances, mix them with other hazardous waste.

Calendar of Events

November
4 Seminar, Jill Venton, University of Virginia, 3:15 p.m., CHEM 144
4-15 Priority registration for currently enrolled students
8 CUME, 5-6 p.m., CHEM 144
10 Seminar, Shing Ho, Colorado State University, 3:15 p.m., CHEM 144
27 Thanksgiving Break (academic holiday, administrative offices will be open)
28-29 Thanksgiving holiday (offices closed)

Library Hours

CHBC Library (CHEM 225)
http://libinfo.uark.edu/chemistry
575-2557

Fall Semester Hours: August 26—December 19
Monday—Thursday 8 a.m.—9 p.m.
Friday 8 a.m.—6 p.m.
Saturday—Sunday Closed

The department of chemistry and biochemistry at the University of Arkansas strives for excellence in research, teaching and service in chemistry - the central science. We aspire to positions of leadership regarding the discovery of new scientific knowledge, the training of students, and the economic development of the State of Arkansas. We seek to recruit and retain a diverse group of the best faculty, students and staff to address the challenges of the future through interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary research and education.