



Dear Friend,

Is it December already? 2015 went by fast!

It's the season for being grateful, and Molecular and Cell Biology at UC Berkeley has a lot to be grateful for. We've been consistently making news all year long, extraordinary news. Our researchers, teachers, and students are making crucial contributions on many scientific fronts.

You, as a loyal friend, have supported us along the way (through keeping in touch, participating in events, or generous donations). So as co-chairs of the department, we're especially grateful for you and your engagement. We'd like to share a few of our most significant accomplishments over the past year:

- In the news: We celebrated Jennifer Doudna's CRISPR-Cas9 achievements and the launch of the [Innovative Genomics Initiative](#), and Doudna led the charge to create a three-day summit in Washington, DC to consider the [ethics in making permanent, hereditary changes in the human genome](#). Yang Dan has found the neural switch that [turns dreams on and off](#) in mice. Robert Beatty and collaborators identified the [Dengue Virus Hemorrhagic Shock Protein](#). Daniel Rokhsar has repeatedly made the news this year with genomic revelations -- including his work on the [octopus genome](#). Diana Bautista was featured on NPR, for her work on [What Makes Us Itch](#). Chris and Michelle Chang, along with their collaborator Peidong Yang, have made a potentially game-changing breakthrough in [artificial photosynthesis](#). The Cancer Research Lab is leading the way to [novel therapeutic approaches for cancer](#). Our neuroscientists have been making huge strides in research, and have also spearheaded the new [ZEISS Berkeley Brain Microscopy Innovation Center](#). Read more [exciting news](#) on our website.
- Two MCB faculty were named as *new* HHMI Investigators (Britt Glaunsinger and Andreas Martin) joining MCB's 16 other HHMI Faculty Investigators; Jennifer Doudna has been recruited as chair of the Chancellor's Advisory Committee on Biology; and three of our faculty received faculty chairships – David Raulet (Esther and Wendy Schekman Chair in Basic Cancer Biology), Jeffery Cox (C.H. Li Chair of Biochemistry and Molecular Endocrinology), and Kathleen Collins (Walter and Ruth Schubert Family Chair).
- Eva Nogales and Jeremy Thorner were elected to the National Academy of Sciences; Carlos Bustamante was elected to American Academy of Arts and Sciences; Jennifer Doudna was elected as a fellow in the American Academy of Microbiology; John Kuriyan was elected as a Foreign Member of the Royal Society; Susan Marqusee was named a

2015 Biophysical Society fellow; and Jasper Rine has been elected to the National Academy of Inventors.

- 32 of our faculty received prestigious awards this year including Doudna's Gruber Genetics Prize, Princess of Asturias Award, L'Oreal UNESCO Women in Science Award, Massry Prize -- all following her 2015 Breakthrough Prize!
- We've recruited five new faculty members -- Stephen Brohawn, Jeffery Cox, Xavier Darzacq, Hernan Garcia, and Stephan Lammel -- and welcomed back Michael Marletta. We've also recently brought in new MCB faculty from other units on campus -- Jacob Corn (IGI) and Karen Davies (LBNL). And we're looking forward to meeting the candidates for our new physiology search this coming spring.
- Exciting Collaborations here, and overseas: A new [Developmental and Regenerative Biology Research Group](#) has formed on campus, including 20 MCB faculty from across the five divisions. MCB Faculty Rebecca Heald and Iswar Hariharan collaborated with IB Faculty David and Marvalee Wake, along with others to create the recent book "[Size Control in Biology](#)." Lin He and Kunxin Luo, supported by the [Chau Hoi Shuen Foundation Women in Science Program](#), are leading exciting research collaborations with women scientists in China.
- Education Advancements: Dan Feldman joins our esteemed colleagues Jasper Rine, Gary Firestone, and Nilabh Shastri as a recipient of the UC Berkeley Distinguished Teaching Award. Terry Machen and Gian Garriga received a 2015-2016 Presidential Chair Fellows Curriculum Enrichment Grant, which they'll be using to revamp the Bio1A and Bio1B sequence to continue providing a top-notch experience for undergraduates.
- Diversity and Inclusion Initiatives: David Weisblat received the Leon Henkin Citation for Distinguished Service, in recognition for his exceptional commitment to the educational development of students from groups who are underrepresented in the academy. MCB joined the Department of Integrative Biology in an innovative endeavor (supported by the UC Berkeley Division of Equity and Inclusion) to improve our department climates for students, postdocs, staff, and faculty and encourage cross-disciplinary collaborations in our community. The MCB Grad Network was launched, which provides peer support and guidance for MCB graduate students.
- Big Give raised over \$9,000 in a single day! Thanks to all of you who sent in a donation...and if you're sad you missed it, it's never too late to [donate](#) to our amazing research and educational programs.

Recruiting incredible students and researchers from around the world? Check. Making ground-breaking discoveries? Check. Providing a top-notch education? Check. As the year comes to a close, we take a moment to reflect on our achievements ...but we're also reaching further and asking how we can make things even better. Over this last year, with the launch of the MCB

Grad Network, our Equity and Inclusion Luncheons, and more social events, we're creating more community for our students, researchers, and staff -- going above and beyond the already stellar research and teaching programs we foster.

What's our new year's resolution? We're making plans to connect more with the broader MCB network and create more community-building events not only for our scientific population, but our alumni and friends. That means MCB wants to hear from you!

As one of our alumni, do you have advice to offer current MCB students -- *what critical nugget of information do you wish you knew when you were here?*

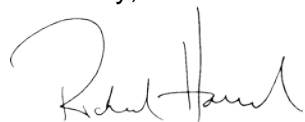
We're launching an alumni feature in our MCB Transcript (our newsletter that comes out twice a year). [Share what you've been up to](#) and learn where your MCB friends are now.

Next time you're in town, stop by for one of our weekly research seminars -- they're always open to the public -- and keep an eye out for special alumni events and networking opportunities.

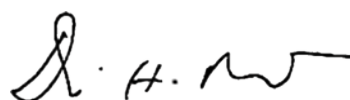
- **Jan 14th:** Screening of "[The Fly Room](#)" 245 LKS auditorium on Thursday, Jan 14, 2016 from 5-8 pm. This film is based on the true story of Calvin Bridges' revolutionary work on *Drosophila melanogaster*, told through the eyes of his daughter, Betsey, who was 10 at the time.
- **Jan 30-31st:** Have an interest in recruitment and retention of women and minorities in STEM? Register for the "[Expanding Potential](#)" workshop to share your experience and efforts and learn about best practices from other programs and experts from academia and industry.
- **Feb 27th:** Come by for a special event at the new Berkeley Art Museum and Pacific Film Archive (BAMPFA) -- Saturday, Feb 27, 2016 at 1pm. A sneak preview screening of "My Love Affair with the Brain: The Life and Science of Dr. Marian Diamond." The film will be followed with a program and reception in celebration of Dr. Diamond's contributions to generations of Cal Alum as well as her pioneering contributions to modern neuroscience.

And finally, Happy Holidays and Happy New Year! All of us here at Molecular & Cell Biology are grateful to you for your engagement, advocacy, and support of our scientific and educational efforts. Many thanks and keep in touch.

Sincerely,



Richard Harland  
Professor and MCB Co-Chair



David Raulet  
Professor and MCB Co-Chair