

THE KUCHROO TIMES

Greetings and Salutations Fellow Kuchroonians,

Since our last issue of the Kuchroo Times, the season has changed from winter to spring. In Boston, spring is simply referred to as winter 2 or “ick”, both are acceptable. People have often asked why I didn’t choose to go to graduate school in a warmer climate. I respond by saying that I enjoy bleak weather since it pairs nicely with my mood and it inspires productivity. To figure out how much longer “ick” will last, I had an independent private investigator tail Chuan for a week. On the 7th day, he was finally spotted outside during daylight hours and my source tells me that he most certainly did see his shadow. Therefore, we have 6 weeks left of “ick”.

This month I arranged for an exclusive interview with someone for this publication. I asked the tough questions and did not back down until I felt the subject adequately answered all of my questions. The interview was with none other than myself. You should try interviewing yourself sometime. It’s quite the bizarre experience. Anyways, you won’t find the interview this month. You may say to yourself that maybe he chose not to run the interview since the whole thing seems a bit conceited. Nope. I felt that this edition was getting a little long so it will run sometime in the future.

New members of the lab get featured in the Kuchroo Times, but what about current members? Shouldn’t we all have the opportunity to hear more about them? Most definitely! You may be the next person to be featured in the future section called, “5 questions with....”

Best,

Kevin Fowler

New Lab Member Spotlight

Get to know Yasuhiro Kishi:



Yasuhiro hails from Gunma, Japan, which is a region well known for its many hot springs. He speaks Japanese and Japanese-English. He lists his favorite colors as being blue, yellow, and green. If you present him with a multichannel pipette, you will be in the presence of a very happy man given how useful they are. He says that his favorite cell culture plate is the 96-well flat bottom and remarks that if loving 96-well flat bottom plates is wrong, he does not want to be right. (Editor’s note: I’ve always believed you can tell a lot about someone’s personality by knowing their favorite color, pipette, and cell culture plate, so these shall be amongst the standard questions asked of new members for this publication).

His favorite sharpie color is black. (Recently, sharpies have been disappearing at a feverish rate from the editor’s hood space. In order to narrow my search when they go missing, I will be making mental notes of everyone’s favorite sharpie color).

If you see him with headphones on, chances are that he is listening to Melee, Keane, Travis, Ace

of Base, or the Cardigans. Have you seen the sign?, Yasuhiro sure has. (In a semi-related note, I frequently have a bad dream where I'm floating on driftwood and I am unable to turn around to confront this lovefool who says she has no time for me now because she is in a desperate search for another baby).

When asked if he were to have as many frequent flier miles as Dr. Kuchroo and could book a complimentary round-trip first class ticket to anywhere in the world, he says he would either go to Capri, El Nido (in the Philippines), Santorini, or Orvieto (in Italy).

Besides thinking about doing research in the Kuchroo Lab, he enjoys playing sports (especially tennis and fishing), but has not had the opportunity to do so since coming here. He also enjoys checking out the local pubs with his friends, talking to his family, driving, eating outside, and working on his English communication skills.

Two weeks ago, Yasuhiro was proudly welcomed into the bone crusher club, an elite society that frequents the department social hour (Editor's note: To my knowledge, only one individual has turned down the opportunity to join this secret society, and that individual is Jenna). To celebrate his initiation, Yasuhiro, Andrew, and myself went out to a pub, where good times were had by all.

He would like to invite the group to come up to him in the lab and say hello. He says that even though his English speaking isn't the best, he still really enjoys conversation. Heading out for a drink after work?, give him a heads up, for he would love to join you.

Please extend a kind welcome to Yasuhiro.

Get to know Andrew Chen:

Andrew Chen hails from Roslyn Heights, New York. He is a junior at Harvard where he is studying molecular and cellular biology. He has joined the lab in order to do his undergrad thesis research here. For his project, he will be working with the elegant and prestigious, Manu Rangachari (Editor's Note: I couldn't decide between elegant and prestigious so ultimately included both). After college, he plans on going to med school.

There has been a great internal debate in the lab about what to call Andrew, given that there is already an Andrew in the lab. Possibly to his chagrin, the name that has stuck the most is Jeffrey or Geoffrey (the spelling of this name is also a subject of great internal debate).

Andrew's favorite color is red, so it seems appropriate that his favorite sharpie color is also red. His favorite pipette is the 20-200 μ L model and his favorite cell culture plate is the 6-well.

If you see him wearing headphones, chances are that he is listening to John Mayer, Far East Movement, B.o.B., Bruno Mars, or quite possibly B.o.B. featuring Bruno Mars. Given his interest in street dance, it is highly possible that he could break into a hip-hop or bboy-style dance at any point. He literally is a ticking time bomb. I may have to challenge him to a dance off since I guarantee he's got nothing on me, got got got nothing on me.

Andrew solidly guarantees that you've got nothing on him, got got got nothing on him when it comes to playing Starcraft 2 and Mario Kart Wii. He will accept a challenge anytime, anywhere.

If he had Dr. Kuchroo's frequent flier miles, he would book a complimentary round-trip first class ticket to Seoul, Korea.

The last two facts you should know about Andrew is that he enjoys playing guitar and piano and that his favorite author is Roald Dahl.

Please extend a warm welcome to Andrew in English or Mandarin, since he speaks both.

Next month we shall learn more about our new colleagues, Jolien and Patrick.

Lab Notes

- Rumor has it that we saved \$2000 last month by not purchasing individual columns and instead using the AutoMACS.

- Congrats again to Manu for his receipt of the Canadian endMS award!

Cookin' with Kevin

The people have spoken and astonishingly requested more Cookin' with Kevin! I am very, very susceptible to peer pressure, so without further ado, let's get cookin'.

As a reminder, we have all had those days where an experiment runs long and you don't have the opportunity to prepare yourself one of Rachel Ray's gourmet 30 minute meals for dinner. Following is another recipe that I like to use on such days so that I can still max out my daily limits in calories, sodium, carbohydrates, and saturated fat, while still operating on a budget of \$4.50.

Pizza Rolls

Purchase box of Totino's Pizza Rolls from CVS or Tedeschi's for \$2.99

- 1) Take batteries out of your smoke detector.
- 2) Open windows to prevent your apartment neighbors' smoke detectors from going off.
- 3) Aim a fan facing out the closest window to the oven.
- 4) As an extra precaution, have the top of a large pizza box or a notebook available in case additional smoke fanning is necessary to maintain a healthy breathing environment in your kitchen.
- 5) It is now safe to preheat your oven that was likely fabricated in the late 1800's to 425°F.
- 6) While the oven is preheating, obtain a baking sheet (clean or dirty) or some old aluminum siding commonly found in an alley and cover it with aluminum foil. The aluminum foil removes the need for the baking surface to be clean.
- 7) Place pizza rolls on the foil and bake until the rolls crack open and spill forth their delicious filling. The directions say bake for 8-9 minutes but it's usually 13-14 minutes.
- 8) Upon removing baking surface from the oven, the foil will be safe to touch. Use the foil as a plate.

Little Debbie's Zebra Cake

Purchase at Tedeschi's for \$0.50. Open package and enjoy.

20 oz bottle of Mtn Dew.

Purchase at the vending machine in the Prudential Center for \$1.00. Open bottle and enjoy.

(Editor's note: I've been asked to remind you that just because Kevin Fowler has survived the past 11 years cooking this way, most doctors

would recommend eating a more balanced diet.)

Fahrenheit Thermometer Award

As mentioned in my group meeting talk last month, I had a streak over two weeks where I hilariously and tragically messed up every experiment I performed. That's the type of laboratory futility that the Fahrenheit Thermometer Award was created for. However, I don't exist in most bio laboratories around the world (yet!!), so giving the award to me each month would not help out the world much.

Instead, this month we shall observe the consequences when naiveté leads to the use of equipment in ways that it was not intended. Anyone who has tried loading samples for electrophoresis into a 15cm by 15cm gel using our standing, tank-on-top and tank-on-bottom apparatus, will recognize that loading with standard 20 μ L-200 μ L tips is extremely difficult. The tank on top is opaque and has a narrow slit for which to insert the tips. However, the tips won't go far enough into the lanes of the gel to see where you are putting your sample. For a couple months, this issue led to the complete wasting of samples since at least 50% of the time I would accidentally add the sample to the lane divider and the sample would be split into 2 lanes. After hearing one of my profanity laden tirades, Manu came over and kindly pointed out that we have extended length tips designed specifically to address this problem. So who is to blame here, my naiveté or the standard length tips?

And for that, the standard length tips win this month's Fahrenheit thermometer award for laboratory futility when it comes to gel loading.

March Birthdays

Manu Rangachari – March 23

Chen Zhu – March 15

Joke of the Month

From www.101funjokes.com

After the Great Britain Beer Festival, in London, all the brewery presidents decided to go out for a beer.

The guy from Corona sits down and says, "I'd like the world's best beer, a Corona." The bartender dusts off a bottle from the shelf and gives it to him.

The guy from Budweiser says, "I'd like the best beer in the world, give me 'The King of Beers', a Budweiser." The bartender gives him one.

The guy from Coors says, "I'd like the only beer made with Rocky Mountain spring water, Give me a Coors." He gets it.

The guy from Guinness sits down and says, "Give me a Coke." The bartender is a little taken aback, but gives him what he ordered.

The other brewery presidents look over at him and ask, "Why aren't you drinking a Guinness?" and the Guinness president replies, "Well, I figured if you guys aren't drinking beer, neither would I."

(SLAM!!! Take that North American Brewing Industry! At least the kind folks at Molson were spared.)

The “who says biologists aren’t good at math?” math brain teaser of the month.

(Adapted from www.ahajokes.com)

Theorem: $6=7$

Proof:

Suppose:

$$a + b = c$$

This can also be written as:

$$7a - 6a + 7b - 6b = 7c - 6c$$

After reorganizing:

$$7a + 7b - 7c = 6a + 6b - 6c$$

Pull out the constants:

$$7 * (a + b - c) = 6 * (a + b - c)$$

Cancel the common term on each side:

$$7 = 6!$$

Q.E.D.

The Moment of Chen

As per tradition, we shall close with The Moment of Chen, which can best be described as a serene moment of intellectual enlightenment.

“An arrow goes forward only after pulling the bow backwards. A bullet goes forward only after pressing the trigger backward. Every human being will be happy only after facing the difficulties in their life path... So do not be afraid to face your difficulties. They will push you forward.” - Unknown