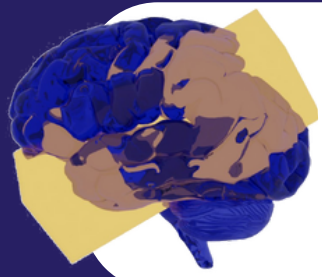
ngp stuco newsletter

FEB 2024



main topic this week...

Sign up for Visitation Fridays
NGP is hosting the GSBS Games Night on Wednesday, February 7th!

the links

Neuroscience Program

Master Doc

Slack

Twitter

games night!

Hosted by Neuro

February 7, 5-8PM

BSRB Commons

Join us for Pizza, Board Games, and Camaraderie with other programs!

save the dates!

Feb 2: Visitation Day! Sign up for Lunch or FAC here
Feb 7: Neuro-hosted GSBS Games Gathering, BSRB Commons, 5-8pm
Feb 12: Faculty Speaker Series: Dr Eunhee Kim, **MSB B.605**, 11AM
Feb 16: Visitation Day! Sign up for Lunch or FAC here
Feb 19: WIP: Andy Delgado, MSB B.645, 11AM
Feb 26: WIP: Madison Shyer, MSB B.645, 11AM

room change!

spring symposium

Vote Here

For our Keynote Speaker

Friday, May 3, 2024

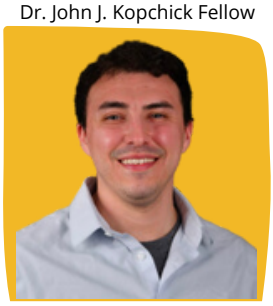
judging opportunities

Post-candidacy students are invited to sign up as a student judge for WIPs!
Pre-candidacy students interested in getting experience judging are also welcome to participate

neuro takes kopchick!

meet the newest fellows

Stephen Farmer
Dr. John J. Kopchick Fellow



My research investigates the role of Huntingtin (HTT) in endolysosomal trafficking and Huntington's disease (HD) pathogenesis, using fruit fly genetics, structural bioinformatics, and super-resolution imaging. Given that endolysosomal trafficking is a common mechanism disrupted in neurodegenerative diseases, including HD, and considering HTT's conservation in fruit flies, we are in a strong position to identify promising therapeutic targets for HD. Outside the lab, I enjoy spending time with my fiancé and our two rabbits. For those considering applying for a Kopchick Fellowship, my advice is to demonstrate a clear scientific vision, and a genuine curiosity to ask and address questions that will advance our knowledge and understanding of disease.

Bridgitte Palacios
Dr. John J. Kopchick Fellow

My research area focuses on neurodegeneration and translational science, specifically for Leigh Syndrome subtypes, a rare pediatric neurometabolic degenerative disease. Currently, I have generated a novel genetic mouse model to help mechanistically understand LSFC demyelination and potentiate therapeutic approaches for patients. In my spare time, I like to go to museums, play board games, try new restaurants, go out dancing with friends, and watch scary movies. If you're planning to apply for the Kopchick, make sure to highlight any outreach, leadership roles, or GSBS extracurricular activities that you do outside of lab. I think it's important for them to see that you're a well-rounded candidate outside of your research too.

Chrystine Gallegos
Dr. John J. Kopchick Fellow

Neurons in the dorsal root ganglion (DRG) become hyperexcitable in pain states, such as after spinal cord injury. My project examines how satellite glial cells (SGCs), support cells which wrap around neuron cell bodies, in the DRG become activated after spinal cord injury and release neuroactive signaling molecules, causing increased excitability of DRG neurons. Outside of the lab, I enjoy cooking, baking, and traveling, and especially hanging out with my family and friends. I also have a three-legged dog named Dobby, and we love going on walks and learning new tricks. I highly recommend keeping figures for your project updated and as complete as possible (design, stats, etc) so you can easily put together project reports for applications (or slides for talks). It's also helpful to keep your CV/Biosketch updated, because it's so easy to forget things you've done that are relevant and help your application!

Kenzie Peshoff
Charlene Kopchick Fellow

My project focuses on the role of TREM2+ microglia in glioblastoma. TREM2 is a well-known neuroimmune regulator, but its function in brain tumors is unclear. Using mouse models and human glioma samples, my goal is to determine if activating the TREM2 pathway helps microglia engulf and kill cancer cells. Outside of the lab, I'm an amateur pastry chef. I'm also a doting cat mom to an orange tabby named Citrus. My advice is to update your CV proactively. Each time you give a presentation, add it before you forget it. You may not think one poster session is that important, but they add up to show the reviewers you are active in both research and the GSBS community.

snaps 👍🏻

Did someone go above and beyond? Did you get an award? Fill out this form, and we will highlight your snaps, big or small!

Snaps to...

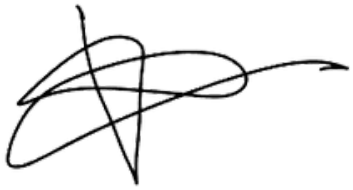
- 👍🏻 **Sumayyah Khan** (Advisor: Valentin Dragoi, PhD) for passing her candidacy exam! Congratulations, Sumayyah!
- 👍🏻 **Dounya Jalloul** (Advisor: Michael Beierlein, PhD) for passing her candidacy exam! Great job, Dounya!
- 👍🏻 **Kiersten Scott** (Advisor: Akihiko Urayama, PhD) for receiving the AHA Pre-doctoral Fellowship! This award provides two years of external funding. We are proud of you, Kiersten!

kartik's korner

The Spring semester in now fully underway. That means — ***VISITATION WEEKENDS***! The neuroscience program has an internal admissions committee comprised of Drs. Morales, Chauhan, Kim, and Zhang. Our representatives at the GSBS admissions committee are Drs. Cao and Urayama. I would like to thank these faculty members for their hard work, and for helping the program continue recruiting the best students! I would also like to thank all the students who volunteer to serve as guides during the visitations.

As you all know, GSBS organizes student networking events during visitations. On the Thursday before visitation, students are invited to attend dinner with the recruits at a local restaurant. In addition, Friday afternoon clubs (FACs) are held on the day of visitation at GSBS. ***I encourage all the program students to attend these events!*** Often times, decisions about which program to join comes down to the interactions of the candidates with the students currently enrolled in the program.

Last, but certainly not least, many neuroscience students have received awards from GSBS and extramural funding sources. Congrats to all the recipients!



- Kartik Venkatachalam, PhD