



2024

UB University at Buffalo
The State University of New York



JACOBS SCHOOL OF MEDICINE AND BIOMEDICAL SCIENCES
GRADUATE AND UNDERGRADUATE
AND ROSWELL PARK GRADUATE DIVISION

COMMENCEMENT

Sunday

May 19, 2024

9:00 AM

Center for the Arts

North Campus

Allison Brashear, MD, MBA

Vice President for Health Sciences

Dean of the Jacobs School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences

Jamie D. Smith, EdD, MLS

Chief Academic Officer, Roswell Park Cancer Institute

Dean, Roswell Park Graduate Division



Baird Point is an outdoor, Greek-style amphitheater located on the southern shore of Lake LaSalle. It was a gift to the University from the Baird Foundation and the Cameron Baird Foundation. The marble columns on the concrete platforms were once part of the old Federal Reserve Bank in downtown Buffalo. Following their relocation to the lake, the columns were dedicated as a memorial to servicemen and servicewomen.

Program

Processional

Selections from Pomp and Circumstance
by *Edward Elgar*

Opening Declaration

Peter L. Elkin, MD
Chair, Biomedical Informatics

*National Anthem

Performed by Kira Whitehead
BFA, Music Theatre '24

Greetings

Satish K. Tripathi, PhD
University President

Remarks

Allison Brashear, MD, MBA
*Vice President for Health Sciences
Dean of the Jacobs School of Medicine and
Biomedical Sciences*

Commencement Address

Styliani-Anna E. Tsirka, PhD
*Miriam and David Donoho Distinguished
Professor of Pharmacological Sciences and
Vice Dean for Faculty Affairs
Renaissance School of Medicine
Stony Brook University*

Presentation of Awards

Graduate

John Panepinto, PhD
*Senior Associate Dean,
Biomedical Education*

Undergraduate

Jennifer Surtees, PhD
*Associate Dean for Undergraduate
Education and STEM Outreach*

Presentation of Candidates

Doctor of Philosophy

Dean Brashear

Conferring of Degrees

President Tripathi

Calling of Candidates

Mark O'Brian, PhD
*Professor and Chair,
Biochemistry*

Hooding

Hooding Party/Major Professors

Presentation of Candidates

Master's Degrees

Dean Brashear

Conferring of Degrees

President Tripathi

Calling of Candidates

Dr. Surtees

Presentation of Candidates

Bachelor of Science

Dean Brashear

Conferring of Degrees

President Tripathi

Calling of Candidates

Thomas Covey, PhD
*Assistant Professor,
Neurology*

Anyango Kamina, PhD
*Assistant Dean, Student Development and
Academic Enhancement*

Alumni Welcome

Dean Brashear

*UB Alma Mater

Performed by Kira Whitehead

Closing Declaration

Dr. Elkin

*Recessional

Triumphal March from Aida
by *Giuseppe Verdi*

**If able, guests will rise and please remain standing.
For the national anthem, please remove caps.*

Photographic Services

A photographer from GradImages will be at this commencement ceremony to take a posed photograph of you, as well as a candid photograph of your special moment of recognition. You will receive free proofs in the mail within two weeks of the ceremony. You may place orders or obtain answers to questions at www.gradimages.com or 800-261-2576. Since professional photographs will be available, family members and guests are encouraged to remain in their seats, relax and enjoy the ceremony.

Online Viewing of the Ceremony

A recording of this ceremony will be available for online viewing, immediately following the live ceremony. Visit buffalo.edu/commencement.

SUNY Trustee and UB Officials

Eunice Ashman Lewin

Member of the State University of New York Board of Trustees



President and co-founder of Impacto Consulting Associates, Eunice Ashman Lewin joined the SUNY Board of Trustees in February 2010. She helped reinstate the Student Life Committee, which she co-chairs. In

this role, she spearheaded the creation of the Food Insecurity and the Mental Health task forces. Lewin serves on the board's Executive Committee and the committees for academic affairs, communications and external affairs, community colleges, and academic medical centers and hospitals.

A former commissioner of the Niagara Frontier Transportation Authority, Lewin was a founding member of the Roswell Park Alliance and a board member of the Buffalo Urban League and Hispanics United of Buffalo. She is a member of the Hispanic Women's League and the Greater Buffalo Racial Equity Roundtable. In 2022, Lewin was named co-chair of the 5/14 Remembrance Committee to honor the mass shooting victims of the May 14 tragedy in East Buffalo.

A retired bilingual social worker for the Buffalo Board of Education, she is a champion for STEM education.

Born in Guantanamo, Cuba, Lewin immigrated to the U.S. with her family in 1967. She holds a bachelor's degree in sociology from Marymount Manhattan College and master's degrees in American and Puerto Rican studies, and in educational administration, from UB.

Jeremy M. Jacobs

Chairman of the University at Buffalo Council



Jeremy M. Jacobs was appointed to the UB Council in 1997; in 1998, then-Gov. George Pataki named him chairman. Jacobs is chairman of Delaware North, a global hospitality company with customers in the United

States, Australia, New Zealand and the United Kingdom. The company's operations include food and retail at airports and sports venues, sports facility ownership and management, operations of parks and major tourist attractions, hotel ownership and management, gaming operations and fine dining.

Jacobs owns the Boston Bruins and serves as chairman of the National Hockey League's Board of Governors. In 2018, he received the sport's highest honor when he was inducted into the Hockey Hall of Fame.

An alumnus of UB's School of Management and Harvard Business School's Advanced Management Program, Jacobs holds honorary doctorates in humane letters from UB, Canisius College, Niagara University and Johnson & Wales University. In 2015, his family donated \$30 million to advance UB's medical school, which was renamed the Jacobs School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences.

Jacobs has served Western New York for more than four decades with his business expertise and philanthropic leadership, and Delaware North has received multiple awards for social responsibility, community service and environmental stewardship.

A longtime friend and supporter of UB, Jacobs has served as chairman, trustee and director of the UB Foundation, chairman of the President's Board of Visitors and adviser to the School of Management.

Satish K. Tripathi

University President



An internationally distinguished researcher and higher education leader, Satish K. Tripathi, PhD, is the University at Buffalo's 15th president.

Tripathi, who served as UB's provost from 2004-2011, was dean of the Bourns College of Engineering at the University of California, Riverside, from 1997-2004. Previously, he spent 19 years as professor of computer science at the University of Maryland, including seven years as department chair.

In 2024, Tripathi was elected to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. A fellow of IEEE and AAAS, he has published more than 200 scholarly papers, supervised more than 30 doctoral and postdoctoral students and served on program committees of numerous international conferences.

Tripathi graduated at the top of his class from Banaras Hindu University (BHU). He holds a master's degree and a doctorate in computer science from the University of Toronto, as well as master's degrees in statistics from the University of Alberta and BHU. He has received honorary doctorates from the Indian Institute of Information Technology, Allahabad, and Brock University in Canada.

Tripathi is co-chair of the Association of American Universities (AAU) Task Force on Expanding U.S.-India University Partnerships, and he serves on the College Football Playoff Board of Managers. Previously, he was chair of the Mid-American Conference Council of Presidents and Internet 2. He also served on the boards of the AAU, the NCAA Division I, the NCAA Board of Governors, the Association of Public and Land-Grant Universities and the Council for Higher Education Accreditation.

A. Scott Weber

*Provost and Executive Vice President
for Academic Affairs*



As provost and executive vice president for academic affairs, A. Scott Weber, PhD, serves as the university's chief academic officer, providing leadership across the academic enterprise including

research, scholarship and creative activities; undergraduate, graduate, professional and international education; faculty development; diversity and inclusion initiatives; and university libraries. Weber is leading the implementation of the university's vision to be recognized among the top 25 public research universities in the nation, focused on building on UB's strengths to achieve new levels of excellence in research, scholarship, education, clinical care and engagement.

A member of UB's faculty since 1983, Weber is an innovative scholar and teacher and former chair of UB's Department of Civil, Structural and Environmental Engineering. Weber has held progressively responsible administrative roles at UB, including senior vice provost and vice provost for academic affairs, where he was instrumental in the creation of the UB Curriculum and the nationally recognized Finish in 4 program; and vice president for student life, where he focused on enhancing the student experience on campus and promoting overall student wellness.

Weber serves on New York's Hazardous Waste Facility Siting Board for Chemical Waste Management. He is a former board member and current advisory committee member of the United Way of Buffalo and Erie County.

Weber earned bachelor's and master's of science degrees in civil engineering from Virginia Polytechnical Institute and a PhD in civil engineering from the University of California, Davis.

Allison Brashear

*Vice President for Health Sciences
Dean of the Jacobs School of Medicine
and Biomedical Sciences*



Allison Brashear, MD, MBA, a world-renowned neurologist, is reshaping academic medicine at UB. As vice president for health sciences and dean of the Jacobs School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences, she promotes

collaboration and integration across health sciences disciplines, while also leading UBMD Physicians' Group as president and CEO.

Brashear's visionary approach drives health care innovation locally and nationally, and she is a passionate advocate for patients. Her impactful research has led to the approval of three botulinum toxin treatments for conditions like post-stroke spasticity. Continuously funded by the National Institutes of Health since 2008, she is a leading expert in ATP1A3-related diseases, a spectrum of rare neurologic disorders.

Prior to UB, Brashear was dean of the University of California, Davis School of Medicine, as well as a professor and the Walter C. Teagle Endowed Chair of Neurology at Wake Forest School of Medicine.

Brashear earned her medical degree and completed her neurology residency at Indiana University School of Medicine. She earned her MBA, focused on health-sector management, at Fuqua School of Business at Duke University.

Beyond her professional roles, she is a trustee of the McKnight Brain Research Foundation and immediate past vice chair of the American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology. Additionally, her election to the AAMC Council of Deans Administrative Board allows her to shape national strategies that impact the country's medical schools. She is also a board member of the Western New York Women's Foundation.

University at Buffalo President's Medal

Timothy F. Murphy MD

SUNY Distinguished Professor

Director, Clinical and Translational Science Institute

Director, Community Health Equity Research Institute



An internationally recognized expert in respiratory infections, Timothy Murphy, MD, has transformed understanding of bacterial infections in chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) and vaccine development for otitis media (ear infections) and COPD. He has

been funded continuously by the National Institutes of Health for 40 years, and his work has resulted in 230 publications, 13 patents, and chapters in the major textbooks of medicine, pediatrics and infectious diseases.

Murphy is the founding director of the UB Clinical and Translational Science Institute (CTSI), which has been funded by the NIH since 2015. The CTSI advances research throughout UB and with its partners to reduce health disparities and improve health in our community and nation. The CTSI team of some 40 faculty and 18 staff has catalyzed a transformation of the clinical and translational research environment through education and training, streamlining clinical research, advancing data science, providing expertise to engage our entire community in clinical research and creating genuine partnerships with influential community partners.

In 2019, UB launched the Community Health Equity Research Institute under Murphy's leadership. The institute works closely with community partners and engages faculty from all 12 UB schools to support research that addresses the root causes of health disparities, while developing and testing solutions to the social determinants of health that cause disparities.

In response to a national shortage of clinician scientists, Murphy directs a T35 NIH training grant—now funded for 12 years—that introduces medical and pharmacy students to careers as clinician scientists. The goal is to increase the shrinking number of clinician scientists in the U.S. biomedical research workforce, with an emphasis on recruiting individuals from underrepresented groups.

UB President's Medal Recipients

1990	Charles M. Fogel
1992	William B. Hoyt*
1993	Northrup R. Knox Robert Wilmers John L. Hettrick Sr. Robert H. Rossberg
1994	George C. Lee
1995	Irving Freedman
1996	Philip B. Wels
1997	Lawrence P. Castellani
1998	Mary E. Randolph
2000	John N. Walsh III Robert J. Wagner
2002	Reginald B. Newman II
2003	Stephen C. Dunnett
2007	Robert Genco
2008	Robert G. Shibley
2010	Angelo M. Fatta
2012	Bruce D. McCombe Diane R. Christian Edmond J. Gicewicz
2013	Robert D. Gioia Nancy H. Nielsen
2014	John T. Ho Gerald S. Lippes
2015	Paras N. Prasad Claude E. Welch Jr.
2016	Margarita L. Dubocovich Francis M. Letro
2017	Michael E. Cain Laura E. Hubbard Cristanne Miller
2018	Amit Goyal Amanda B. Nickerson
2019	Jean Wactawski-Wende
2020	Dexter Johnson
2021	Peter A. Rogerson
2022	Sargur N. Srihari*
2023	Oren R. Lyons

* Awarded posthumously

Guest Speaker

Styliani-Anna E. Tsirka, PhD

Miriam and David Donoho Distinguished Professor of Pharmacological Sciences

Vice Dean for Faculty Affairs

Renaissance School of Medicine, Stony Brook University



Styliani-Anna (Stella) E. Tsirka is the Miriam and David Donoho Distinguished Professor of Pharmacological Sciences and Vice Dean for Faculty Affairs at the Renaissance School of Medicine at Stony Brook University (SBU). She also serves as Director of the Center for Hellenic Studies. She earned her PhD in (Bio) Chemistry at Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Greece, and completed postdoctoral fellowships in the Department of Microbiology and Immunology at the University of California San Francisco and the Department of Pharmacology at SBU.

The focus of the Tsirka lab is on the interactions between the central nervous system (CNS) and the immune system. Specifically, the lab explores the function and response of microglia, the immunocompetent cells of the CNS, to physiological or pathological stimuli. The lab has used over the years models of neurological or neuropsychiatric diseases (including ones for multiple sclerosis, glioma, epilepsy, and more recently major depressive disorder) to investigate neuro-immune interactions and pathways common to them, seeking to identify targets for intervention and therapeutic treatment of these neuroimmune diseases. She has published over 140 papers, and mentored more than 80 graduate and undergraduate students, high school students, postdocs and younger faculty. She has received the Chancellor's Award for Faculty Service, was elected as a council member of the International Society for Fibrinolysis and Proteolysis (ISFP), and is a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) and the American Society for Pharmacology and Experimental Therapeutics (ASPET).

At Stony Brook, Dr. Tsirka served for eleven years as Director for the NIH-supported Molecular and Cellular Pharmacology PhD Program. She initiated, organized and directs the NIH-supported Advanced Graduate Certificate in Scholars of BioMedical Sciences. Dr. Tsirka participated in panels exploring ways to increase the representation of people from diverse backgrounds in STEM, was a member of the WISE (Women in Science and Engineering) Working committee, and of Women in Neuroscience. She has received the Mentor of Excellence Award from the SBU Center for Inclusive Education. She served as Vice Provost for faculty Affairs at SBU, and now as Vice Dean for Faculty Affairs in the Renaissance School of Medicine. She served as the Secretary/Treasurer of the NeuroPharmacology Division of ASPET and of ASPET's Task Force for Inclusion, Diversity, Equity and Accessibility (IDEA). She spearheaded the instruction of Modern Greek Language at SBU, the creation of a Minor in Hellenic Studies and the establishment of the Center for Hellenic Studies for which she serves as the Director, teaching and directing the minor, organizing lectures, events and a film weekend to promote Hellenism. For her efforts she was recognized as Distinguished Hellene by the Hellenic Medical Society of New York. She currently serves as the president of the Hellenic Link, Inc.

UB Alma Mater

*Music by Walter S. Goodale, MD, 1903.
Lyrics adapted by UB students in 2006 for contemporary use.*

Verse 1:
The pride of our spirit and tradition,
Our alma mater's truth and name declare.
Celebrate our history and wisdom,
O let us all prepare to sing her glory.

Refrain:
To Buffalo all hail to thee,
Noble and strong it's our university!
To blue and white pledge loyalty,
Singing, I will always remember thee!

Verse 2:
We'll ever keep our standards high,
And sing UB's praises to the sky.
Receiving the finest education,
Our knowledge we impart unto the nations.
(Repeat refrain)

Verse 3:
Our friends we've made with ties that bind,
A union of our spirit, heart, and mind.
Together we'll continue life's journey,
O may dear Buffalo forever be.
(Repeat refrain)



Presentation of Graduate Awards

The Biochemistry Graduate Student Research Achievement Award

Recipient: Haley Victoria Hobble

Dissertation: *Intrafamily heterooligomerization of the N-terminal methyltransferase METTL11A*

Major Professor: Christine Schaner Tooley, PhD

The Microbiology and Immunology Award or Excellence in Dissertation Research in Memory of Dr. Murray W. Stinson

Recipient: Katherine Shannon Wackowski

Dissertation: *Cooperation of RESC proteins in trypanosome RNA editing and holoenzyme dynamics*

Major Professor: Laurie Read, PhD

Dennis Higgins Award for PhD Dissertation Research in Pharmacology and Toxicology

Recipient: Shirley Xu

Dissertation: *Troponin-Mediated Autoimmune Mechanisms of Immune Checkpoint Inhibitor-Induced Myocarditis*

Major Professor: Umesh Sharma, MD, PhD

Bishop Neuroscience Thesis Award

Recipient: Richard Adam Seidman

Dissertation: *Oscillatory calcium mediated regulation of human oligodendrocyte progenitor cells*

Major Professor: Fraser Sim, PhD

The Structural Biology Award for Excellence in Dissertation Research in Memory of Dr. Robert H. Blessing

Recipient: Nicholas David Clark

Dissertation: *Structure/Function Studies of Virulence Factors from Periodontal Pathogens and Membrane Sphingolipid Hydroxylases*

Major Professor: Michael Malkowski, PhD

Roswell Park Graduate Division Award for Excellence in Research

Recipient: Abigail Cornwell

Dissertation: *Impact of Benzodiazepines on the Pancreatic Ductal Adenocarcinoma Tumor Microenvironment*

Department: Molecular Pharmacology and Cancer Therapeutics

Major Professor: Michael Feigin, PhD

The Dean's Award for Outstanding Dissertation Research

Recipient: Haley Victoria Hobble

Dissertation: *Intrafamily heterooligomerization of the N-terminal methyltransferase METTL11A*

Department: Biochemistry

Major Professor: Christine Schaner Tooley, PhD

Presentation of Undergraduate Awards

Outstanding Undergraduate Degree Candidates

These awards are presented to degree candidates who have maintained a high level of academic performance throughout their undergraduate career and were chosen based on their involvement in the campus community and external organizations. Recipients will receive a monetary gift from their respective departments and can be recognized today by the light blue cords they are wearing.

Degree Program: Biochemistry
Program Director: Alfred Ponticelli, PhD
Award Recipient: Sarah Bukhari

Degree Program: Biomedical Sciences
Program Director: David Shubert, PhD
Award Recipient: Alexis Krayevsky

Degree Program: Biotechnology
Program Director: Jinwoo Park, PhD
Award Recipient: Tanvi Dixit

Degree Program: Medical Technology
Program Director: Mujeeb Olushola Shittu, PhD
Award Recipient: Eva Wisniewski

Degree Program: Neuroscience
Program Director: David Dietz, PhD
Award Recipient: Leah Heiler

Degree Program: Nuclear Medicine Technology
Program Coordinator: Egon W. Fast, MEd
Award Recipient: Kelly Mahan

Degree Program: Pharmacology and Toxicology
Program Director: Jeannie Padowski, PhD
Award Recipient: Rachel Khethiwe Sanyu

Presentation of Undergraduate Awards

SUNY Chancellor's Award

This award acknowledges students for outstanding achievements that have demonstrated the integration of SUNY excellence within many aspects of their lives in areas such as academics; leadership; campus involvement; community service; diversity, equity, inclusion and justice; or the arts.

Sarah Bukhari
Biochemistry

Lea Kyle
Biochemistry

Bryan R. Renzoni
Biochemistry

Rachel Sanyu
Pharmacology and Toxicology



Candidates for Degrees

Subject to the completion of all degree requirements, degrees will be conferred as indicated upon those individuals listed herein who were identified by April 4, 2024, and upon such others as may meet the requirements of their respective degrees. Candidates are listed according to actual date of degree conferral (August 2023, February 2024 and June 2024).

Latin Honors

Subject to completion of all degree requirements and satisfaction of the following minimum criteria, Latin honors may be conferred as indicated upon the individuals listed herein and upon such others as may meet the requirements. To qualify for Latin honors, students must present a minimum of 60 credit hours of UB undergraduate coursework, at least 54 of which must be graded credits (i.e., not satisfactory or unsatisfactory [grades of 'S' or 'U']). The UB GPA must be a minimum of 3.2 (to 3.499) for cum laude, 3.5 (to 3.749) for magna cum laude and 3.75 (to 4.0) for summa cum laude.

To receive the Latin honors designation in the printed 2024 commencement programs, candidates for the June 2024 degree conferral date must qualify based upon their UB cumulative GPA through the Winter 2024 session and total number of UB credit hours projected through the Spring 2024 semester. Standings for Latin honors MAY change once final grades are posted or degrees conferred.

Phi Beta Kappa

Phi Beta Kappa is a national honor society that recognizes superior academic achievement in undergraduate work in the liberal arts and sciences.

Legend

Cum Laude is denoted by an asterisk (*)

Magna cum Laude is denoted by two asterisks (**)

Summa cum Laude is denoted by three asterisks (***)

SUNY Chancellor's Award for Student Excellence is denoted by the superscript (^c)

Phi Beta Kappa is denoted by the superscript (^P)

Outstanding Senior Award Recipient is denoted by the superscript (^o)

Research Honors is denoted by superscript (^R)

Academic Recognition Items

The Gold Cord

This cord is awarded to students who are graduating with Latin honors.

The Grey and Red Stole

This stole was received by students who are University Honors College graduates.

Jacobs School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences Outstanding Senior

This cord is awarded to students who received the Outstanding Senior award for their major.

The SUNY Chancellor's Medallion

This medallion was presented to recipients of the SUNY Chancellor's Award for Student Excellence. They were selected for this award based on their academic excellence and extracurricular involvement.

The UB Flame of Wisdom Pin

This pin, depicting the flame of wisdom from the university's seal, was received by students who were honored at the UB Celebration of Student Academic Excellence for earning select national, SUNY and UB awards and citations.

The WNY Prosperity Fellowship Medallion

This medallion was received by graduating WNY Prosperity Fellows. They were selected for this fellowship based on their commitment and demonstrated potential to positively impact WNY's economic development and sustainability.

Non-Academic, University-Wide Recognition Items

The Kente Stole

This stole was received by students who participated in UB's ALANA Celebration of Achievement which historically has honored graduating African, Latino/a, Asian and Native American students.

The Rainbow Tassel and Lavender Stole

These items were received by students who participated in the Lavender Ceremony, celebrating achievements of graduating students who identify with the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer community at UB.

The Red, White and Blue Cord

This cord is being worn by graduating UB students who are active duty service members, reservists, members of the National Guard, newly commissioned officers or veterans of the United States armed forces.

Doctor of Medicine/ Doctor of Philosophy

Elliot Kramer
Immunology
Dysregulation of Myeloid Transcriptional Pathways Enhances Tumor Progression and Metastasis
Major Professor: Scott Abrams, PhD

Michael R. Weaver
Neuroscience
The STRIPAK complex: A novel Rac1 interactor that is essential for Schwann cell development
Major Professor: M. Laura Feltri, MD

Doctor of Philosophy

August 2023

Alexander David Bartnik
Neuroscience
A Fully Automated and Ontology-driven Neuroinformatics Platform to Facilitate Translational Neuroscience
Major Professor: Michael G. Dwyer III, PhD

Hasiba Asma
Genetics, Genomics, and Bioinformatics
Regulatory genome annotation in 33 insect species
Major Professor: Marc Halfon, PhD

Jonathan E. Bard
Genetics, Genomics, and Bioinformatics
Multimodal Subtyping and Optimized Cellular Deconvolution of Head and Neck Squamous Cell Carcinomas
Major Professors: Michael Buck, PhD and Satrajit Sinha, PhD

Michael Christian Battaglia
Biochemistry
Investigating the role of transcription factor Ets1 in regulating autoimmunity, skin anti-bacterial responses and development of certain innate-type lymphocytes
Major Professor: Lee Ann Garrett-Sinha, PhD

Theresa Campbell
Genetics, Genomics, and Bioinformatics
Genetic and Molecular Studies of Nuclear Related Mitochondrial Diseases
Major Professor: Taosheng Huang, MD, PhD

Abigail Cornwell
Molecular Pharmacology and Cancer Therapeutics
Impact of Benzodiazepines on the Pancreatic Ductal Adenocarcinoma Tumor Microenvironment
Major Professor: Michael Feigin, PhD

Stephanie Lynne Tzetzto
Cancer Sciences
Downregulation of the Myeloid Transcription Factor Interferon Regulatory Factor-8 Impairs Anti-Metastatic Activity of Alveolar Macrophages
Major Professor: Scott Abrams, PhD

Fengyue Zhang
Biochemistry
The Identification of the Novel Divalent Metal Efflux system, Ihp ABC, in Bradyrhizobium japonicum
Major Professor: Mark O'Brian, PhD

February 2024

Abdulrahman Alahmari
Cancer Sciences
CPSF3 as a therapeutic target in pancreatic cancer
Major Professor: Michael Feigin, PhD

Seamus E. Degan
Cancer Sciences
The role of AKT isoforms and their substrates in metastatic prostate cancer
Major Professor: Irwin Gelman, PhD

Narayan Dhimal
Neuroscience
Studying the roles of autophagy protein ATG7 and Transcription Factor EB (TFEB) in mouse model of Krabbe disease
Major Professor: M. Laura Feltri, MD

Destiny Diaz
Cancer Sciences
Impact of Numeracy on Risk Perception of Tobacco-Related Diseases
Major Professor: Richard O'Connor, PhD

Alexandra Johnson
Microbiology and Immunology
Vancomycin Resistant Enterococcus faecalis uses a bifunctional hyaluronidase and chondroitinase (HylB) and a cryptic glycosaminoglycanase ("HylA") to establish bloodstream and catheterized urinary tract infections
Major Professor: Chelsie Armbruster, PhD

Doctor of Philosophy

Min Ma
Cancer Sciences
Development and Biological Application of Micro Scaffold-Assisted Spatial Proteomics (MASP)
Major Professor: Jun Qu, PhD

Briana A. Santo
Computational Cell Biology, Anatomy, and Pathology
Identification of Biologically Interpretable Multi-Omic Signatures that predict Etiology, Surgical, and Functional Outcomes in Acute-Ischemic Stroke
Major Professor: Vincent Tutino, PhD

Richard Adam Seidman
Neuroscience
Oscillatory calcium mediated regulation of human oligodendrocyte progenitor cells
Major Professor: Fraser Sim, PhD

Katherine Shannon Wackowski
Microbiology and Immunology
Cooperation of RESC proteins in trypanosome RNA editing and holoenzyme dynamics
Major Professor: Laurie Read, PhD

Zinian Wang
Cancer Pathology and Prevention
An epidemiology study of prognostic factors for non-muscle invasive bladder cancer
Major Professor: Li Tang, PhD

Kristen Woodhouse
Neuroscience
Further Characterization of $\alpha 2/\alpha 3$ -Selective GABAA Receptor Positive Allosteric Modulators as Novel Analgesics
Major Professor: Jun-Xu Li, PhD

June 2024

John Charles Asbach
Medical Physics
Data Fusion for Multimodal Deep Learning in Radiotherapy Computer Vision Research with a Practical Development Framework
Major Professor: Anh Le, PhD

Nicholas David Clark
Structural Biology
Structure/Function Studies of Virulence Factors from Periodontal Pathogens and Membrane Sphingolipid Hydroxylases
Major Professor: Michael Malkowski, PhD

Tao Dai
Cancer Sciences
Impact of metabolic adaptations on tumor immune microenvironment in metastatic breast cancer
Major Professor: Subhamoy Dasgupta, PhD

Evan W. Davis
Cancer Sciences
Defining Clinically and Biologically Relevant Body Composition Phenotypes in Women Diagnosed with Epithelial Ovarian Cancer
Major Professor: Rikki Cannioto, PhD, EdD, MS

Bowen Dong
Immunology
NK Receptor Engagement Regulates Sensitivity and Selectivity of TCR-Mediated Cancer Recognition by Cytotoxic T Lymphocytes
Major Professor: Pawel Kalinski, MD, PhD

Megan Erin Fitzgerald
Molecular and Cellular Biophysics
Clonogenic mutation burden as a quantitative measure of primary and secondary prevention of skin cancer
Major Professor: Gyorgy Paragh, PhD

Alexandra Ruth Glathar
Biochemistry
Elucidation of p63-Driven Oncogenic Transcriptional Programs in Head and Neck Squamous Cell Carcinoma
Major Professor: Satrajit Sinha, PhD

Sydney Rose Grant
Cancer Sciences
Clinicogenomic modeling for the prediction of carcinogenic risk
Major Professor: Gyorgy Paragh, MD, PhD

Haley Victoria Hobble
Biochemistry
Intrafamily heterooligomerization of the N-terminal methyltransferase METTL11A
Major Professor: Christine Schaner Tooley, PhD

Justine Jennifer Jacobi
Cell and Molecular Biology
The Epigenetic Role of Nuclear Receptor Co-Repressor 2 (NCOR2) in Neuroendocrine Prostate Cancer Progression
Major Professor: Dominic Smiraglia, PhD

Doctor of Philosophy

Mackenzie M. Lieberman

Immunology

Leveraging Endogenous CD28 Signaling to Improve CAR T cell Mediated Anti-tumor Immunity in Multiple Myeloma

Major Professor: Scott Olejniczak, PhD

Molly Katherine Martin

Neuroscience

Pharmacologically and genetically targeting the metabolism of Nav1.8 channels to reduce chronic pain

Major Professor: Arin Bhattacharjee, PhD

Anuwat Pengput

Biomedical Informatics

Development and Use of Cholangiocarcinoma Ontology for Analysis of Risk Factors in a Research Cohort in Thailand

Major Professor: Alexander Diehl, PhD

Sailee Suryakant Rasam

Biochemistry

Proteomics based characterization of cardiovascular and cancer disease models & advancement of MHC-peptidome identification strategies for high fidelity antigen and neoantigen discovery

Major Professor: Jun Qu, PhD

Garrett David Sheehan

Neuroscience

Defining Clinically and Biologically Relevant Body Composition Phenotypes in Women Diagnosed with Epithelial Ovarian Cancer

Major Professor: Arin Bhattacharjee, PhD

Master's Degrees

August 2023

Hamsa Vardini Senthil Kumar

Master of Science

Genetics, Genomics, and Bioinformatics

Julie Barr

Master of Science

Neuroscience

Chandana Chowdary Chava

Master of Science

Biomedical Informatics

Evan Christopher Connelly

Master of Science

Neuroscience

Kristin Czajka

Master of Science

Neuroscience

Lisa Marie Placencia Evans

Master of Science

Neuroscience

Christopher Francis Keck

Master of Science

Cancer Sciences

Janvhi Suresh Machhar

Master of Science

Pharmacology

Maryam Mohebbi

Master of Science

Neuroscience

Martina Precious Orji

Master of Science

Medical Physics

Afreen Parvin

Master of Science

Pharmacology

Master's Degrees

Sana Qayum
Master of Science
Pharmacology

Kalina Autumn Rice
Master of Science
Medical Anatomy and Experimental Pathology

Matthew Sartori
Master of Science
Neuroscience

Zachary Smith
Master of Science
Pharmacology

Anna Stokolosa
Master of Science
Cancer Sciences

Maria Elaine Tamblin
Master of Science
Pharmacology

Congying Wang
Bachelor of Science/Master of Science
Pharmacology

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February 2024

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Cancer Sciences

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Microbiology and Immunology

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Microbiology and Immunology

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June 2024

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Master of Science
Neuroscience

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Neuroscience

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Master of Science
Neuroscience

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Medical Physics

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