Forkheads in neuroblastoma & human longevity: From the womb to the tomb
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Acknowledgements

Okay, so where do I begin?! Many people have made my journey in The Netherlands and Europe an exceptional and fulfilling period of my life both personally and professionally. If you are not mentioned herein and you should have been feel free to yell at me later - but don’t think for a second I have not fondly reflected upon you.

Ellen, I simply don’t know what I could ever say or do to repay you. You were my sanity check and an incredibly talented pair of hands when the work seemed overwhelming and we confronted one technical problem after another. I especially thank you for your persistence over the last year in following these stories up in my absence. I will always remember you as the person who helped me to conquer those problems and lay the groundwork for exciting new explorations in the FOXO field. Peter Stroeken! You also find yourself near & dear to my heart in this regard for without your technical wizardy, cool head and attention to detail many of these experiments may never have turned out as well as they have. Jennemeik – you are simply the “Picasso of Western Blots” and a fantastic person whom without which the massive amount of work done on PI3K/mTOR simply wouldn’t have been possible. Under Mohameds’ experienced and thoughtful guidance you produced some terrific data that will adorn our next much-improved paper on the topic. On that note, thank you Mohamed for being a real champion and collaborating on the PI3K/mTOR work and bringing your cell signaling experience to this project.

When I wasn’t in the lab I was having conversations (sometimes with myself) in M1-132. The Jan M. / Jan K. tag team would overhear these conversations and jump in – creating many hours of great laughs and occasionally scientifically-useful discussions. I thank both of you for your boundless optimism and providing an outlet for my more eccentric thoughts! Jan K. I’m especially indebted to you for the many hours we spent discussing how to improve bioinformatic analyses and the wonderous possibilities of R2 – the single best platform for such things on planet Earth. You’ve made me a sharper person all-around and have blessed me
with tools and ideas that will serve me well into the future – you’re a lightworker!

Richard, Piet M. & Danny (aka The Antronerds) – thank you as well for your good-natured support and encouragement. Keep on rockin’ those Linux boxes!

Maria, Natalia and Laurel – I cannot thank you gals enough for joining the lab and helping to “internationalize” it. I very much enjoyed lunch & work with all of you and appreciate the many laughs and conversations we had. Natalia – thanks so much for introducing me to the wonders of Poland (*all* of them) and bringing me to that kick-ass Polish wedding! I’m a pro at those now, thanks to further practice with Anetka. I can throw back shots of vodka to the wee hours of the morning with the best of them! Nostrovia! Maria & Laurel – you two are awesome and some of the best flatmates a guy could hope for ;) Thanks for helping me out during the “Great Transition Of 2014” on my way back to the USA. Keep your spirits high and carry on as great things await.

I would like to propose a toast to my collaborators both within and outside of the AMC! Thank you so much Noam, Anke and Vincenzo for letting me crash your little corner of AMC heaven to commandeer your fancy qPCR machine; life (and the FOXO3A2 project) wouldn’t have been quite the same without it. Also, thanks for the exchange of constructs (pInducer rocks!) which every day in both labs facilitates research; the gift that keeps on giving. Dave Speijer my man – the 2-DE although laborious and messy may yet prove to be priceless; thanks so much! Vincent & Ronald – the Seahorse was simply the right piece of equipment at the right time and I cannot begin to express my gratitude. Thank you Vincent for turning me into a Seahorse cowboy capable of wrangling with the best of them. It is my new favorite toy without which the key discoveries surrounding FOXO3A2 in glycolysis would simply not have occurred. Allan, Rasmus and Ninna in the sunny uplands of Copenhagen thanks again for your fantastic cohort, support and patience. Rasmus, I greatly appreciate your enthusiasm for the statistical analysis of complicated data and have learned much from our exchanges. Thank you for your thorough and flexible approach, it really paid off.
Having come to Europe knowing nobody at all establishing new friendships was of the utmost importance. Marco – my brother from another mother you are irreplaceable! I’ll never forget meeting you for the first time in Texel having our posters next to each other and you barely speaking a word of English, yet it was magnetic! Jenny sends her love... Karin, I’ll always remember our wonderful times together and how I was lucky enough to meet you at the Epstein Bar when Ph.D. students were still allowed to go there! Thanks for orienting me in The Netherlands and teaching me the Dutch way of things. Felipe/Nadine (or should I just call you Fedine?) what can a guy possibly say – it has been magical. I think you are two of the nicest people I’ve ever met and I’m not sure what I would have done all those years without our many dinners, outings and gatherings. The joie de vivre you two emanate brightens up the lives of all those graced by your aura – shine on! Dr. Zurolo, my personal muse. ♫ Volare, Oh... Cantare... ♫ There is no doubt – you ARE the party and the best 4 am chef I’ve ever met! Last but not least a special shout-out to all those that lived in and around 73.1 van tuyll van Serooskerkenweg (aka Expatica) – you guys made a place to live home. Hussein, Emilie, Olivia, Deborah, Bjarke, Natalie, Sonia, Tran, Aurelie, Jeff, Angela, Alyona and Trudi thanks for the incredible memories and good times. I wish you all the very best in all that you do.
Curriculum Vitae

Evan Edward Santo was born on March 22nd, 1982 in Long Island, New York. Throughout Middle & High School he was greatly interested in all manner of world history, classical literature and science (even winning the 7th grade science fair). For enjoyment he played in the woods building forts, practicing archery/marksmanship and fishing streams. To make some extra cash he performed lots of manual labor and also built and repaired computers beginning in the era of Windows 3.1 and DOS. He taught himself all about the new-fangled world of digital video editing and incorporated his own business (Discography, Inc.) which provided analog→digital video conversion, CD/DVD mastering and web hosting services. After having an awesome AP Biology teacher (thanks Mr. Baglio!) and graduating near the top of his High School class (year 2000) he went on to attend the Rochester Institute of Technology (RIT) in upstate New York for his undergraduate major in Biotechnology.

After his first year Dr. Gary Skuse convinced him to become one of the first and few students (guinea pigs) in the new “Bioinformatics” major. Since everyone was still trying to define what exactly “Bioinformatics” was he ended up taking all manner of Biology, Computer Science and advanced mathematics classes. During the summer recesses he worked as an intern at Wyeth in Cambridge, MA. First he worked in the Protein Technologies Department studying SMAD signaling. Subsequently, he worked in the Functional Genomics Department optimizing lentiviral RNAi by designing expression vectors and writing software to predict shRNA efficacy. For his troubles and ability to maintain a 3.6 GPA despite extreme course overload he was awarded the Biological Sciences Department David Baldwin Award upon graduation from RIT in 2004 with a B.S. in Bioinformatics.

He began his Ph.D. studies in Biology at Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory in the Fall of 2004 as part of the Watson School of Biological Sciences (WSBS). The first half of the academic year was intense and filled with courses taught by many different CSHL scientists which kept the new class of 8 busy 14 hours a day. At dinner one evening he convinced Dr. Watson to take his class on an educational trip to the Galapagos Islands, unfortunately this was not approved. During the second half
he was allowed three 6 week rotations in order to find his thesis lab. During his third rotation he worked in the bioinformatics group of Michael Q. Zhang with his postdoc Zhenyu Xuan studying the regulation of FOXO3A by SIRT1-mediated deacetylation in collaboration with Anne Brunet. Here he learned much about transcription factor DNA binding and how best to use that information.

After formally disengaging from CSHL he continued to work with Michael Zhang and Anne Brunet (2005 – 2007). During the course of this study he met a collaborating scientist from Philips (Nevenka Dimintrova) who offered him an internship at Philips in their relatively new Molecular Diagnostics Department located in Briarcliff Manor, Westchester, NY. His primary project was the development of Fourier Transform-based approaches as a new tool for whole genome analysis and pattern identification; both a first-author publication, patent and software suite resulted from this. After surveying Philips-related options for further study in Holland he joined the laboratory of Rogier Versteeg to study neuroblastoma in April of 2007. He will most likely continue his studies of human longevity and associated signaling pathways for the foreseeable future.
List Of Publications

Patents

A method for data mining dna frequency based spectra
**Santo EE, Dimitrova N.**
Publication Number: WO2008129458 A1
Filing Date: 04/15/2008

In vivo expression analysis using ultrasound-induced transfection of reporter constructs
**Chin CT, Dimitrova N, Santo EE.**
Publication Number: WO2009007868 A1
Filing Date: 06/26/2008

Publications


