Hello and Farewell

We have had some comings and goings in the first quarter. First, we say hello to Dr. Gang Bao, who is currently on the 4th Floor. Also, if you didn’t know, Dr. Laura Segatori from Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering is now on the 3rd Floor. Rice Online is now in Room 202. The BRC said goodbye to Dr. John McDevitt, now Departmental Chair of Biomaterials and Biometrics at New York University College of Dentistry.

Congratulations

Dr. Rebecca Richards-Kortum was elected to the National Academy of Sciences. She is now Rice’s seventh Academy member, and sixth in the BRC!

The IBB wants you!

During each summer, the IBB works to enhance STEM experiences for high school students from Mercedes, TX. The IBB is looking for both postdocs and grad students to serve as paid mentors to these high school students about

BRC 5th Anniversary Institutes & Centers Open House

To celebrate the fifth anniversary of the official opening of the BioScience Research Collaborative (BRC) an open house took place on Friday, April 10th. Fourteen Institutes and Centers associated with the BRC represented their groups at tables in the event space, along with Boomtown Coffee and Ben & Jerry’s Ice Cream. The open house allowed guests from the Rice main campus, the medical center and the BRC to become more familiar with these groups in the BRC, and the work that they do, whether computational physics, bringing together separate institutions in the medical center for collaborative research, or

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studying the effect of the Houston environment on health.

After the Open House, the Keck Seminar, hosted by the GCC, was given by Dr. Anil Sood, Professor and Vice Chair, Translational Research, Gynecologic Oncology & Reproductive Medicine, M.D. Anderson Cancer Center. Dr. Sood’s presentation on ovarian cancer touched on many topics relevant to researchers in the BRC and the question and answer period after the talk was especially lively. A reception after the seminar capped the festivities.

The BRC 5 Year Plan

For the past 9 months, two committees, representing the faculty and administration, charged by President Leebron, have been meeting to help develop a plan for the next five years of the BRC. The charge from the president was to consider how the current external environment in healthcare research and delivery, much different than 10 years ago when the BRC was an idea on paper, challenges the original concept for the BRC, and to consider if that original concept remains the best path forward. The two committees have gathered information from numerous sources (including the BRC survey - did you participate?) and discussed at length a variety of scenarios.

The final report is nearing completion, and the Rice community looks forward to working with President Leebron and our provost designate, Dr. Marie Lynn Miranda, to determine how best to move forward to implement the committees’ recommendations.