PREVIOUS WINNERS

- 1995 – Kenneth Eilertson and Drazen Raucher
- 1996 – Randal Ketchem
- 1997 – Priya Subramony
- 1998 – Goran Periz
- 1999 – Genfa Zhou
- 2000 – Bishow Adhikari
- 2001 – Junfeng Wang
- 2002 – Meredith Newby
- 2004 – Pamela D. Twigg and Rumana Rashid

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Previous Kasha Award Seminar Speakers

- 1995 – Dr. Linda Nicholson
- 1996 – Dr. Teresa E. Strzelecka
- 1997 – Dr. Steven Pascal
- 1998 – Dr. Anthony Nicholls
- 1999 – Dr. Kenneth Eilertsen
- 2000 – Dr. Ronald Milligan
- 2001 – Drs. Glenn Crosby, Alexander Demchenko, Mostafa El-Sayed, Robin Hochstrasser, Joseph Lakowicz, Klaus Schulten
- 2002 – Dr. Tom Eads
- 2004 – Dr. Drazen Raucher

The 2005 Kasha Award Seminar and Ceremony

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The Florida State University
Tallahassee, Florida

Molecular Biophysics Graduate Program

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Speaker:

Dr. Yi Zhang

1995 Graduate
Ph.D. Program in Molecular Biophysics

THE KASHA AWARD

The Kasha Award is given annually to recognize and stimulate research and to promote quality scientific writing. The award is named after Dr. Michael Kasha, Distinguished University Professor and founder of the Institute of Molecular Biophysics. All MOB students who are primary authors on a published paper in the past two years are eligible to be nominated by their major professor. Winners are selected by a committee.

WELCOMING REMARKS
and
INTRODUCTION OF SPEAKER

Dr. Timothy M. Logan
Associate Professor of Chemistry
Director, MOB Graduate Program

SPEAKER

Yi Zhang, Ph.D.

"hDOT1L, a H3-K79 methyltransferase, is involved in leukemogenesis"

PRESENTATION OF AWARD

Dr. Michael Kasha
R. O. Lawton Distinguished Professor
and University Professor

CO-RECIPIENTS

Ms. Brenda Schoffstall and Ms. Aya Kataoka

Current Students
Laboratory of Prof. Bryant Chase

THE SPEAKER

Dr. Yi Zhang is currently an Associate Professor in the Lineberger Comprehensive Cancer Center and The Department of Biochemistry and Biophysics, University of North Carolina/Chapel Hill. He has recently been named as a Howard Hughes Medical Institute Investigator.

Dr. Zhang obtained his Ph.D. from the Institute of Molecular Biophysics at The Florida State University, where he studied the molecular mechanism of the "hammerhead" ribozyme in Dr. Lloyd Epstein's lab. His postdoctoral training was in Dr. Danny Reinberg's laboratory at the Howard Hughes Medical Institute and UMDNJ-Robert Wood Johnson Medical School where he identified and characterized several histone deacetylase complexes including the Sin3 and the NuRD complexes. He became an independent investigator at the Lineberger Comprehensive Cancer Center in 1999.

Dr. Zhang's current interest centers on the question of how dynamic changes in chromatin structure affect gene expression, cell lineage determination, maintenance, stem cell and cancer biology. Specifically, he is interested in the mechanism of gene silencing mediated by DNA methylation, histone deacetylation, methylation, ubiquitylation as well as ATP-dependent nucleosome remodeling. His lab has been responsible for the identification and characterization of most of the histone methyltransferases.