

## MEET THE GUEST EDITORS

**David P. Siderovski**

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**Dr. David P. Siderovski** received his Ph.D. in 1997 from the University of Toronto, having spent several years (1994 – 1999) directing the Quantitative Biology Laboratory of the Amgen Research Institute (Toronto). While at Amgen, he worked closely with the R&D headquarters in California to translate basic research discoveries of the Toronto facility into drug discovery programs. He joined UNC in 1999 and was promoted to Associate Professor with tenure in 2004, the same year he won the John J. Abel Award as the outstanding American pharmacologist under 40 from the American Society of Pharmacology and Experimental Therapeutics (ASPET) for his seminal discovery [1] of the Regulators of G-protein Signaling (“RGS proteins”) that modify the duration and strength of GPCR signal transduction. Upon his arrival at UNC, Dr. Siderovski received two prominent career awards: a Year 2000 Neuroscience Research Scholarship from The EJLB Foundation for his studies of the RGS2 knockout mouse strain [2] and the New Investigator Award in the Pharmacological Sciences from the Burroughs-Wellcome Fund for his discovery of the GoLoco motif family of G-protein regulators [3,4]. His on-going work with the RGS proteins extends from drug target validation studies [5] to characterizing chemical inhibitors of RGS protein function [6]. The Siderovski lab has also recently solved crystal structures of G-protein/peptide complexes in a separate research stream to delineate the molecular determinants of GPCR nucleotide exchange activity on heterotrimeric G-proteins [7,8]. Since joining UNC faculty in 1999, Dr. Siderovski’s research group has published nearly 80 papers on the RGS proteins and GPCR signaling – an output recently recognized by UNC bestowing the Philip and Ruth Hettleman Prize for Artistic and Scholarly Achievement to Dr. Siderovski in 2006.

In addition to running a research laboratory, Dr. Siderovski is a dedicated mentor and educator of medical students and other graduate-level professional students. He is the Co-Director of the UNC MD/Ph.D. Program, Course Director of Pharmacology-701 “*Receptors: An Introduction to Molecular Pharmacology*”, and teaches several lectures on drug/receptor relationships and GPCR signal transduction in Medical Pharmacology, Pharmacy Pharmacology, and Cell Biology courses. Dr. Siderovski also teaches the “Ethics of Peer Review” section of the *Responsible Conduct of Research* course taken by all incoming Ph.D. students into UNC graduate programs.

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**Francis S. Willard**

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**Dr. Francis S. Willard** obtained a B.Sc. with first-class honours in Physiology at Victoria University, Wellington, New Zealand. He went on to complete his Ph.D. at the Australian National University, and in 2003 received the prestigious Frank Fenner Medal for his doctoral studies. Dr. Willard then served as a postdoctoral fellow and research assistant professor in the UNC Department of Pharmacology. During this time he was awarded an American Heart Association postdoctoral fellowship and a UNC Postdoctoral Award for Research Excellence. Dr. Willard has focused on comparative genomic, biochemical, and structural analyses of G-protein signal transduction and has researched mammalian, fungal, worm, and plant G-protein signal transduction pathways [1-4]. Dr. Willard also worked extensively on GPCR/G-protein biophysics, enzymology, and assay development [5-8]. Dr. Willard is currently a Research Scientist at Eli Lilly and Company in Indianapolis, IN.

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