



May 16, 2008

Scientists Share Latest Techniques in Biomolecular Nuclear Magnetic Resonance Spectroscopy at NMR Day

Rockville, MD— Over one hundred scientists gathered at UMBI's Shady Grove campus for "NMR Day" on May 16, 2008. The day-long scientific conference was hosted by UMBI's Center for Advanced Research in Biotechnology (CARB).

"NMR, or Nuclear Magnetic Resonance Spectroscopy, is an invaluable tool to investigate the structure and dynamics of molecules in their solution states near physiological conditions, providing important clues about the function of molecules in biological systems", said Dr. Nese Sari, manager of CARB's NMR facility, who coordinated the conference. Conference speakers are internationally recognized scientists who are pioneers in the application of NMR to biological systems.



Pictured above (front, left to right) are conference coordinator Dr. Nese Sari, and speakers Dr. John Orban of CARB/UMBI, special guest Dr. Peter Wright from the Scripps Research Institute, Dr. Joseph Barchi of the National Cancer Institute, Dr. Michael Summers of the University of Maryland Baltimore County, Dr. John Bushweller of the University of Virginia, Dr. Vitali Tugarinov of the University of Maryland at College Park. Standing up speakers (from left to right) are Dr. David Weber of the University of Maryland at Baltimore, Dr. Juliette Lecomte of Johns Hopkins, Dr. John Marino of CARB/UMBI and the National Institute of Standards and Technology and Dr. Daron Freedberg of the Food and Drug Administration. Not shown is speaker Dr. Ad Bax of the National Institutes of Health.

NMR spectroscopy is a highly specialized interdisciplinary field. Topics of the presentations at NMR Day covered a wide range of applications and innovations in various biological systems, ranging from structural analysis of membrane proteins, carbohydrates, and nucleotides to deciphering secrets of protein folding.

A description of the NMR facility at UMBI's Shady Grove campus can be found here:

<http://umbi.umd.edu/carb/core-facilities/keck-nmr/w-m-facility.php>

With research centers in Baltimore, Rockville, and College Park, UMBI, the University of Maryland Biotechnology Institute, is the newest of 13 institutions forming the University System of Maryland. UMBI has more than 60 ladder-ranked faculty and a mandate to advance the biotechnology economy while preparing a well-equipped workforce. Celebrating more than 20 years of service to Maryland and the world, UMBI is led by microbiologist and former biotechnology executive Dr. Jennie C. Hunter-Cevera. For more information visit www.umbi.umd.edu.

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