

# The Edge



Volume 3, Issue 2

Winter 2008/2009

## Alumni Spotlight on Erin Goldblatt

## In this Issue



Erin Goldblatt, Ph.D., a recent graduate, completed her Ph.D. in Medical and Molecular Genetics in October 2008 under the mentorship of Dr. Brittney-Shea Herbert. As a student Erin received many awards: Best Poster Award – Graduate Student Category, IU Melvin & Bren Simon Cancer Center Research Day, 2007; AAAS/Science Program for Excellence in Science, 2006; Indiana University School of Medicine (IUSM) Graduate Fellowship in Translational Research, 2006; IUSM Graduate Student Aging Fellowship, 2006; and an IUPUI Graduate Student Honors Fellowship, 2004.

While at IUSM, Erin published the following, with two more publications in preparation for submission.

1. Hochreiter AE, Xiao H, Goldblatt EM, Gryaznov SM, Miller K, Badve S, Sledge G, and Herbert B-S. The telomerase template antagonist GRN163L disrupts telomere maintenance, tumor growth and metastasis of breast cancer. *Clinical Cancer Research* 2006; 12: 3184-3192.

2. Gomez-Milan J, Goldblatt EM, Gryaznov SM, Mendonca MS, and Herbert B-S. Specific Telomere Dysfunction Induced by GRN163L Increases Radiation Sensitivity in Breast Cancer Cells. *Int. J. Radiation Oncology Biol. Phys.* 2007; 67: 897-905.
3. Goldblatt EM, Erickson PA, Gentry ER, Gryaznov SM, and Herbert B-S. Lipid-conjugated telomerase template antagonists sensitize resistant HER2-positive breast cancer cells to trastuzumab. Accepted to *Breast Cancer Research and Treatment* 2008.
4. Herbert B-S, Goldblatt EM. Therapeutic targets and drugs- Telomerase: Telomerase inhibitors including telomerase associated protein inhibitors. In *Cancer Drug Discovery and Development: Telomeres and Telomerase in Cancer*. Humana Press, Springer Science and Business Media, New York, NY (In press).

Erin is currently a postdoctoral fellow at University of California Irvine under Dr. Wen-Hwa Lee, working on novel Rad51 inhibitors in acute myelogenous leukemia (AML) and Hec1 inhibitors in breast cancer.

*Congratulations Erin!*

Alumni  
Spotlight  
page 1

Resources  
for Current  
Students  
page 2

Faculty  
Spotlight  
page 2

Faculty  
Spotlight Cont.  
page 3

Calendar  
of Events  
page 3

## Reminder

# Resources for Current Students

January 15th  
is the  
Application  
Deadline

### Help Greet Prospective IBMG Students During the 2009 Campus Visits

Consider volunteering for the IBMG Campus Visit Weekends held January 22<sup>nd</sup> through 24<sup>th</sup> and February 19<sup>th</sup> through 21<sup>st</sup>. This is your opportunity to share what it is like to be a graduate school at the IU School of Medicine. If you are interested in volunteering for either weekend please complete the participation form through Survey Monkey at:

[http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=DBoMGZMKgPICj1JobtmSRA\\_3d\\_3d](http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=DBoMGZMKgPICj1JobtmSRA_3d_3d)  
prior to January 5<sup>th</sup>, 2009.

Before volunteering for any event outside of the lab always check with your mentor.

<http://www.iupui.edu/~gradoff/students/> (scroll to the bottom of the page). And when the time comes to defend, don't forget to submit your defense announcement AT LEAST 30 days prior to your defense to the IUSM Graduate Division, MS 207.

### Forms, Forms, Forms

Wondering why so many forms? This is our way to ensure that you are progressing through the IBMG Program smoothly and to protect you from the pitfalls of graduate school. We want to make sure that you are making informed decisions on rotations and your coursework, and that you are getting the information you need to successfully map your career.

### Light at the End of the Tunnel

Is it that time? Time to start hammering out your thesis or dissertation? Don't forget to download the Indiana University Graduate School's *A Guide To The Preparation of Thesis and Dissertations* from the IUPUI Graduate Office website at



Wondering where you left your Mentor Agreement form, Rotation Request form, or one of the many other forms? See <http://grad.medicine.iu.edu/gradforms> to download most all of the forms you will need.

## 10 Ph.D. Programs

Anatomy &  
Cell Biology

Biochemistry  
& Molecular  
Biology

Cellular &  
Integrative  
Physiology

Medical &  
Molecular  
Genetics

Medical  
Biophysics &  
Biomolecular  
Imaging

Medical  
Neuroscience

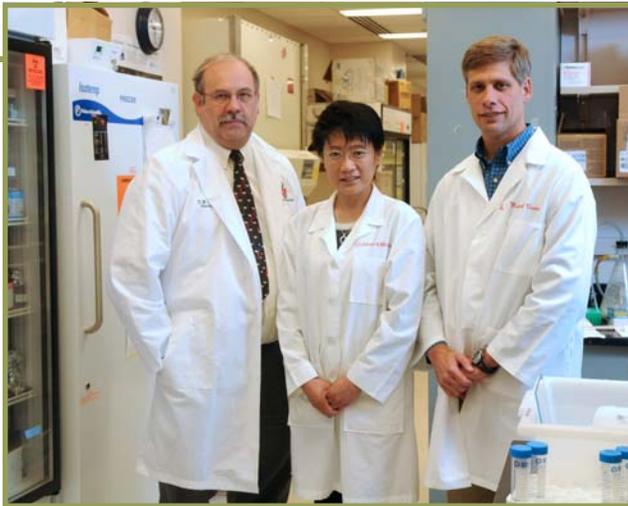
Microbiology  
& Immunology

Pathology &  
Laboratory  
Medicine

Pharmacology

Toxicology

## Potential Treatment for Neurofibromatosis



Dr. D. Wade Clapp, Freida and Albrecht Kipp Professor of Pediatrics at the IUSM leads a team of researchers conducting a phase 2 clinical trial on patients with plexiform neurofibromas using the anti-cancer drug Gleevec. Plexiform neurofibromas affects nearly half of those diagnosed with neurofibromatosis. The tumors can greatly impair a patient's life and can be fatal.

Gleevec was successfully used in a "compassionate use" case on a critically ill three-year old girl at Riley Hospital for Children in Indianapolis. The little girl's tumor was reduced by about 80 percent. As a result she was removed from treatment and is now being followed.

The research team includes Dr. Feng-Chun Yang, assistant professor of pediatrics, Dr. David A. Ingram Jr., associate professor of pediatrics, and Luis F. Parada, professor of developmental biology at the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center.

The research leading to the clinical trial was funded by the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke and the National Cancer Institute as well as the Department of Defense and the Riley Children's Foundation.

For more information [click here](#).

# Clinical Trial for Ovarian Cancer Patients

Dr. Daniela Matei, M.D., associate professor of medicine at the Indiana University School of Medicine and Dr. Kenneth Nephew, Ph.D., professor of medical science, cellular and integrative physiology, and obstetrics and gynecology, both researchers with the IU Simon Cancer Center, will lead a new novel phase 2



clinical trial sponsored by the National Cancer Institute. The goal of the clinical trial is to reverse the resistance to carboplatin in ovarian cancer patients. Carboplatin is the most common drug for treating recurrent ovarian cancer.

This past spring Dr. Matei accepted an IBMG Student, Liyun Cao, to her laboratory as a Biochemistry and Molecular Biology doctoral student.

View [more information](#) on the clinical trial.

## Associate Dean for Diversity Affairs Named

Indiana University School of Medicine recently named George Rausch, Ed.D. associate dean for diversity affairs. Dr. Rausch will be coming to us from his current position as associate dean of multicultural affairs at Saint Louis University School of Medicine to direct diversity affairs at Indiana University School of Medicine.

to increase diversity in medical education will be a great asset to the school.

For additional Information [click here](#).



Dr. Rausch's experience in founding and implementing many programs and initiatives

## Calendar of Events

January 12	Classes Resume Rotation 2 Begins
January 15	IBMG Program for Ph.D. Study Application Deadline
January 19	Martin Luther King, Jr. Day No classes
January 22-24	Campus Visits for selected IBMG Prospective Students
February 19-21	Campus Visits for selected IBMG Prospective Students
February 20	IBMG Rotation 3 Request Form Due

*Enjoy your  
break, and  
please be safe!*



*Research. Discover. Done.*

# Message from the Director

**C**ongratulations to the IBMG students for making it through their first semester in graduate school! This is always a challenging time: keeping up with the reading required for classes and rotations, studying, spending hours and hours in the lab trying to impress your potential mentor and other lab mates, studying, gathering as much information about the graduate programs as you can to help you make your program selection decision in May, and more studying!

Now is the time to catch your breath! The break between the fall and spring semester is your chance to spend a little time decompressing [oh and preparing for spring rotations and classes]. So curl up with a good book and hot chocolate and enjoy!



*Fall 2008 Incoming Class*



*Monica Henry*

Monica Henry  
Program Director  
IBMG Program



<http://grad.medicine.iu.edu>

Medical Science Building Room 207  
635 North Barnhill Drive  
Indianapolis, Indiana 46202-5120, USA

Graduate Division

SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

INDIANA UNIVERSITY

