A MESSAGE FROM THE EDITOR
Welcome to a new academic year! I can't believe that Thanksgiving is just around the corner. There are many things going on in the department. The OB seminar series coordinated by Dr. Bernadett Papp is a testament of the outstanding work performed by graduate students, postdocs, and faculty. In the Spring semester, we will welcome a new faculty, Dr. Nadeem Khan (https://und.edu/directory/nadeem.khan), whose research focuses on pulmonary responses to bacterial and viral infections. In addition, a search for a new Oral Biology department chair is under way. The beauty of academic departments is that they are organic and fluid, therefore, change is inevitable and we have to embrace it. The excitement of the uncertainty and the injection of new ideas are important reasons many of us are doing this. I am looking forward to a great 2021-2022 academic year. This 4th issue of OB news summarizes the past three months of many accomplishments and successes of students, research fellows, and faculty in the department. Please begin collecting your news for the Winter quarter (February 2022). If you have any suggestion in how to improve this communication email me your thoughts to LMartinez@dental.ufl.edu. Thank you very much for your support. Have a wonderful and productive end of the semester!

NEWS FROM THE OB OFFICE STAFF
Dear Oral Biology,
The past few months have been rather hectic for us all. The new hire page portrays that the labs are consistently ramping up. The staff continue to process fiscal, human resources and administrative tasks. This demonstrates that Oral Biology is forging ahead.

Hoping the next few months brings calm seas and beautiful sunsets to everyone.

Best,
Valarie, Misty, Denise

NEW MEMBERS

Amber Hartley is a lab assistant in the Lemos-Abranches lab.

Heba El-Ahmad is a DMD/PhD student.
Kyra Martin is a DMD/PhD student.

Nicolle de Mello Fiallos is an exchange graduate student from Brazil working in the Lemos-Abranches lab.

Brooke Ritchie is a lab assistant in the Lemos-Abranches lab.

Claudia Charles-Niño is a post-doc in the Martinez lab.
Shivani Dave is a technician in the Martinez lab.

Vanessa Enriquez-Berumen is a post-doc in the Martinez lab.

Richard Ong is dental student in the 2021 UFCD Summer Research Program in the Papp lab.

Reza Vaziri is a technician in the Papp lab.

**NEWS FROM THE STUDENTS**

Lemos-Abranches
Kyra Martin (1st year DMD/PhD student) won the Summer Research Competition and will represent UFCD in SCADA competition at the 2022 IADR/AADOCR conference in Atlanta, GA.

Martinez
Mark Fischer (1st year DDS student) presented in the UFCD’s Summer Research Competition.

Papp
Natalie Atyeo (DMD-PhD candidate, F30 fellow) and Dr. Papp attended the virtual 2021 IADR dental research conference in July. Natalie gave an oral presentation entitled “Oral herpesvirus infection induces FOXQ1, a novel lytic cycle promoter”. Natalie was selected to compete in the prestigious 2021 IADR Hatton competition in basic science category, where she competed and was awarded with the 1st place in the North-American Division. She continued onto the 2021 IADR International Hatton competition, where she was awarded with 1st place in the worldwide research competition.

Natalie was among the eight recipients of the 2021 AADR Student Research Fellowship.

Natalie presented on the 2021 NIDCR Trainee Day in July and the 2021 International Herpesvirus Workshop in August 2021.
Toth
Seung Jin (James) Jang (DMD-PhD student) won 3rd place on Student Competition for Advancing Dental Research and its Application with his research presentation at AADR 2021. The title of his talk: Gene regulatory mechanisms of viral interferon regulatory factor 1.

Lauren Roberts Combs (PhD student) had an oral presentation on the 45th Annual International Herpesvirus Workshop (August 02-06, 2021). The title of the talk: KSHV RTA degrades host factor ID2, a negative regulator of basic helix-loop-helix transcription factors, to promote KSHV lytic cycle.

Lauren McKenzie Spires (PhD student) was co-author on a poster presented on the 45th Annual International Herpesvirus Workshop (August 02-06, 2021). Lauren R. Combs, Lauren McKenzie Spires, and Zsolt Toth: KSHV RTA degrades host factor ID2, a negative regulator of basic helix-loop-helix transcription factors, to promote KSHV lytic cycle.

See-Chi Lee (PhD student) had an oral presentation on the 45th Annual International Herpesvirus Workshop (August 02-06, 2021). The title of the talk: Identification of a PRC1-independent role of RYBP in the establishment of KSHV latency.

See-Chi Lee (PhD student) received a Merit-Based Award from the 45th Annual International Herpesvirus Workshop Organizing Committee based on her submitted abstract to the international conference.

Congratulations to all the students Passing the Qualifying Exam:
See-Chi Lee (September 1, 2021)
Lauren McKenzie Spires (September 15, 2021)
Seung Jin (James) Jang (September 20, 2021)

Zheng
Zachary Taylor joined the lab as a second year BMS student (MSI concentration).

**The 1st Rotation Presentations for the Immunology and Microbiology concentration were held on October 21st, 2021.**

**NEWS FROM THE RESEARCH FELLOWS**

**Gibson**
Dr. Fernanda Rocha gave an oral presentation and Co-Chaired a session at the 2021 IADR/AADOCR/CADR General Session held virtually – July 21-24! Congratulations Fernanda!

**Lemos-Abranches**
Dr. Jessica Kajfasz co-authored a study published in Infection and Immunity.

**Martinez**
Dr. Vanessa Enriquez-Berumen is supported by the UFCD’s Comprehensive Training Program in Oral Biology (NIH NIDCR Award # T90DE021990/R90DE022530).

**Toth**
Dr. Abhishek Kumar had a poster presentation on the 45th Annual International Herpesvirus Workshop (August 02-06, 2021). The title of the poster was “Lytic reactivation of KSHV requires host epigenetic factors counteracting Polycomb-mediated gene silencing”

**NEWS FROM THE FACULTY**

**Brady**
Chan

Culp
Dr. David Culp retired in July 2021. He was an outstanding colleague, fantastic lecturer, and a great coordinator of the UFCD DMD-PhD. We wish him to have a comfortable and wonderful retirement, full of golf courses and countless memories with his family.

Davey


Frias-Lopez
New NIH funding in collaboration with Dr. Gibson! The proposal is entitled: A novel mechanism of virulence control in Porphyromonas gingivalis (7/2021 - 6/2026). Principal Investigators: Jorge Frias-Lopez, Frank Gibson. NIH/NIDCR Grant Number: 2R01DE021553-05A1, $3,677,164
Colgate-Palmolive Grant, $97,121, The effect of 3 antibiofilm compounds on the metatranscriptome of the oral microbiome.


**Gibson**

Two new 5-year Multi-PI R01s! Congratulations!

DE031159-01: Microbial sphingolipids and suppression of host inflammation in periodontal disease (Gibson/Davey - MPI); ~$2 Million direct costs (NIDCR)

DE029775-01A1: A novel mechanism of virulence control in Porphyromonas gingivalis (Frias-Lopez/Gibson - MPI); ~$2.4 Million direct costs (NIDCR)

New role as member of Editorial Boards for the Journal of Dental Research and the Journal of Oral Microbiology

New administrative role: UFCD DMD-PhD Coordinator


**Lemos-Abranches**
Congratulations to Dr. Jacqueline Abranches who was promoted to Associate Professor with tenure.

New Funding:
NIH/NIDCR T90 DE021990 – Comprehensive Training Program in Oral Biology (PD: Lemos JA) 07/01/21- 06/30/26

NIH/NIDCR R90 DE022530 – Comprehensive Training Program in Oral Biology (PD: Lemos JA) 07/01/21- 06/30/26

Corporate (Vaxcyte, Inc.) – Vaccine Evaluation to Prevent Root Canal Failure (PI: Lemos JA) 06/01/2021-05/31/2022

NIH/NIDCR DE022559-09S1 - Career development supplement entitled “Association of CBP+ Streptococcus mutans with root caries in older adults” for Dr. Bruna Garcia (PI: Abranches J, Lemos JA) 09/01/2021-08/31/20

Dr. Jose Lemos presented “The Two Faces of Zinc in Streptococcus mutans Pathophysiology” at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.


Martinez
Dr. Martinez wrote a spotlight profile in the ASM website to celebrate the Black in Micro
week. A Black Woman’s Journey in Microbiology: A Spotlight on Dr. Aisha Burton.  
https://asm.org/Articles/2021/October/A-Black-Woman-s-Journey-in-Microbiology-A-
Spotligh

Dr. Martinez participated of the ASM 2021 Hill day and advocated for funding and
opportunities for underrepresented minorities by meeting with policy makers at the
federal level.

He also presented in the journal club at the UF College of Veterinary Medicine.

Pires RH, Martinez LR, Mendes-Giannini MJS, Resende MA. 2021. Editorial:  
Pathogenesis of fungal biofilms in different environmental conditions and clinical

dysregulation of the central nervous system and peripheral immunity. J Pharmacol Exp
Ther. In Press.  
https://jpet.aspetjournals.org/content/early/2021/09/17/jpet.121.000767.long

Costa-Orlandi CB, Martinez LR, Bila NM, Friedman J, Friedman AJ, Mendes-Giannini
MJS, Nosanchuk JD. 2021. Nitric oxide-releasing nanoparticles are similar to
efinaconazole in their capacity to eradicate Trichophyton rubrum biofilms. Front Cell
Infect Microbiol. 11: 684150.  

**Papp**

Dr. Papp presented on the 23rd International Workshop on Kaposi's Sarcoma
**Progulske-Fox**

Dr. Progulske-Fox co-authored a research article published in collaboration with Dr. Davey’s lab in Frontiers in Oral Health.

**Toth**

Dr. Zsolt Toth spoke at the 23rd International Workshop on Kaposi’s Sarcoma herpesvirus (KSHV) and Related Agents. The title of his talk was “RYBP is recruited to the KSHV genome in PRC1-independent manner and represses lytic genes during primary infection”.

**Zeng**