Cool Stuff from the Literature

- Nanog is one of the key transcription factors that instill pluripotency. In the earliest stages of development, Nanog levels fluctuate widely, raising questions about how changes in Nanog expression regulate cell proliferation, differentiation into various tissues, and programmed cell death. A new study in *Cell Reports* uses the latest in live cell imaging to provide new insight in how Nanog fluctuations might regulate blastocyst formation. (read more)

- A recent paper in *Developmental Cell* puts an interesting new twist to understanding how pancreatic β-cells obtain the ability to proliferate and expand. In newborn mice, weaning from maternal milk to carbohydrate-rich chow provides the signal to drive pancreatic cell development.
  - “Weaning Triggers a Maturation Step of Pancreatic β Cells” (read more)
  - “Weaning Gives β Cells License to Regenerate” (read more)

- Mutations in the potassium channel KCNA2 were recently identified in several patients with epileptic encephalopathy. Importantly, these mutations can cause gain or loss of function, raising possibilities for therapeutic interventions by targeting potassium channel activity in the brain. (read more)

Division of Neonatology Happenings

*March 31 - April 2, 2015* - Lars Bode, PhD is invited to speak at The 5th International Human Microbiome Consortium Congress in Luxembourg. Lars is going to talk about "Interactions between breast milk oligosaccharides and mother/infant microbiome" in the plenary session in "The Microbiome and Human Evolution".

Upcoming Seminars and Conferences

**Tuesday, March 24, 2015 (12pm)**—“The Ras/MAPK Pathway: Dual Mechanisms of Activation Leading to Targeted Therapies for Neuroblastoma” by Peter E. Zage, MD, PhD (Baylor College of Medicine), Location: CNCB Large Conf. Rm

**Wednesday, March 25, 2015 (12pm)**—“The New Biology of PPARgamma” by Li Qiang (Columbia University Medical Center), Location: Leichtag Biomedical Science Building, Conf. Rm 107

**Wednesday, March 25, 2015 (4pm)**—“Proteostasis: Ubiquitin- and ESCRT-Dependent Membrane Protein Surveillance and Sorting Systems" by Scott Emr, PhD (Cornell University), Location: Marilyn G. Farquhar Seminar Rm

**Thursday, March 26, 2015 (2pm)**—“Pregnancy and Cardiovascular Disease Risk: Evidence from the Child Health and Development Studies” by Morgana Chaffin-Mongraw, PhD (Fam Med/Public Health, UCSD), Location: 7910 Frost St., Suite 440

Find out about more seminars here

Grant Announcements & Funding Opportunities

**The Gerber Foundation Grant**

The Gerber Foundation’s grant-making interests are focused on health and/or nutrition-related research having a significant impact on issues facing infants and young children from the first year before birth to age 3. Awards up to $20,000. (more details)

Deadlines are June 1st and December 1st.

For more on division research, seminars, workshops, and funding opportunities, Please visit here.

Info to share? Feedback or comments? Contact us here and let us know.