



POINTS OF INTEREST

January – March 2025

HONORS AND AWARDS

Darasimi Atanda (Engelhardt Lab)

Darasimi successfully passed her comprehensive exam.

Dr. C. Andrew Frank

Dr. Frank was recognized for 15 years of service at the University of Iowa.

Ashley Goll (Tootle Lab)

Ashley was awarded the Graduate College Summer Fellowship for Summer 2025.

Salma Hassan (Drack Lab)

Salma was awarded the Graduate College Ballard & Seashore Fellowship for the Fall 2025 semester.

Salma received the Robert F. Miller Memorial Travel Grant from the Association for Research in Vision and Ophthalmology and her abstract was accepted to present at that conference in May of 2025.

Salma was awarded the Graduate College Summer Fellowship for Summer 2025.

Dr. Darren Hoffmann

Dr. Hoffmann has been selected by the Council on Teaching to receive the 2025 President and Provost Award for Teaching Excellence. This highly competitive award represents the highest level of achievement in teaching given at the University of Iowa.

Jie Lie (Tootle Lab)

Jie was awarded the Graduate College Summer Fellowship for Summer 2025.

Dr. Robert Piper

Dr. Piper was elected to the 2024 class of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) fellows.

Dr. Rebekah Peplinski (Dupuy Lab)

Dr. Peplinski successfully defended her thesis titled “Integrated genomic approaches to characterize molecular responses to targeted therapies in low-grade serous ovarian cancer.”



Dr. Tina Tootle

Dr. Tootle was elected to the 2024 class of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) fellows.

Israel Wipf (Tootle Lab)

Israel was awarded the Graduate College Summer Fellowship for Summer 2025.

Dr. Marc Pizzimenti

Dr. Pizzimenti was awarded the Collegiate Teaching Award. This award is to acknowledge members of the faculty whose activities and accomplishments demonstrate usually significant and meritorious achievement in teaching during the academic year.

APPOINTMENTS & SPECIAL RECOGNITION

Dr. John Engelhardt

University of North Carolina External Advisory Committee, Annual Review of CF Foundation Support for the UNC CF Research and Development Program (CF RDP), February 2025.

Dr. Marc Pizzimenti

Dr. Pizzimenti was appointed as an Editorial Board Member for the Journal of Plastination.

Dr. Amy Ryan

Dr. Ryan was elected to the University of Iowa Faculty Senate.

Dr. Ryan and her lab's research was featured in the LAM Foundation Newsletter.

CEC Committee

This Is Us

Thank you to graduate students Nikki Recka & Sam Wuebker for participating in the last This is Us event. **The next iteration of the event will be at April 25th at 1:30 PM** with a conversation between Emma Handler and Ling Yang.

ACB Activity Tool Kit

Are you interested in developing scientific activities that could be executed in local community events to promote anatomy and cell biology? If so, contact Martine Dunnwald or any other member of the CEC.

Other

Dr. Darren Hoffmann

Dr. Hoffmann completed Facilitator Training for CIMER's Entering Mentoring program and joined the Institute for Clinical and Translational Science's Iowa Mentoring Academy as a facilitator.

Dr. Marc Pizzimenti

Dr. Pizzimenti was recognized on the CCOM's [Instagram](#) Page.

Danielle Zwiefelhofer

Danielle applied for and received the Green Initiatives Fund for the department. The Green Initiatives Fund is a grant offered through the Undergraduate Student

Government and the Graduate and Professional Student Government for student projects that promote sustainable green practices and outcomes.

This specific award is a pilot program to recycle nitrile gloves in the department and University. The department has also invested in a pilot to recycle disposable single use lab plastics (stripettes, conicals, multiwell plates, petri dishes, etc.).

SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

Dr. John Engelhardt

“The Ferret Model,” presented at the Cystic Fibrosis Trust virtual workshop entitled “Advancing CFRD Research Virtual Workshop Series.” January 2025.

“Innovating at the Crossroads: A Scientist’s Perspective on Science and Business,” presented at Emory University virtual workshop for Emory Biotech Consulting Club and MBA Students, February 2025.

“Pulmonary Ionocytes and Cystic Fibrosis: A Three-Decade Scientific Journey,” presented at the Richard Talamo, M.D., 2025 Memorial Lecture, Harvard Medical School, Boston, MA, March 2025.

Dr. Lalit Gautam (Ryan Lab)

Inhibition of Notch and Multicilin Induction Regulate Airway Cell Fate Decisions and Multiciliogenesis Through Activation of the AKT Pathway,” presented at the Gordan Research Conference, San Diego, CA. February 2025.

Dr. Amy Ryan

“iPSC-derived lung and pancreatic cells: Unlocking Regenerative Therapies for Cystic Fibrosis,” presented at Helmholtz Munich, January 2025.

“Regenerative Medicine, Can We Grow a New Lung,” presented at the European Respiratory Society Satellite Symposia, Online. February 2025.

Dr. Ryan was a session chair and speaker at the European Cystic Fibrosis Foundation Research Conference, and led a session titled “Symposium 6: Lung Regeneration,” in Lido, Italy, March 2025.

Israel Wipf (Tootle Lab)

Wipf, I.J., Gomez, S., Peregrine, K., Giedt, M., **Tootle, T.L.**; Lipid Droplet Proteins ATGL and Jabba Promote In Vivo Collective Cell Migration in Drosophila. Oral presentation. 66th Annual Drosophila Research Conference. San Diego, California. March 2025.

Dr. Axel Ruprecht (Emeritus)

Dr. Ruprecht presented an invited paper at the Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Oral And Maxillofacial Radiology in Honolulu, HI, 2024.

NEW GRANT AWARDS

Dr. Martine Dunnwald

Dr. Dunnwald received a Vice-President for Medical Affairs Focused Grant Revision Supplement.

Amelia Hurley-Novatny (Li Lab)

Title: Investigating the Role of FGF21 in Bone Homeostasis in Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy

Sponsor: NIH

Role: PI

Total Award: \$196,724 direct costs

Dr. Marc Pizzimenti

Title: Expanding POCUS Education Through Interactive Modules

Sponsor: P3 Post Tenure Award, University of Iowa

Role: PI

Total Award: \$23,750 direct costs

SUBMITTED GRANTS

Dr. Brad Amendt

Title: Nanoparticle Design and Delivery of RNA to Treat Bone Defects

Sponsor: NIH

Role: PI

Total Award: \$2,363,009 direct costs, \$1,311,470 indirect costs

Dr. Botond Banfi

Title: Identification of a Stereocilin-Anchoring Protein Complex in Outer Hair Cells

Sponsor: NIH

Role: PI

Total Award: \$1,708,979 direct costs, \$948,843 indirect costs

Dr. Adam Dupuy

Title: Evaluating Adaptive and Genetic Responses to Targeted Therapies in Low Grade Serous Ovarian Cancer

Sponsor:

Role: PI

Total Award: \$86,957 direct costs, \$13,043 indirect costs

Dr. Lalit Gautam

Title: Role of Akt-Dependent Pathway in Airway Epithelial Cell Fate...

Sponsor: CFF Fellowship

Role: PI

Total Award: \$151,000 direct costs

Dr. Tom Rutkowski

Title: Cellular Mechanisms of Adaptation to Physiological ER Stress

Sponsor: NIH

Role: PI

Total Award: \$1,800,000 direct costs, \$999,000 indirect costs

Dr. Amy Ryan

Title: TGF β Signaling in The Pathogenesis of Lymphangi leiomyomatosis

Sponsor: NIH

Role: PI

Total Award: \$275,000 direct costs, \$152,625 indirect costs

Title: Company Sponsorship AstraZeneca

Sponsor: AstraZeneca

Role: PI

Total Award: \$6,466 direct costs, \$1,034 indirect costs

Title: Company Sponsorship Genentech

Sponsor: Genentech

Role: PI

Total Award: \$8,624 direct costs, \$1,376 indirect costs

Title: Company Sponsorship United Therapeutics

Sponsor: United Therapeutics

Role: PI

Total Award: \$15,086 direct costs, \$2,414 indirect costs

Title: Company Sponsorship Vertex

Sponsor: Vertex

Role: PI

Total Award: \$7,500 direct costs

Title: Company Sponsorship Comp of Biologists

Sponsor: Comp of Biologists

Role: PI

Total Award: \$4,962 direct costs

Dr. Ziying Yan

Title: Advancing Human Gene Therapy Through Ferret Models

Sponsor: NIH

Role: PI

Total Award \$275,000 direct costs, \$152,625 indirect costs

Title: Viral and Host Determinants of Parvovirus Replication

Sponsor: University of Kansas Medical Center

Role: PI

Total Award: \$250,000 direct costs, \$138,750 indirect costs

Dr. Ling Yang

Title: Cellular Homeostasis of the Pituitary Gland in Obesity

Sponsor: NIH

Role: PI

Total Award: \$2,220,217 direct costs, \$1,232,221 indirect costs

Title: The Hepatic ER-regulated Liver-Heart Crosstalk in Sepsis
Sponsor: NIH
Role: PI
Total Award: \$2,213,760 direct costs, \$1,228,637 indirect costs

NEW PUBLICATIONS

Dr. Martine Dunnwald

Carver, A. J., **Dunnwald, M.**, & Stevens, H. E. (2025). A head start: The relationship of placental factors to craniofacial and brain development. *Developmental dynamics : an official publication of the American Association of Anatomists*, 10.1002/dvdy.70018. Advance online publication. <https://doi.org/10.1002/dvdy.70018>

Dunnwald, M., DeLeon, V. B., & Burrows, A. M. (2025). The importance of science communication and public engagement to professional associations. *Anatomical sciences education*, 10.1002/ase.70017. Advance online publication. <https://doi.org/10.1002/ase.70017>

Engelhardt Lab

Yuan, F., Sun, X., Park, S. Y., Tang, Y., Feng, Z., Ebadi, M., Yi, Y., Thompson, A. E., Karippaparambil, J. D., **Engelhardt, J. F., & Yan, Z.** (2025). Novel Cystic Fibrosis Ferret Model Enables Visualization of CFTR Expression Cells and Genetic CFTR Reactivation. *Human gene therapy*, 10.1089/hum.2024.215. Advance online publication. <https://doi.org/10.1089/hum.2024.215>

Dr. Colin Kenny

Chang, J., Campbell-Hanson, K. R., Vanneste, M., Bartschat, N. I., Nagel, R., Arnadottir, A. K., Vu, H. N., Montgomery, C., Yevdash, J., Jiang, J., Bhinu, A., Helverson, A., Henry, M. D., Steingrimsdottir, E., **Weigel, R. J.,** Cornell, R. A., & **Kenny, C.** Antagonistic roles for MITF and TFE3 in melanoma plasticity. *Cell Reports*, 44(4). <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.celrep.2025.115474>.

Dr. Marc Pizzimenti

Darling, W. G., **Pizzimenti, M. A.**, Rotella, D. L., Ge, J., Stilwell-Morecraft, K. S., & Morecraft, R. J. (2024). Long-term forced-use therapy after sensorimotor cortex lesions restores contralesional hand function and promotes its preference in Macaca mulatta. *Experimental brain research*, 243(1), 35. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s00221-024-06949-x>

Dr. Amy Ryan

Dumortier, C., Frauenpreis, A., Hoarau, A., **Ryan, A. L.**, Gangloff, S. C., Danopoulos, S., Velard, F., & Al Alam, D. (2025). CFTR mutation is associated with bone differentiation abnormalities in cystic fibrosis. *Journal of cystic fibrosis : official journal*

of the *European Cystic Fibrosis Society*, S1569-1993(25)00005-0. Advance online publication. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jcf.2025.01.005>

Liu, E. C., Ryan, A. L., & Koc-Günel, S. (2025). Protocol for the Generation and 3D Culture of Fluorescently Labeled Multicellular Spheroids. *Methods in molecular biology (Clifton, N.J.)*, 10.1007/7651_2024_592. Advance online publication. https://doi.org/10.1007/7651_2024_592

Harriott NC, Chimenti MS, **Ryan AL**.(2023). MixOmics Integration of Biological Datasets Identifies Highly Correlated variables of COVID-19 Severity. *International Journal of Molecular Sciences*. In review.

Please share news of your activities with Madison O'Leary for publication in the quarterly Points of Interest Newsletter. This information is circulated throughout the Department, as well as published on the ACB Department website.