THE HUDSON-BERGEN CHEMICAL SOCIETY AND THE DEPARTMENT OF CHEMISTRY, BIOCHEMISTRY AND PHYSICS OF FAIRLEIGH DICKINSON UNIVERSITY

Announce

The 26th ANNUAL STUDENT RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM AND AWARD NIGHT

April 18, 2025

This is a forum for students and their faculty mentors from colleges and universities that participate in the subsection's activities to present the results of their research. Outstanding graduating students, chemistry/biochemistry majors from the participating colleges, are also being recognized (they receive the Hudson-Bergen Chemical Society Award). All the presenters will receive certificates of participation. Students who wish to make presentations (~10 min each) must send an abstract via e-mail to mleonida@fdu.edu, by April 1, 2025. The abstract should be in MS Word (font Times New Roman 12) and must include the names and addresses of the student(s) and their faculty adviser(s) in addition to the title of the abstract. The abstract should not exceed 200 words. The name of the student presenting the poster should be underlined. There is no registration fee.

This year's symposium also features the lecture:

Targeted protein degradation concepts and approaches to discover small-molecule drugs

Dr. Sudeep Banjade, SK Life Science Labs

In the last decade, targeted protein degradation (TPD) concepts have been widely used in the pharmaceutical and biotechnology sectors to discover drugs targeting various cancers, neurological and immunological diseases. TPD in particular has been utilized to discover molecules targeting those proteins that have been difficult to inhibit by traditional inhibitor-like drugs. This talk will provide a general overview of the concept behind TPD and the approaches taken to degrade specific proteins that are responsible for inducing various diseases. Specific efforts of SK Science Labs to screen for small molecule drugs that induce complex formation between two proteins - an E3 ligase and a protein of interest (POI) – will also be discussed. The E3 ligases are responsible for tagging the POI with a small protein called ubiquitin, which ultimately leads to the destruction of the POI in the cell. The speaker and his colleagues are interested in discovering those small molecule drugs that can bring the E3 together with the POI so that these disease-causing POIs can be destroyed by the normal machinery of the cell.

Bio: Dr. Banjade completed his undergraduate degree at Fairleight Dickinson University, in Biochemistry, and then obtained a PhD in Molecular Biophysics at UT Southwestern Medical Center, in Dallas. After a cell-biology post-doctoral fellowship at Cornell University, he is currently a drug-discovery scientist at SK Life Science Labs, right outside of Philadelphia.

Date: April 18, 2025

Times: Student presentations : 4:30 pm
Dinner and Awards : 6:00 pm
Plenary lecture : 6:45 pm

Place: Dickinson Hall Room 4468
Cost : complementary, reservations required
Reservations: by April 1, 2025 to Dr. Mihaela Leonida, mleonida@fdu.edu