

**Congratulations!** Calley Hirsch, postdoc in Sharon Dent's lab, has been selected for an Odyssey Program Fellowship Award, which begins September 1, 2009.



## Farewell to Miles Wilkinson



Miles Wilkinson was a part of M. D. Anderson from 1994 to 2009. He transferred to the Biochemistry & Molecular Biology Department in 2006. He has now moved on to the University of California, San Diego, where he will continue his research on gene regulation, RNAi, microRNAs, stem cells and reproductive biology.

Anilkumar Bettegowda, Rachid Karam, Lulu Huang and Hye-Won Song will

be joining him in his new lab. Jayanthi Gudicote, Anjana Bhardwaj, Tao Peng and Xiaodi Hu have moved to other labs.

Recent e-mail from Miles:

*We finished getting our apartment in order yesterday and Robert is doing a great job of organizing the lab.*

Miles Wilkinson  
University of California, San Diego  
9500 Gilman Drive, MC 0864  
La Jolla, CA 92093-0864

## Welcome to your websites

A few months ago, M. D. Anderson rolled out the new institutional website. This was not only a cosmetic update, but a complete overhaul of the construction of the thousands of pages into a simpler, clearer hierarchy. Research in general, and basic science research specifically, has a much higher profile. The Department of Biochemistry & Molecular Biology home page is literally three clicks from the M. D. Anderson home page!



Changes this large and this long in coming were bound to come with glitches. But the big issues have been ironed out, and constant updating and upgrading are a plus with websites. Leisa McCord is the department internet editor/coordinator, and her short-term goals for the BMB website are twofold. First, she will link it to as many new lab sites and center sites as quickly as possible. Second, she plans to add a rotating series of photos and blurbs announcing accomplishments by our department members. For the first goal, she is working on one of many new linked sites, the Center for Stem Cell and Developmental Biology, and hopes to start more very soon. Initial information has been sent to faculty members on how to begin the process of getting a lab site. For the second goal, she is working on being a better "reporter," but needs help from everyone. **Please, toot your own horn!** If you have a publication, an award or other accomplishment, email her about it. Or get someone else to do it on your behalf. Don't be shy; every accomplishment we publicize makes the whole department look good.

**Do you have news?**  
**Tell Leisa McCord**  
**lmccord@mdanderson.org**

## Computers



The Olympus Confocal Workstation has the SPSS statistical program installed. This computer can handle large datasets due to its processing speed.

## Fire Safety



Lab Coordination Members and several interested Administrative Staff members were trained in April 2009 to operate the Fire Extinguishers.

The FY10 Dept. of Biochemistry & Molecular Biology's Emergency Plan will be distributed at the next Departmental Townhall Meeting.

Until then remember that...

Fire extinguishers and red fire alarm pull stations are located near each floor's elevators and the NN and MM stairwells. On odd-numbered research floors, additional fire extinguishers are positioned midway down both major hallways near the eyewash stations.

### If a fire alarm sounds and a strobe is flashing...

- Immediately proceed to the NN or MM Fire Stairwells that run the length of the building. Do not use interstitial floor stairs.
- If fire or smoke IS present, proceed into the stairwells and evacuate to the 1st floor. Do not use the elevators or exit onto the 3rd or 4th floors, continue down the stairs to exit the building using the 1st floor doors.
- If the fire or smoke is not apparent, wait at the NN or MM stairwell doors. Do NOT keep stairwell doors open. The stairwells are pressurized to keep smoke out and retain oxygen flow into the stairwells. Follow the directions of the Intercom — Monitoring Services or Fire Safety personnel.

### The activity of the fire alarms and strobe means...

- *Alarm sounding and strobe flashing*  
Cause is being determined  
Evacuate if necessary
- *Alarm sound deactivated but strobe still flashing*  
Cause has been found  
Evacuation not likely but remain alert
- *Alarm sound deactivated, strobe still flashing but intercom announces return to normal operations*  
Cause found and under investigation  
Evacuation not necessary

- *Alarm and strobe deactivated and intercom announces return to normal operations or just turns off without announcement*  
False alarm  
Intercom "All Clear" announced

When using a Fire Extinguisher, remember the PASS acronym:

- P = Pull pin breaking plastic seal
- A = Aim at base of fire
- S = Squeeze handles together
- S = Sweep from side to side

## Radiation Safety



When using radioactive or biohazardous chemicals, avoid touching items considered "universally clean" such as a computer mouse, microscopes or door handle with contaminated gloves!

Research labs using Radiation must provide Radiation Wipe Tests to EH&S for doors leading to and from a Radiation room as well the Radiation Room counters, XRAY Room counters and counters near the Scintillation Instrument.

## Heavy Rain



If a tropical storm or hurricane is forecast for Houston, building entrances are blocked by metal flood gates. The BSRB front door gate limits access to the building through the Commons doors. During after hours or weekends, personnel must enter using either the 3rd or 4th floor Alkek Hospital crosswalks.

## Microscopy



Confocal users can now upload image files to a new MDACC server and then download their image files to their desk computer or external drive for "long-term" storage. The server storage is for "short-term" storage due to limited space and is restricted to microscopic images.

## Hurricane Season



**June 1 to November 30**

It is time to be reminded that we should be prepared for a hurricane in the Houston area. If a hurricane nears Houston, employees should call the Ring line [713-792-RING (7464)] or check <http://www.mdanderson.org/employeealert/>.

Once a hurricane closure is announced, an e-mail alert will be sent with information on how employees should prepare their work areas. Often, a hurricane changes directions; we may only have 24-48 hours notice of a closure. Each lab should have a plan to secure their area as well as a means of communicating with other lab members if a hurricane does strike Houston. A lab plan should at minimum take into account the following procedures. All notebooks and important computer files should be stored in drawers away from the windows. Computers and equipment should be turned off, removed from areas near windows, and covered with plastic. In addition, employees should pull down window screens to decrease potential damage from flying glass. All -80°C freezers should be on emergency power. Fill portable Liquid N2 tanks. Close all doors.

### Be Prepared

Pick up a Hurricane Tracking Chart prepared by local TV Channels at Krogers, Randalls or HEB. Texas Department of Transportation's website contains evacuation routes. KHOU has a page with internet links to important hurricane-related topics.

<http://www.khou.com/weather/hurricanecentral/>

### Remember your personal Hurricane Plan should include:

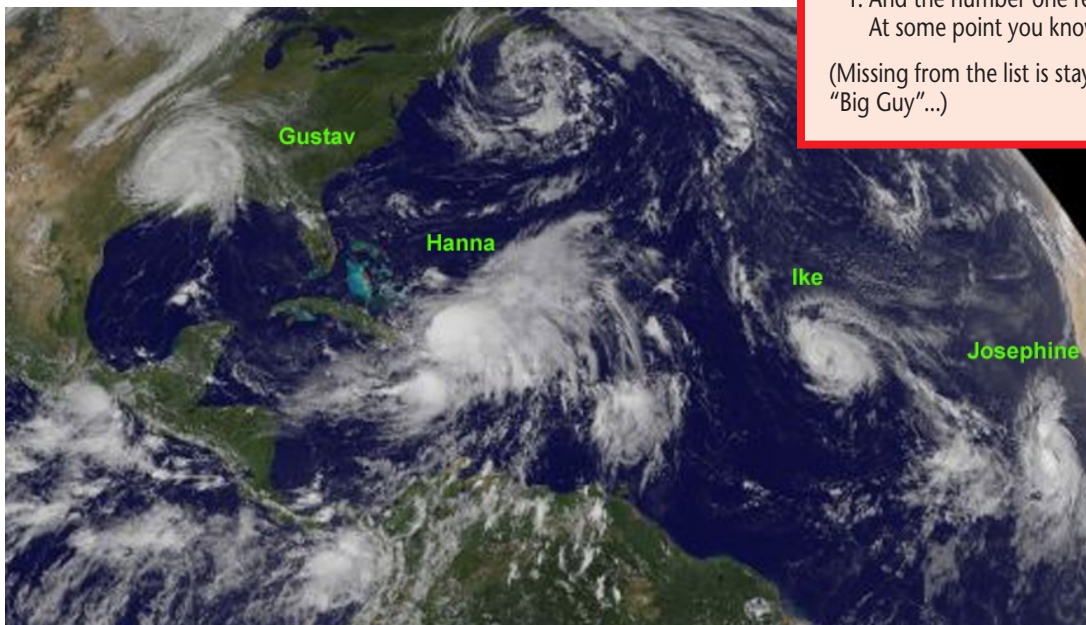
1. Purchase recommended emergency supplies located in the Hurricane Tracking Charts. The following is a website that has a recommended list of items that all folks should have if they are going to ride out the storm in their home.  
[http://www.khou.com/news/local/galveston/stories/khou070514\\_mh\\_emergencykit.6b759d6b.html](http://www.khou.com/news/local/galveston/stories/khou070514_mh_emergencykit.6b759d6b.html)
2. Ensure pets have updated shot records and storage crates.
3. Check all battery-powered televisions, radios, cell phones and flashlights. Make sure they are working and you have extra batteries or battery-operated chargers for them.
4. Move outside objects inside: lawn furniture, garbage cans, bicycles, etc.
5. Board or tape windows.
6. Anchor mobile homes appropriately.
7. Fill your automobile with gas; check oil and battery.
8. Have cash available.
9. If evacuation is necessary, take non-perishable food and drinking water along.
10. NEVER attempt to cross swollen streams, rivers or underpasses.

*Just a touch of Hurricane Humor*

#### Ten Reasons why Hurricane Season is Like Christmas:

10. Decorating the house (boarding up windows)
9. Dragging out boxes that haven't been used since last season (camping gear, flashlights)
8. Last minute shopping in crowded stores.
7. Regular TV shows pre-empted for "specials".
6. Family coming to stay with you.
5. Family and friends from out-of-state calling.
4. Buying food you don't normally buy ... and in large quantities.
3. Days off from work.
2. Candles.
1. And the number one reason Hurricane Season is like Christmas:  
At some point you know you're going to have a tree in your house!

(Missing from the list is staying up all night waiting for the arrival of the "Big Guy"...)



Credit: NASA/NOAA GOES Project