THE GEORGE C. MARSHALL
VISIT TO AUSTRIA PROGRAM 2019
"LIFE SCIENCES - HUMAN & BIOTECHNOLOGY"

May 13 – 17, 2019 | VIENNA – GRAZ – KLOSTERNEUBURG – KREMS

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The mission of the Chicago Biomedical Consortium (CBC) is to stimulate collaboration among scientists at Northwestern University, The University of Chicago, the University of Illinois at Chicago and others to accelerate discovery that will transform biomedical research and improve human health. The CBC supports fundamental basic science with transformational potential and early translational research to de-risk academic discoveries and advance them toward clinical and commercial realization. CBC is funded by the Searle Funds at the Chicago Community Trust and has supported faculty recruitment, investments in infrastructure available broadly across the 3 institutions, and innovative biomedical research. Our educational efforts have helped to increase the pool of entrepreneurial faculty and students/graduates available to drive innovation in the community.

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California Pacific Medical Center (CPMC) is the largest medical center of the Northern California, part of Sutter Health. It is a general/academic medical center and specialty hospital operating at multiple locations in San Francisco. It hosts also CPMC Research Institute which conducts basic science and clinical studies into a range of topics. CPMC's Center for Melanoma Research and Treatment is home of the nations most prestigious innovators in melanoma therapy and research.

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Georgia State University (GSU) has seven campuses throughout metro Atlanta and more than 51,000 students, of which 3,000+ are international; it has 10 colleges and schools and offers 250+ degree programs in 100 fields of study at the main Atlanta campus. GSU has been ranked the #2 most innovative, the #2 best undergraduate, and #10 most ethnically diverse university in the U.S. by U.S. News & World Report (2019).

The research interest of my group is in the general area of the mechanistic enzymology of redox enzymes, with a specific interest in flavin-dependent enzymes. The long-term objectives are to understand how enzymes can influence the energetics of reaction intermediates and transition states. These aspects are being studied by steady state kinetics and rapid reaction techniques using pH, viscosity and kinetic isotope effects, as well as mutagenesis, X-ray crystallography and computational approaches.

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Harvard Stem Cell Institute researchers at Massachusetts General Hospital (MGH) succeeded in using reprogrammed human stem cells to make working blood vessels in mice that can survive for as long as nine months. The blood vessels were created with induced pluripotent stem cells (iPSCs) derived from the mature skin cells of both healthy adults and individuals with type 1 diabetes.

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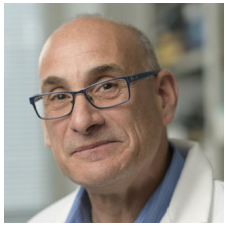

Andrew KOFF, PhD
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MSKCC, the world's oldest freestanding cancer center, is affiliated with Cornell University Medical College and Rockefeller University. MSKCC has 13 clinical departments, 17 disease management teams and 8 research departments in the Sloan Kettering Institute, which constitute almost 300 faculty, 300 post-docs, and 250 clinical fellows. The work in my laboratory straddles the transition from basic science, whether it was regulating the G1 commitment decision or as of now at how cells maintain themselves in quiescence and choose to enter senescence, into the clinical realm of the hospital, asking how these transitions affect the growth and development of tissues and disease.

Atropos Therapeutics is a very early stage start up identifying drugs that can modulate senescence, for applications in aging (senosuppressors).

My laboratory has combined biochemical, molecular, cellular, and genetic approaches to investigate the roles of CDK inhibitors in differentiation, development, and cancer biology. An additional major focus of the laboratory is directed towards understanding how these gene products are regulated to accomplish these roles.

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The University of Michigan is one of the leading public research universities in the United States. The research of the faculty of the Department of Biological Chemistry is concerned with macromolecular chemistry, structure, and interactions. The department offers Ph.D. and M.S. degrees, and contributes to a variety of other graduate and undergraduate degrees administered by other units on campus.

My research focuses on uncovering in atomic detail how protein molecules called enzymes are able to speed specific reactions many orders of magnitude. This research requires the use of specialized technology to observe chemistry on the millisecond time-scale and develop strategies that can characterize fleeting molecular configurations. The deep knowledge produced by such studies can be used to design new pharmeceuticals or engineer enzymes to produce valuable chemicals.

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The University of Minnesota (UM) has the sixth largest campus in the US and ranks eights in research spending among public US university with an $8.6 billion annual economic impact. The UM is one of two universities in the US that consists of colleges and schools that span the full breadth of academic and professional disciplines ranging. Its medical & professional school, science and engineering and agricultural colleges are major hubs of innovation and entrepreneurship. More than 20 fortune 500 companies are headquartered in Minnesota (e.g. Cargill, 3M, Ecolab, General Mills, St. Jude Medical, United Health) or have a large presence in Minnesota (e.g. Boston Scientific, Beckman Coulter).

We are currently pursuing two major research focus areas: In one focus area, we are exploring and harnessing the unique biosynthetic and redox catalytic machineries of higher fungi. We are screening and characterizing the unique portfolios of bioactive compounds (natural products) made by mushrooms by building a field-to-lab biobank and identifying their biosynthetic pathways and oxidative enzymes. Another focus in our lab is the design of genetically programmable and self-assembling protein-based nanoarchitectures for applications in biocatalysis, biosynthesis, and for the fabrication of new types of self-assembling bio-nanomaterials for a variety of applications.

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The Center for Cancer Research is the largest division of the NCI intramural research program and comprises nearly 250 basic and clinical research groups working on a wide spectrum of biological and biomedical problems ranging from visualizing and understanding the structure of individual genes and proteins, developing novel methods for drug discovery, to inventing biomedical devices and technology and creating innovative ways to treat patients in the NIH Clinical Center.

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