

Sigma Xi

Charleston Chapter

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Annual Awards and Membership Banquet, Tuesday, April 26

The Charleston Chapter of Sigma Xi invites you to attend our annual membership banquet, **Tuesday, April 26** in the Regimental Commanders' Riverview Room, Coward Hall, The Citadel. Our speaker, **Dr. Roger Markwald**, is director of the Cardiovascular Developmental Biology Center at the Medical University of South Carolina. His talk is entitled "Periostin: an ancient, adhesion gene that may determine how the adult mammalian heart responds to injury."

Talk abstract: A major question today is "why does the human heart not regenerate when injured"? Why instead, when injured after a heart attack, does a fibrous scar form and not new healthy heart muscle cells? One potential clue may be found in the gene periostin. After birth, periostin rapidly declines and is barely detectable in adult human hearts but, remarkably, its expression is increased 8 to 64-fold if an injury occurs. As the result of an injury to the heart, periostin normally correlates with differentiation into fibroblastic scar tissue rather than new, healthy heart muscle. Our work is attempting to change this outcome in hopes of generating new heart muscle. Genes like periostin are currently important candidate therapeutic targets for promoting fibrogenic wound healing (if activated) or heart regeneration (if silenced), but never both.

A reception commencing at 6:15 pm will begin the festivities. Sparkling cranberry and apple juice punch will be available. Dinner will be served at 7:00 pm with the program following.

Dinner is a choice of three entrées: marinated/grilled **filet mignon** with mushroom demi-glace, Charleston **crab cakes** with creamed corn sauce, or vegetarian porcini mushroom **ravioli** with grape tomatoes, artichoke hearts and parmesan. Side vegetables with the first two entrées will be roasted asparagus and red roasted potatoes. Salad of Boston Bibb and baby romaine lettuces with red grapes and crumbled Gorgonzola will also be served. Dessert will be chocolate mousse with a garnish of shaved dark chocolate and berries. Spouses and guests are cordially invited. Please **RSVP** your entrée preferences using the attached form by email or mail to Dr. Mei Chen by **April 20** with a check payable to *The Citadel, Sigma Xi*. **Dinner is \$27 per person for the filet mignon, \$24.50 for crab cakes, and \$17.50 per person for the ravioli.** For more information please email Dr. Chen (mei.chen@citadel.edu) or call her (953-7896).

Parking Directions for The Citadel

Coward Hall is next to Indian Hill, the highest natural point in Charleston, which has a water tower on it. If you drive through the main gate (Moultrie Street), go straight past

the Parade Grounds (alias Summerall Field) on your right. Turn right at the 2nd stop sign (a T intersection). After going past a barracks (on your right), Coward Hall will be on your right. You can park in this area of the street or in marked spaces along the first or second street past Coward Hall on the right. The Riverview Room is in the part of the building that you see and faces the Ashley River. An elevator is available on the opposite side of the building. A campus map is available at <http://citadel.edu/r3/about/map/parking1.shtml> Directions to The Citadel can be found at <http://citadel.edu/r3/about/map/index.shtml>

Name _____ Phone _____

Email _____

Specify number who would like: Filet mignon _____ Crab cakes _____ Ravioli _____

Please return with your check for **\$27 (filet mignon), \$24.50 (crab cakes) or \$17.50 (ravioli) per person** payable to *The Citadel, Sigma Xi* to Dr. Mei Chen, Department of Mathematics and Computer Science, Thompson Hall, The Citadel, 171 Moultrie Street, Charleston, SC 29409 by **Wednesday, April 20.**