

Dear Colleagues,

Please join me in congratulating Mahul Chakraborty, Ph.D., and Yongfeng Zhou, Ph.D., on receiving this Fall's Dean's Early Career Awards. These awards were created to acknowledge the research contributions of investigators within the Researcher, Specialist, Project Scientist and Postdoctoral Scholar series.

Dr. Chakraborty studies population genetics and genomics with Professor J.J. Emerson in the Department of Ecology *and* Evolutionary Biology. His research led to the development of technical advances in the computational analysis of long molecule sequencing, a technique now used by researchers at UCI and many other universities. Through hard work and dedication, he has published his research in prestigious journals such as *Nature Genetics* and *Nucleic Acids Research* since arriving at UCI.

Dr. Zhou's research seeks to understand how climate change affects food supply and environmental safety. He works in the laboratory of Professor Brandon Gaut, in the Department of Ecology *and* Evolutionary Biology, utilizing population genetics to study a range of domesticated crops. His most recent paper, which investigates the evolutionary genomics of grape domestication, was published in the *Proceedings of the National Academy of Science*.

I would also like to extend my sincere appreciation to the members of the Executive Committee for their efforts in the candidate selection process: Melanie Cocco (chair), Manny Azizi, Lee Bardwell, Adriana Briscoe, Ken Cho, Sunil Gandhi, Ron Frostig and Melissa Lodoen.

Sincerely,



Frank M. LaFerla, Ph.D.
Hana and Francisco J. Ayala Dean