

MRB NEWS

Featured Faculty: *Barbara Timmermann, Distinguished Professor and Chair of Medicinal Chemistry—KU School of Pharmacy*

Research Interests:

Biodiversity prospecting and drug discovery “the search for novel chemical entities from natural sources to develop new medicines for human health.”

Educational Background/Interests:

Distinguished Professor and Chair of the Dept of Medicinal Chemistry for the School of Pharmacy, 25 year career at the University of Arizona, where she was a Regents’ Professor .

B.S., Biology, Universidad Nacional de Cordoba, Argentina (1970), M.S.(1977), and Ph.D.(1980), Phytochemistry from the University of Texas at Austin.

Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science in 2001 and a past member of the NIH National Advisory Council for Complementary and Alternative Medicine (2001-2005).

For years Barbara Timmermann has served as the PI and Project Director of an NIH International Cooperative Biodiversity Group Program studying a variety of Latin American plants and microbes of temperate forests, arid and semi-arid ecosystems that hold promise for the discovery and development of prescription drugs. “A plant’s chemical adaptations to stress may involve a large number of compounds produced for specific conditions, to fight infection or parasitism, even to enhance reproduction. Some of these chemical compounds are potential sources of drugs for human health,” says Timmermann. “We are looking for chemicals that are effective for treatment of cancer, antimicrobials, and anti-tuberculosis agents as well as compounds for women’s health, rheumatoid arthritis and inflammation.

For these and other health issues, naturally occurring chemicals may provide more effective alternatives to some drugs developed in the laboratory. All these chemicals exist in nature that a chemist may not dream of in their lab,” she says.

“A positive lead on a molecule that presents a desired biological activity can be passed on to medicinal chemists for further structure modifications. About 25% of prescription drugs come from natural sources,” says Timmermann, who cites antibiotics and

opiate pain killers as well known examples.” I see myself as a catalyst in bringing together chemists, botanists, medical doctors, pharmacologists, toxicologists, pharmacokineticists” reflective of the nature itself at MRB.” Says Timmermann, “Every one of my colleagues is a potential collaborator.” In addition to Timmermann’s research and department chair responsibilities, she will assume the NIH COBRE grant as Gunda Georg seeks a new opportunity outside the University of Kansas.

(Pictured below: Barbara Timmermann; article reprints from HBC KTEC Center of Excellence)



MEET THE GRAD STUDENT

Name: *Yuhong Zeng*

Field of Study:

Bio-analytical Chemistry

Years at KU: 3

(transferred from OSU)

Hobbies: *Travel,
Gardening and Cooking*

Home Town: *Province of
Sichuan, China*



Kansas Storm Season

It is storm season in Kansas and we need to be prepared for severe weather. See the KU Public Safety Office website

<http://www.ku.edu/~kucops/resources/severeweather.shtml>, for more information.

MRB CONTACTS:

TERI HERBERGER
FACILITY MANAGER
Phone 864-2382
EMAIL: teriherb@ku.edu

CARLA RAMIREZ
PROGRAM ASSISTANT
Phone 864-7345
EMAIL: cramirez@ku.edu

ANN SMITH
PROGRAM ASSISTANT
Phone 864-7271
EMAIL: annsmith@ku.edu

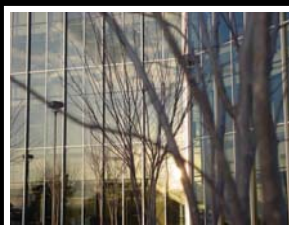
MRB Help Desk 4-1959

MRB TIDBITS

You now should have read-only access to the MRB Conference Room calendars. If you need assistance please contact the MRB Help desk at 4-1959 or call Ann, Carla or Teri.

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**Please let Carla or Ann know when your cabinets are empty of copier paper. There is a main floor supply and we will be happy to re-fill them for you.**  
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Just a reminder to check your mailboxes in the main office. There is a designated mailbox for the PI and also for the lab itself!



**Nitrogen training will be held on Thursday, April 20th from 10:00—11:30 a.m. This training is required before keys to the nitrogen room will be dispersed. Please email Carla, Teri or Ann if you plan to attend.**



Copiers should be used for official purposes only!

When using the main office fax machine dial 8, then 1, then the phone number. Record your information into the fax log book located next to the fax machine **ONLY** if the fax number is a long distance number.

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Bikes should be placed on the bike rack. It is against university policy to have bicycles in the building.
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Styrofoam coffee cups are on each floor. If you cannot locate your cups or run out, please let Carla or Ann know.

