

NEWSLETTER

SUMMER 2019

CEM MEMBERS

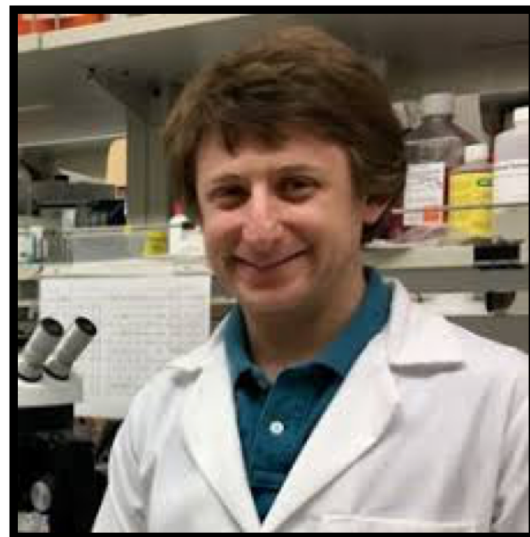
Pierre Baldi, Ph.D.
Tallie Z. Baram, M.D., Ph.D.
Bruce Blumberg, Ph.D.
Emiliana Borrelli, Ph.D.
Rémi Buisson, Ph.D.
John Chaput, Ph.D.
King Dai, Ph.D.
Michelle Digman, Ph.D.
Tim Downing, Ph.D.
Enrico Gratton, Ph.D.
Peter Kaiser, Ph.D.
Kai Kessenbrock, Ph.D.
Devon Lawson, Ph.D.
Andrej Luptak, Ph.D.
Selma Masri, Ph.D.
Ali Mortazavi, Ph.D.
Suzanne Sandmeyer, Ph.D.
Paolo Sassone-Corsi, Ph.D.
Yongsheng Shi, Ph.D.
Rob Spitale, Ph.D.
Joan Steffan, Ph.D.
Leslie Thompson, Ph.D.
Marcelo Wood, Ph.D.
Kyoko Yokomori, Ph.D.

QUARTER HIGHLIGHTS

- The Center for Epigenetics and Metabolism's White Paper was recommended to proceed as a proposal, a vital step for our transition into a Pre-Organized Research Unit (ORU)
- **Marcus Seldin, Ph.D.** was selected as the newest faculty member of the CEM and Department of Biological Chemistry
- **Wei Li, Ph.D.** will join the Department of Biological Chemistry at the University of California, Irvine
- **Selma Masri, Ph.D.**, Assistant Professor of Biological Chemistry, was featured in the V Foundation's "Big Ideas" blog for her research linking cancer metabolism to circadian rhythms
- **Marlene Cervantes, Ph.D. (ABD)** received the prestigious Behrens Research Excellence Award and participated in the 2019 Graduate Hooding Ceremony
- **Paolo Sassone-Corsi, Ph.D.** was honored with the 2018 – 2019 Distinguished Faculty Award for Research by the Academic Senate of the University of California, Irvine

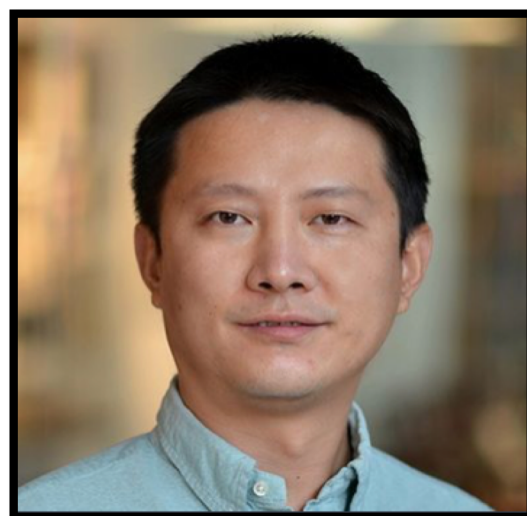
WELCOME NEW FACULTY

After an extensive search, the Center for Epigenetics and Metabolism is pleased to welcome Marcus Seldin, Ph.D. as Assistant Professor and our newest faculty member. Dr. Seldin will be joining the CEM and Department of Biological Chemistry from the University of California, Los Angeles, in Summer 2019. As a graduate of the University of California, Irvine, Dr. Seldin continued his graduate training at Johns Hopkins University under the supervision of Dr. Guang William Wong. His research investigated how metabolically-relevant tissues relay signals to one another, specifically focusing on how muscle communicates its nutrient status to liver and adipose tissue. Throughout his postdoctoral training, Dr. Seldin worked in the Dr. Aldons Jake Lusis Laboratory at UCLA in the field of systems genetics, taking a broader “systems” view to better-understand the complexity underlying cardiometabolic traits. Marcus’s laboratory and office will be located on the 3rd floor of Sprague Hall in the School of Medicine. Welcome to UCI Marcus!



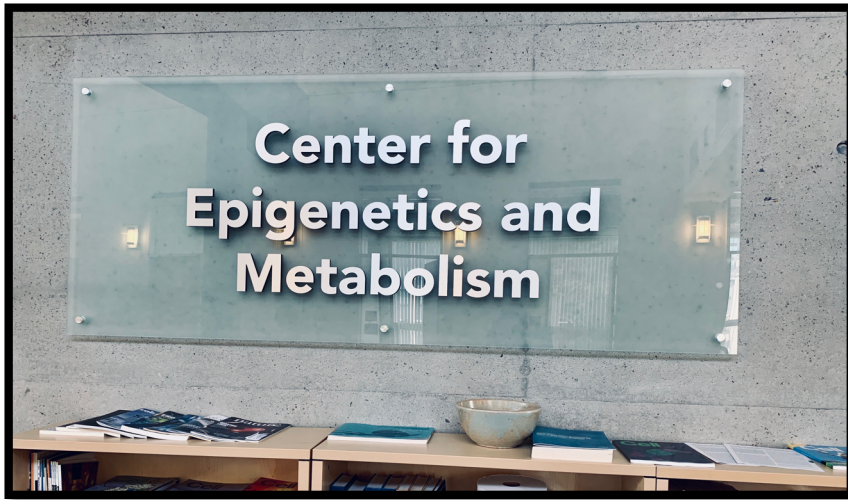
Marcus Seldin, Ph.D.

The Center for Epigenetics and Metabolism is delighted to welcome Wei Li, Ph.D. to the Department of Biological Chemistry. Dr. Li is a world-renowned expert in genomics and Biocomputing and has developed most of his career at the Baylor College of Medicine (Houston, TX). Research by Wei Li is focused on the design and application of bioinformatics algorithms to elucidate global regulatory mechanisms in development and diseases such as cancer. Dr. Li has a solid track record in large-scale genomics and epigenomics data analysis, and in developing widely used open-source bioinformatics software. In collaboration with experimental biologists, Wei Li has used big data bioinformatics analysis to gain novel biological insights in development, aging, stem cell, neurologic disorders, as well as breast, prostate, brain and blood cancers. Since establishing his own bioinformatics lab in early 2008, Dr. Li has published more than 60 peer-reviewed papers through solid methodology development and extensive collaboration research, including 22 in Nature, Science and Cell series. Welcome to UCI Wei!



Wei Li, Ph.D.

ORGANIZED RESEARCH UNIT



During the 2019 Spring Quarter, the Center for Epigenetics and Metabolism initiated the process of transitioning into an Organized Research Unit (ORU). An ORU is a university-established academic unit, which provides a focused infrastructure for multi-disciplinary research in conjunction with existing departments and schools. The goals of an ORU are to fulfill research agendas that cannot be pursued through existing organizational structures at the University of California, Irvine by facilitating cross-disciplinary research collaborations.

With the support of 5 Deans and 24 faculty members, the White Paper submitted on behalf of the Center for Epigenetics and Metabolism was recommended by the Office of Research at the University of California, Irvine to initiate the full ORU proposal.

Deans

Michael Stamos, M.D.
Frank LaFerla, Ph.D.
Gregory Washington, Ph.D.
Jan Hirsch, Ph.D.
Marios Papaefthymiou, Ph.D.

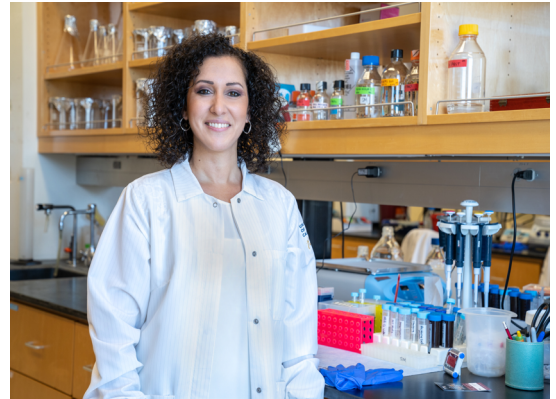
Faculty

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Bruce Blumberg, Ph.D.
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Rémi Buisson, Ph.D.
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Kyoko Yokomori, Ph.D.

V FOUNDATION

Selma Masri, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Biological Chemistry, was featured by the V Foundation in their “Big Ideas” blog. Dr. Masri’s research focuses on the fascinating effects the disruption of circadian rhythms has on cancer cells. The Masri Laboratory utilized mice to understand and change the cues that direct specific cancer-initiating cells adhering to a strict, 12-hour light and 12-hour dark scheduling. Her research has found interruptions of normal 24-hour rhythms are linked with a higher risk of colon cancer.

Dr. Masri’s team has further identified lifestyle factors that throw circadian clocks off schedule. These include: irregular sleep and wake cycles, exposure to light at night, chronic jet lag, and eating at the wrong time of day. According to her research, not only what we eat, but when we eat, is critical to our biological pacemaker.



Selma Masri, Ph.D.



Marlene Cervantes

BEHRENS RESEARCH EXCELLENCE

Marlene Cervantes was the recipient of the prestigious 2019 Behrens Research Excellence Award. The selection criteria for this award is based upon the individual’s research accomplishments, publication record, and scientific promise. In addition, Marlene also participated in the 2019 Graduate hooding Ceremony for UC Irvine’s 2019 Commencement. Congratulations, Marlene!

ACADEMIC SENATE AWARD

The 2018-2019 Distinguished Faculty Award for Research was presented to our Director, Paolo Sassone-Corsi, Ph.D., by the Academic Senate of the University of California, Irvine. The Distinguished Faculty award recognizes esteemed faculty members for their significant contributions to research, teaching, service, and mentorship.



Paolo Sassone-Corsi, Ph.D.

ONGOING CEM FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

Two Seed Grants of \$10,000 each are offered by the CEM to fund research projects centered on epigenetics. All CEM members and SOM faculty are welcome to apply. The deadline is October 1st, 2019. The project should not be longer than 1-page. A review committee composed of experts external at UCI will select the awarded proposals. The CEM Director is not eligible for this funding.



Zymo Research Postdoctoral Fellowship.

Zymo Research Postdoctoral Fellowship. Zymo (<https://www.zymoresearch.com/>) Research, a company centered on epigenetics research, has established a partnership with the CEM to provide funds towards a post-doctoral fellowship. The funds will be transferred to the research team submitting the most compelling candidature to the CEM, including a research proposal and the complete CV of the candidate. All CEM members and UCI faculty are welcome to apply. A review committee composed of Zymo Research experts will select the awarded proposal. (Awarded)



FindCures Postdoctoral Fellowship.

FindCures Postdoctoral Fellowship. The FindCures Foundation (www.findcures.org), which focuses on neurological disorders, has established a partnership with the CEM to provide funds towards a postdoctoral fellowship. The funds will be transferred to the research team submitting the most compelling candidature to the CEM, including a research proposal and the complete CV of the candidate. All CEM members and UCI faculty are welcome to apply. The deadline is October 1st, 2019. A review committee composed of members of the FindCures Foundation will select the awarded proposal.



University of Rome, Italy - Postdoctoral Fellowship.

University of Rome, Italy - Postdoctoral Fellowship. The University of Rome (Tor Vergata), Italy (<https://web.uniroma2.it/>) has established a partnership with the CEM to provide funds towards a postdoctoral fellowship for an Italian applicant. The funds are transferred to the research team that has submitted the most compelling candidature to the CEM, including a research proposal and the complete CV of the candidate. All CEM members and UCI faculty are welcome to apply. A review committee composed of University of Rome, Italy experts will select the awarded proposal. (Awarded)

UPCOMING CEM EVENTS

The flagship Symposium on 'Epigenetic Control of Cellular Plasticity' is organized biannually at the Beckman Center of the National Academy of Sciences. The next Symposium will be held in October 2020. *Pencil your calendars!*

For previous Symposia, please visit: <https://sassonecorsilaboratory.org/events/>



The Center for Epigenetics and Metabolism
EPiGENETICS DAY
December 6th, 2019
Sprague Hall, First Floor Conference Room
School of Medicine

Speakers

Opening Lecture by
James Kadonaga, UCSD

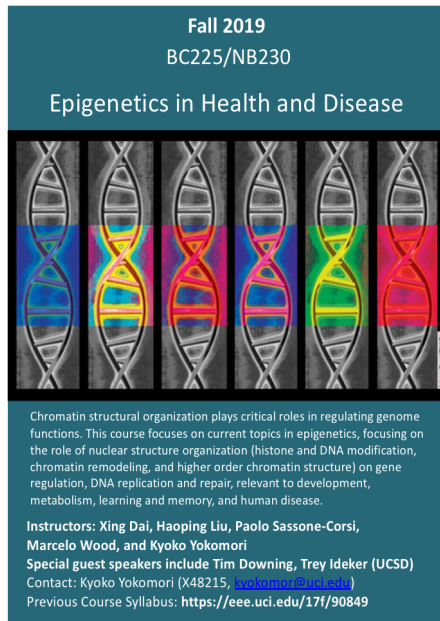
Peter Kaiser, UCI
Maria Diaz-Meco, Sanford-Burnham
Rémi Buisson, UCI
Olga Razonerova, UCI
Yinsheng Wang, UCR
Andrej Luptak, UCI
Kai Kessenbrock, UCI
Janine La Salle, UC Davis
Rolf Bodmer, Sanford-Burnham

Chromatin and Transcription;
Metabolism; Development; Stem Cells

Inserm
EPIGENETICS
EPIGENOMICS
To register, please contact:
Lauren Gih at lgih@uci.edu

Our traditional **EPIGENETICS DAY** will be held on December 6th. This event brings together the Southern California community involved in epigenetics research. The meeting has a selection of outstanding speakers from UCI and other local institutions. The meeting will be held in Sprague Hall (1st floor meeting room). Breakfast, lunch, and evening wine and cheese will be available. **Registration is free for Epigenetics Day 2019.**

Please register by sending an email to Lauren Gih at:
lgih@uci.edu



Fall 2019
BC225/NB230
Epigenetics in Health and Disease

Chromatin structural organization plays critical roles in regulating genome functions. This course focuses on current topics in epigenetics, focusing on the role of nuclear structure organization (histone and DNA modification, chromatin remodeling, and higher order chromatin structure) on gene regulation, DNA replication and repair, relevant to development, metabolism, learning and memory, and human disease.

Instructors: Xing Dai, Haoping Liu, Paolo Sassone-Corsi, Marcelo Wood, and Kyoko Yokomori
Special guest speakers include Tim Downing, Trey Ideker (UCSD)
Contact: Kyoko Yokomori (X48215, kyokomor@uci.edu)
Previous Course Syllabus: <https://eee.uci.edu/17f/90849>

Course on **EPIGENETICS IN HEALTH AND DISEASE**, organized in conjunction with the Department of Biological Chemistry. A selection of distinguished speakers external at UCI will also contribute to the course.

This course is open to all students interested in epigenetics, chromatin remodeling and nuclear functions.

For more information, please contact Kyoko Yokomori at:
kyokomor@uci.edu