

Dr. Eric Dec is a Clinical Fellow in the Kimonis lab and a Medical Genetics and Stem Cell Research Scientist. He is currently working on making iPS cells from adult patients with IBMPFD. iPS cells are a form of adult stem cells that are derived from patient biopsies. They can be made to form cells that comprise muscle, nerve and bone tissue. We are currently working on one cell line with more planned in the future. Having these cells as raw material for studies will allow more research at a faster pace than with our current materials. Ample supplies of cells will enable us to test theories and assess the effectiveness of candidate treatments more quickly. In addition, in the future, these cells may themselves be a form of therapy.

Dr. Angele Nalbandian is a Postdoctoral Research Scholar and Laboratory Manager investigating the clinical phenotype and molecular pathogenesis of Inclusion Body Myopathy associated with Paget Disease of Bone (IBMPFD) in the lab of Dr. Virginia Kimonis. The goal of the proposed research is to identify the global gene expression profiling and examine the signaling pathways including the MAPK, PI3K/AKT, Ubiquitin-mediated proteolysis, NFκB, autophagy, and lysosomal-related intermediates in clinical and animal studies. Dr. Nalbandian has a solid educational background from Georgetown University and postdoctoral experiences at Harvard School of Public Health and Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center/Harvard Medical School. She has excellent technical expertise and qualifications in the Biomedical Sciences and has administered several projects, written numerous grants/fellowships/protocols, trained/supervised employees and students, collaborated with numerous researchers, coordinated meetings, reviewed manuscripts and has published extensively. She attends conferences and meetings to discuss scientific projects and breakthroughs.

Dr. Katrina Llewellyn is a Postdoctoral Scholar who recently joined the laboratory of Dr. Kimonis, a renowned IBMPFD expert, to investigate the causes, affects and potential treatments of several genetic disorders that result in myopathy, Paget's disease of the bone or bone fragility and in some cases frontotemporal dementia and osteosarcoma. Her personal career goal is to become a principal investigator researching degenerative diseases and potential regenerative therapies. Dr. Llewellyn has a strong background in molecular biology techniques and transcriptional regulatory mechanisms obtained at the University of Portsmouth, where her focus was on the regulation of the *Xgata2* gene in early *Xenopus laevis* development. Her research was chosen to be presented at the international *Xenopus* meeting in 2006 held in Japan and the cost of the trip was covered by the organizers travel award and a travel grant from British Society of developmental biology.

Marie Wencel is a Clinical Research Coordinator in the Kimonis lab. She received her Bachelor's of Science degree from Loyola University Chicago and has prior research experience in the field of medicine. She is currently working with the Lysosomal Storage Disease Registry at UCI. Also, she is involved in the recruitment of patients, coordination of visits, data collection and entry, and data analysis for the Prader-Willi Syndrome, IBMPFD, and Craniosynostosis studies.

Manaswitha Khare, MBBS, is a physician currently working in the Kimonis laboratory in preparation for residency in pediatrics. She completed her medical training at Osmania Medical College, India in 2007. She has previously worked as a resident doctor, Pediatrics in two hospitals in India. She is involved in all Dr. Kimonis' studies that relate to the RDCRN (Rare Diseases Clinical Research Network) study for the Natural History of Prader Willi and Morbid Obesity Syndrome and help with patient recruitment, testing, data entry, analysis and interpretation of research data and assist in manuscript preparation. She is also involved in the clinical studies of VCP Inclusion Body Myopathy, Paget disease of Bone and Frontotemporal dementia.