

Bill Klein: 10 Years of Service as Chair of BMB, 1998-2008

To mark a decade of Dr. William Klein's leadership as chair of BMB, the departmental faculty held a surprise party for Dr. Klein at the home of Drs. Deepthi and Miles Wilkinson on April 3, 2008. Dr. Klein arrived, expecting a quiet dinner, to find a house full of celebrants, including special guest and former chair of the department, Dr. Eric Olson. Dr. Andreas Bergmann worked hard, with the indispensable collaboration of Ms. Ruth Klein, to organize the celebration and maintain a cloak of secrecy prior to the event.

At the party, Dr. Bergmann highlighted some of the hallmarks of Dr. Klein's career and life with a slide show. Dr. Sharon Dent offered an inspired, Top Ten countdown of Dr. Klein's contributions to BMB as chair for ten years. Finally, Dr. Olson gave a very nice tribute to Dr. Klein's leadership and friendship. Dr. Klein, who was probably not quite as surprised as he appeared, graciously accepted all of this attention, both serious and humorous. It was an excellent beginning toward thanking Dr. Klein for his ten years of dedicated leadership of BMB. Please join us in celebrating Dr. Klein!



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New Faculty

Dr. John E. Ladbury has been recruited to join our faculty to strengthen our research efforts in a key area of biochemistry that is currently not represented at our institution. His expertise is in the field of biochemical and biophysical approaches to understanding protein-ligand interactions in solution. In particular, Dr. Ladbury is seeking to understand how protein receptors on cell membrane surfaces transmit different signals in the inside of the cell depending on the receptor's specific interaction with its ligands. Dr. Ladbury is among the world's leading experts on isothermal titration calorimetry and its use in protein-ligand interactions. By joining M. D. Anderson as a world-recognized leader in biochemistry and biophysics, Dr. Ladbury will fill a large gap between those scientists who use primarily structural approaches to investigate signal transduction and those who use primarily cell-based approaches to investigate signal transduction and cell regulation, especially as they relate to growth regulation.



Dr. Ladbury will join the Department of Biochemistry & Molecular Biology effective July 15, 2008.

Computer Passwords



1. Must contain at least 2 of the following (any combination of the two will suffice):
 - Upper case letter
 - Lower case letter
 - Number
 - Punctuation mark
2. Cannot contain your user ID.
3. Must be at least 8 characters long.
4. Will expire every 90 days.
5. Cannot reuse the 4 most recent passwords.
6. After 5 failed log in attempt, user accounts will be disabled.

e-mail Migration



Once IT Support send you the Migration Instructions, set up your computer and keep a copy of the instructions. Don't wait until the day that your e-mail is migrated! Common issues during the migration included: For PC users, the Yahoo Tool Bar produced a configuration problem with the Exchange server Outlook setup. And, once migrated, often Desktop Outlook icon downloaded using Altruis did not open the program. IT Support assisted in correcting these problems. For MAC users, each user had to download the latest version of Entourage before the Outlook would operate. For both PC and MAC users, there is a limit of the number of e-mail folders copied to the new system. Lotus Notes will still be available to access old e-mails until MDACC is completely migrated.

2008-2009 Annual Mandatory Testing and Training

Tuberculosis (TB) Testing: 100% of our Employees, Faculty and trainees complied with the TB testing by the May 31st deadline. Way to Go!

Mandatory Employment Education Event (EEE): 95% of the department finished the online EEE as of June 2008. Remember: July 31st is the deadline.

Employment Laws & Practices: A Compliance Update has not been received. August 31st is the deadline. For instructions to the online training, go to <http://inside.mdanderson.org/human-resources/elpt.html>.

1. Requires a PC with Internet Explorer and Adobe Flash Player. If a PC is not available, use the MDACC Research Medical Library's computers.
2. Access the education center using your employee ID in the username and your password. Call Human Resources at Ext. 5-6947 for password information.
3. Requires finding the course by searching for "Employment Laws."
4. Can take numerous attempts to register and successfully launch. Try early morning.
5. Requires >1 hr if the program freezes. Important: Do not close the program if it temporarily stalls.
6. Cannot stop and save. In other words, you must continue until finished.
7. For technical questions, contact 4-INFO. For questions on employment laws and practices, contact Human Resources at Ext 4-4336.

Fire Safety Committee



A new Departmental Fire Safety Committee has formed. We are fortunate to have Dr. Marek Napierala as our Lead Fire Marshall. Marek is certified by the Houston Fire Department as a High Rise Fire Marshall.

We are scheduled to meet with the MDACC Fire Marshall June 24th to organize a Fire Evacuation Plan. While the plan is prepared, remember to use the Main Stairwell to exit the building.

MDACC's Fire Marshall (Robert Russo) arranged an unannounced 9am Fire Drill. As a part of the drill, the Fire Marshall asked all individuals to exit to the Main Stairwell. He showed us that there are two fire extinguishers inside of the cabinet located near each stairwell. One extinguisher is for liquids; one extinguisher is for electrical and non-liquid material.

Annual Asset Management Inventory



Lab Coordination Representatives have been assisting with the department's official Asset Management Inventory, Computer Offsite Authorizations and removing obsolete or broken equipment. Thank you!



Hurricane Season



June 1 to November 30

Louis (Lou) Ramagli, Ph.D. has volunteered to be the department's new Hurricane Manager. Lou will periodically update us on Hurricane Preparation, Precautions and Safety.

If a hurricane nears Houston, employees should call the RING line [713-792-RING (7464)] or check <http://www.mdanderson.org/employeealert/>. Once the institution officially closes, police officers will monitor the BSRB & all other buildings and parking garages to ensure no employees, their cars or other personal property are at MDACC.

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.

Use local resources to prepare. 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
2. Ensure pets have updated shot records and storage crates.
3. Check all battery-powered televisions, radios, cell phones & flashlights. Make sure they are working & 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 & battery.
8. Have cash available.
9. If evacuation is necessary, take non-perishable food & drinking water along.
10. NEVER attempt to cross swollen streams, rivers or underpasses.

UT- MDACC Safety Phone Numbers

FOR	CALL
4-INFO	4-4636
All Institutional Committees – General Information	713-792-2933 (Office of Protocol Research)
Biohazard Boxes & Sharps Containers	713-563-3333 (Housekeeping)
Employee Injury Accidents	713-745-6900 (Employee Health)
Environmental Health & Safety	713-792-2888 (EH&S)
Experimental Animal Use & Registration	713-563-3888 (Institutional Animal Care & Use Committee/IACUC)
Facilities (Autoclaves, Building, Moving)	713-563-3333
Hazardous Research Protocol Registration	713-563-3879 (Institutional Biosafety Committee/IBC)
Hazardous Spill Clean Up	713-792-2888 (EH&S)
Human Trial Registration	713-745-7367 (Research Administration Information Systems)
Human Trial Research Submission & Approval	713-794-4524 (Institutional Review Board/IRB)
Injury Emergency	713-792-3722
Life Threatening Emergency	911 , or 9-911 or 713-794-4357
Maintenance Emergencies	713-792-2885
Needle Stick Injury Reporting	713-604-6824 (24 Hours)
Patient/Visitor Accidents	713-794-4357
Radioisotope Use Authorization	713-563-3879 (Institutional Radiation Safety)
Security Emergency	713-794-4357 (UT Police, 24 Hours)
Spills and Housekeeping Emergencies	Spills (from 7am to 4pm) 713-792-2888 Spills (all other hours) 713-792-2885 Housekeeping - Research 713-563-3333
Weather-Related Operational Status	713-792-7404