

THE KUCHROO TIMES

Greetings and Salutations Fellow Kuchroonians,

I have received numerous inquiries over the past few months about when the next edition of the Kuchroo Times would be coming out, which all were met with a reply that it would come out during the next week. Now two months later, it is finally time to buckle down and prepare issue 3.

“Why the two month hiatus?” you may ask. Truth be told, I’ve been pathologically unfunny and unoriginal since my appearance on The Bachelorette meets Candid Camera at the beginning of April. The basic premise of the show was that viewers are getting tired of contestants only appearing on The Bachelorette for their 15 minutes of fame. To make it more realistic, they decided not to reveal it was a contest until each participant was eliminated. At the time, I found it odd that for 3 Fridays in a row; I was given a rose by the bachelorette. For whatever reason, the camera man on all of my dates didn’t set off any internal red flags since my life is so exciting, who wouldn’t want to watch? When I wasn’t given a rose on the fourth Friday, and was told that 3 other men were selected to continue and that this was all for a television show that may or may not appear on VS this summer, I felt a sharp phantom pain in the middle of my arms. An X-ray later revealed that both of my funny bones were literally no longer existent.

Without my funny bones, I didn’t think that I could live up to the standard set in the first two issues and the procrastination game began. It was suggested by my handlers to just try writing it and if it is not entertaining, so be it. So without further ado, I present you issue 3.

Best, Kevin Fowler

New Lab Member Spotlight

Get to know Patrick Burkett:



Patrick hails from the metropolis of Greencastle, Indiana. Can you say that your hometown is most famous for being the site of John Dillinger’s most lucrative bank robbery? According to the ever reliable Wikipedia, Patrick can make such a claim. Feeling brave? Go for a night-time dip in the town’s Quarry Pond. He lists his favorite color as red. His favorite pipette is the ever popular 20-200 μ L model and his favorite cell culture plate is the lesser used 24-well plate. (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).

If you see him sitting at his desk with headphones on, chances are that he is listening to Guided by Voices or Radiohead. I defy anyone to listen to Paranoid Android by Radiohead and not be moved to bob your head and grin due to its brilliance. He also enjoys listening to whatever is new on pitchfork.com.

I’ve secretly asked all new members of the Kuchroo Lab how many of their extended family

members have PhD's or MD's simply out of personal curiosity. I'm reporting Patrick's answer to show his impressive pedigree. Including himself, there are 4 members of his family with such degrees. One of his parents and one of his grandparents have PhD's and an uncle has an MD.

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 go to Barcelona (pronounced Barthelona, thanks Mrs. Barnicle!, my high school Spanish teacher. I've had this secret hope since high school that they would make a feature film out of Destinos. I would love to see Don Fernando crush an envelope on an IMAX screen in 3D). He chose that destination since he has never been to Spain and has wanted to go.

Besides thinking about doing research in the Kuchroo Lab, he enjoys spending time with his son, Henry (shown on the previous page). He also enjoys cooking, reading and playing ultimate Frisbee.

His favorite restaurant in the Boston area is Craigie on Main in Cambridge. Do you ever get self-conscious about going into a restaurant by yourself and ordering a roasted pig's head for one? You're in luck! They serve a roasted pig's head for two! Perhaps you could ask Patrick to go with you.

Please extend a kind welcome to Patrick in his native language, English.

Get to know Tanya Yankova:



Tanya hails from Sofia, Bulgaria, which up until a few years ago was ruled by Alexander the Great, yes that Alexander the Great. She speaks Bulgarian, English, and Russian, and is learning Spanish and French. Her favorite color is blue, so the next time my blue Sharpie goes missing; I know where I'm going to go looking first.

Tanya is the proud mom of the sweetest little boy ever, Victor, who is almost 8 years old (given my delay in publication, there is a sizeable chance that he has since turned 8). The Bruins may have to send their scouts to talk to her since her son is a hockey player and his team took gold in the Mite Tournament in February. Perhaps Lord Stanley's Cup may make an appearance in the lab in 10-11 years. If I'm still here working on my PhD, I would like to use it as an ice bucket for my cells. In addition to playing hockey, he could also perform the national anthem before a game since he sings and plays the violin.

Tanya loves playing with Victor, spending time with him, making him happy and watching him grow. They like going to the beach and

throwing rocks in the water. They also like going to the bookstore.

In her free time she likes to read, dance, play the piano and violin, taking pictures, and also loves spending time with her family. Since they live in the Seattle area, she doesn't get to spend as much time with them as she would like.

One item on her bucket list is to be able to fly a plane and become licensed. She has taken flight lessons to accomplish this. I can envision a scenario where Tanya is flying a plane and Ava parachutes out.

If you see her with headphones on, she is likely listening to David Garrett, the Rippingtons, the Gypsy Kings, Keiko Matsui, or Ne-yo.

If she had as many frequent flier miles as Dr. Kuchroo, she would travel to New Zealand, Japan and Taiwan.

Please extend a warm welcome to Tanya.

Get to know Jolien Sweere:



Jolien hails from the city of Roosendaal in the Netherlands. I've been unknowingly connected to Roosendaal for the last 25 years. The city is the home of the official ABBA fan club since 1986. It took one listen to knowing me, knowing you at the age of 5, and I demanded

that my parents sign me up for the fan club. They supposedly host an annual convention that attracts "hundreds" of participants (Really ABBA fans?, hundreds?? Even Gerardo of Rico Suave fame still attracts thousands of participants to his annual convention in Ciudad Juarez).

Jolien speaks Dutch, English and some basic Spanish. Her favorite color is purple. Her favorite pipette is the 20-200 μ L model and her favorite cell culture plate is the 96-well flat bottom. She lists her favorite restaurant as "?", which I've got to admit I've never been to, but I hear their mystery soup is divine.

If you see her with headphones on, chances are she is listening to Placebo, Kasabian, Goldfish, Jack Johnson, Paolo Nutini, Raccoon, or Freshly Ground. Jolien wins this month's prize for liking one of my favorite lesser known bands, Shinedown. Any Daughtry fan (singular) out there should take a listen to Shinedown and then think about whether he deserved to be praised as original on American Idol. Her prize is a free subscription to the Kuchroo Times! Congrats Jolien!

If she had Dr. Kuchroo's frequent flier miles, she would travel to Indonesia. In her free time she enjoys traveling, hiking, reading, swimming, tennis, going to the movies, hanging out with friends, writing, yoga, and biking.

Please extend a warm welcome to Jolien.

Next month we shall learn more about our new colleague, Tze Tan and perhaps a summer student or 2.

Editor's note: Last issue had a confusing sentence - 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. One reader, whose name rhymes with Ponia Setecka correctly noted that this sentence was written almost exclusively out of song titles by Yasuhiro's favorite bands:

Keane – Bad Dream

Keane – She has no time for me now

Travis – Driftwood

Ace of Base – All that she wants

Ace of Base – Don't turn around

Cardigans – Lovefool

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.

This month I present my take on Mom's old fashioned Soup and Sandwich.

Supplies:

1. Small pot for boiling water
2. Paper Plate
3. Plastic Spoon
4. Cup – O – Noodles Beef Flavor (\$0.99)

5. Little Debbie's Oatmeal Cream Pie (\$.50)
6. Loaf of Wonder Bread (\$1.99)
7. Can of Fanta Grape Soda (\$1.00)

Boil water on a stove in a small pot. You will likely need to follow the same smoke detector precautions as outlined in the last issue of the Kuchroo Times. Tear back lid on the cup-o-noodles halfway. Pour boiling water into the cup up to the indicated line. Pull the lid back down and cover with the Oatmeal Cream Pie for 3 minutes.

As the cup-o-noodles is cooking, it is now time to prepare a bread sandwich. Rinse off the can of Fanta Grape in the sink and dry off with a paper towel. Set one piece of bread on a paper plate and use the can of soda as a rolling pin to get the slice of bread as flat as possible. Place flattened piece of bread in between 2 slices of bread and voila!, bread sandwich! Stir the cup-o-noodles and then serve. Bon Appetit.

Investigative Report

I by no means aim to minimize the seriousness of sexual discrimination (it has no place in the work place and is despicable), but I feel obligated to write this report. An ex.....and ex colleague of mine once told me every day for seven months that sexual discrimination can be defined as any decision good or bad that is based entirely on gender.

I've been making a lot of the solution TBE for use with my experiments. One ingredient in the solution is boric acid. I was shocked and appalled the other day as I was casually weighing out the appropriate amount on our lab scale when I noticed that the only target organ in the human body for the chemical is the

testes. As I immediately pulled my shirt over my nose and mouth and thought, "well that's great", I shook my head realizing how sexist boric acid really is. I just thought that all the men of the lab should know about this and treat boric acid appropriately.

April / May / June Birthdays



Ava about to cut her cake at our monthly birthday cake celebration...as is tradition.

Anelli – April 15

Deneen – April 18

Ava - April 19

Chuan – April 30

Geoffrey – May 24

Anna aka Ana – June 26

Chuan's Corner

Please start peer pressuring Chuan to write a regular article in the Kuchroo times. I think we could all benefit from seeing the world through his eyes.

Fahrenheit Thermometer Award

This month's Fahrenheit Thermometer Award for laboratory futility is presented to 40 µm cell strainers for their role in isolating cells from mashed up spleens and lymph nodes. Someone placed 40 µm cell strainers into our tissue culture room where the larger ones are normally stored. Attracted to their delightful blue color instead of the ordinary bland white color, I attempted to use one in conjunction with a 3mL syringe to mash up a spleen. I found myself mashing and mashing and mashing and mashing, without much happening. Apparently these are only supposed to be used with tumor cells. Why make them so attractive if I'm not supposed to use them? Similarly, why make paste so gosh darn delicious if I'm not supposed to eat it?

Joke of the Month

From www.coolfunnyjokes.com

A local United Way office realized that the organization had never received a donation from the town's most successful lawyer. The person in charge of contributions called him to persuade him to contribute.

"Our research shows that out of a yearly income of at least \$500,000, you give not a penny to charity. Wouldn't you like to give back to the community in some way?"

The lawyer mulled this over for a moment and replied, "First, did your research also show that my mother is dying after a long illness, and has medical bills that are several times her annual income?"

Embarrassed, the United Way rep mumbled, "Um ... no."

The lawyer interrupts, "or that my brother, a disabled veteran, is blind and confined to a wheelchair?"

The stricken United Way rep began to stammer out an apology, but was interrupted again.

"or that my sister's husband died in a traffic accident," the lawyer's voice rising in indignation, "leaving her penniless with three children?!"

The humiliated United Way rep, completely beaten, said simply, "I had no idea..."

On a roll, the lawyer cut him off once again, "So if I don't give any money to them, why should I give any to you?"

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.

"Nobody trips over mountains. It is the small pebble that causes you to stumble. Pass all the pebbles in your path and you will find you have crossed the mountain." -Author Unknown