



2025

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 18, 2025

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

Mukund Seshadri, DDS, PhD

Senior Vice President and Dean,

Office of Cancer Education and Training,

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

John D. Hall, MD
*Faculty Council President, Jacobs School of
Medicine and Biomedical Sciences*

*National Anthem

Performed by Julia Pitarresi
BFA, Music Theatre '25

Greetings

A. Scott Weber, PhD
*Provost
and Executive Vice President
for Academic Affairs*

Remarks

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

Commencement Address

Mark R. O'Brian, PhD
*Professor and Chair Emeritus
Department of Biochemistry*

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

Provost Weber

Calling of Candidates

Mark Sutton, PhD
Professor and Interim Chair, Biochemistry

Hooding

Hooding Party/Major Professors

Presentation of Candidates

Master's Degrees

Dean Brashear

Conferring of Degrees

Provost Weber

Calling of Candidates

Andrew Gulick, PhD
*Director of Graduate Studies,
Structural Biology*

Presentation of Candidates

Bachelor of Science

Dean Brashear

Conferring of Degrees

Provost Weber

Calling of Candidates

Amy Jacobs, PhD
*Director of Undergraduate Studies,
Microbiology and Immunology*

Anyango Kamina, PhD
*Assistant Dean for Trainee and
Faculty Development*

Alumni Welcome

Dean Brashear

*UB Alma Mater

Performed by Julia Pitarresi

Closing Declaration

Clinical Associate Professor Hall

*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 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, shortly 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 serves on the board's Executive Committee and co-chairs

the Student Life Committee. She also serves on 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 2024, Lewin was named chair of the Buffalo Urban League Board of Directors, dedicating herself to its mission of ensuring African Americans and others in underserved communities achieve their highest true social parity, economic self-reliance, power and civil rights.

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 United States with her family in 1967. She holds a bachelor's degree in sociology from Marymount Manhattan College, a master's degree in American and Puerto Rican studies, and an EdM in educational administration, both from UB.

Jerry Jacobs Jr.

Chairman of the University at Buffalo Council



Jeremy "Jerry" M. Jacobs Jr. is the chief executive officer of Delaware North, a role he shares with his brothers, Lou and Charlie. He also serves as an alternate governor to the Boston Bruins.

As CEO, Jacobs oversees the company and its operating subsidiaries, focusing on strategic growth, corporate governance and financial management. He joined Delaware North in 1986 and held progressive leadership roles before becoming CEO in 2015.

Jacobs is actively involved in numerous philanthropic, civic and business organizations in Buffalo and across the country. His current board positions include The Corps Network, Mimivax and the Jacobs Institute. He is also a member of the U.S. Travel Association's CEO Roundtable and the Partnership for New York City.

Jacobs was a founding board member of Say Yes Buffalo, and he has dedicated more than two decades of service to the United Way of Buffalo and Erie County, including past chairmanships of the board of directors and the annual fundraising campaign. He is a past member of the Board of Regents at Georgetown University and past chair of the Nichols School's Board of Trustees. He also served three terms on the University at Buffalo Foundation board.

Jacobs holds an MBA from the Wharton School of Business at the University of Pennsylvania and a BA from Georgetown University.

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 a professor of computer science at the University of Maryland, including seven 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 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 Maharaja Surajmal Brij University, the Indian Institute of Information Technology, Allahabad, and Brock University.

Tripathi co-chairs the Association of American Universities (AAU) Task Force on Expanding U.S.-India University Partnerships, serves on the College Football Playoff Board of Managers and the boards of University Innovation Alliance and Internet2. Previously, he chaired the Mid-American Conference Council of Presidents and Internet2 and served on the boards of the AAU, NCAA Division I, NCAA Board of Governors, Association of Public and Land-Grant Universities and 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; inclusive excellence 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 UB faculty member since 1983, Weber is an innovative scholar, teacher and former chair of UB's Department of Civil, Structural and Environmental Engineering. Prior to his appointment as provost and executive vice president for academic affairs, Weber held several other senior administrative roles at UB, including senior vice provost for academic affairs, where he was instrumental in the creation of the UB Curriculum and nationally recognized Finish in 4 program; and vice president for student life, where he focused on enhancing the student experience 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 partnerships and integration across health sciences disciplines, driving health care innovation both locally and nationally. Additionally, she leads UBMD Physicians' Group as president and CEO.

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.

In 2022, Brashear was elected to the Association of American Colleges Council of Deans Administrative Board; she became chair-elect in 2024. The same year, she was appointed to the AAMC's board of directors and joined the NIH Scientific Management Review Board. Brashear is also a trustee of the McKnight Brain Research Foundation and a board member of the WNY Women's Foundation.

Guest Speaker

Mark R. O'Brian, PhD

Professor and Chair Emeritus, Department of Biochemistry



Dr. Mark O'Brian is Professor of Biochemistry in the Jacobs School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences at the University at Buffalo. He has been an integral part of the UB faculty for more than three decades, demonstrating exemplary commitment to research, teaching, mentoring, and service. He served as the Chair of Biochemistry from 2013 to 2024.

Dr. O'Brian's research program investigated metabolic and nutritional control of gene expression in bacteria. This work is relevant to understanding how bacteria interact with higher organisms leading to pathogenesis or symbiosis. His lab group has published extensively in high impact journals, including *Science*, *Molecular Cell* and the *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*. Dr. O'Brian's research program was funded continuously since his arrival at UB in 1988 until closing his lab in 2023.

His research included training of graduate students in his lab, and he was recognized by UB with the Excellence in Graduate Student Mentoring Award. He also received an American Society for Microbiology Professorship in Latin America to mentor and teach graduate students at the Instituto de Investigaciones Biológicas Clemente Estable in Montevideo, Uruguay.

Dr. O'Brian organized and chaired two international conferences and has participated as speaker or session chair in many others. He served on the editorial boards of *Applied and Environmental Microbiology* and *Plant Physiology* and on grant panels for the National Institutes of Health, the National Science Foundation, the U.S. Department of Agriculture and NASA.

As Chair, Dr. O'Brian helped build a strong department through recruitment and mentoring of outstanding faculty members, developing curricular programs for graduate, undergraduate and professional students and helping to foster a sense of community.

A committed teacher, he has developed and taught courses for graduate, undergraduate and professional students. His efforts have been recognized by receipt of the Siegel Award from UB medical students and the SUNY Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Teaching. He is also interested in promoting the public understanding of science, and he has published articles in *The Conversation*, the *Buffalo News* and the *Albany Times Union*.

After receiving his bachelor's degree at the University at Albany, Dr. O'Brian trained at Johns Hopkins University for a PhD in biology and a postdoctoral fellowship.

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: Frances M. Smith

Dissertation: *In vitro investigation of barrier physiology in a human brain microvascular endothelial cell model of Friedreich's Ataxia*

Major Professor: Daniel Kosman, PhD

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

Recipient: Essi Yayra Ines Tchalla

Dissertation: *Neutrophils induce effective antibody responses to the pneumococcal conjugate vaccine by inhibiting regulatory T cells*

Major Professor: Elsa Bou Ghanem, PhD

Dennis Higgins Award for PhD Dissertation Research in Pharmacology and Toxicology

Recipient: James Cooper

Dissertation: *Towards the elucidation of failed remyelination in multiple sclerosis*

Major Professor: Fraser Sim, PhD

Bishop Neuroscience Thesis Award

Recipient: Megan Conrow-Graham

Dissertation: *Investigating the transcriptional repressors ADNP and POGZ reveals convergent mechanisms in neurodevelopmental disorders*

Major Professor: Zhen Yan, PhD

Office of Biomedical Education Master's Research Award

Recipient: Marissa Tripoli

Dissertation: *Neural and Behavioral Correlates of the Impact of Cognitive Fatigue on Ongoing Processing Speed Task Performance in People with Multiple Sclerosis*

Major Professor: Thomas Covey, PhD

Roswell Park Graduate Division Award for Excellence in Cancer Research

Recipient: Michelle Katharine Page

Dissertation: *The toxic legacy of cigarette filters: assessing harmful chemical exposures and environmental impact from filtered cigarettes*

Department: Cancer Sciences

Major Professor: Richard O'Connor, PhD

The Dean's Award for Outstanding Dissertation Research

Recipient: Frances M. Smith

Dissertation: *In vitro investigation of barrier physiology in a human brain microvascular endothelial cell model of Friedreich's Ataxia Major*

Department: Biochemistry

Major Professor: Daniel Kosman, 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: Jack Forster

Degree Program: Biomedical Informatics

Program Director: Alexander D. Diehl, PhD

Award Recipient: Katelyn Hawkins

Degree Program: Biomedical Sciences

Program Director: David Shubert, PhD

Award Recipient: Kaden Lewis

Degree Program: Biotechnology

Program Director: Jinwoo Park, PhD

Award Recipient: Phuc Minh Duong

Degree Program: Medical Technology

Program Director: Mujeeb Olushola Shittu, PhD

Award Recipient: Olivia Kearney

Degree Program: Neuroscience

Program Director: David Dietz, PhD

Award Recipient: Aimee John

Degree Program: Nuclear Medicine Technology

Program Coordinator: Egon W. Fast, MEd

Award Recipient: Emma Wells

Degree Program: Pharmacology and Toxicology

Program Director: Jeannie Padowski, PhD

Award Recipient: Huy Lu

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.

Maymuna Akter

Biomedical Sciences

Joan Liu

Biochemistry

Hewad Shaheed

Biomedical Sciences

Akshay Tiwari

Biomedical Sciences

Constance Yap

Biomedical Sciences

Health and Human Services



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 3, 2025, and upon such others as may meet the requirements of their respective degrees. Candidates are listed according to actual date of degree conferral (August 2024, February 2025 and June 2025).

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 2025 commencement programs, candidates for the June 2025 degree conferral date must qualify based upon their UB cumulative GPA through the Winter 2025 session and total number of UB credit hours projected through the Spring 2025 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 Laudeis denoted by an asterisk (*)
Magna cum Laudeis denoted by two asterisks (**)
Summa cum Laudeis denoted by three asterisks (***)
SUNY Chancellor's Award for Student Excellence
.....is denoted by the superscript (°)
Phi Beta Kappais denoted by the superscript (°)
Outstanding Senior Award Recipient
.....is denoted by the superscript (°)
Research Honorsis denoted by superscript (°)

Academic Recognition Items

The Blue and Gold Cord/Delta Alpha Pi Pin

This cord or pin was received by graduating members of Delta Alpha Pi, an international academic honor society for college/university students with disabilities.

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

June 2025

Clayton Brady

Physiology

Unappreciated non-acidic phenotypes of congenital proximal renal tubular acidosis: investigating the physiological role of NBCe1-B/C

Major Professor: Mark Parker, PhD

Joseph Brazzo

Computational Cell Biology, Anatomy, and Pathology

Lamellipodin is a novel mechanoregulator of cell cycle progression and proliferation

Major Professor: Yongho Bae, PhD

Kanita Chaudhry

Genomics and Computational Oncology

Novel tumor - Promoting functions of the aryl hydrocarbon receptor

Major Professor: Anna Bianchi-Smiraglia, PhD

Megan Conrow-Graham

Neuroscience

Investigating the transcriptional repressors ADNP and POGZ reveals convergent mechanisms in neurodevelopmental disorders

Major Professor: Zhen Yan, PhD

James Cooper

Pharmacology

Towards the elucidation of failed remyelination in multiple sclerosis

Major Professor: Fraser Sim, PhD

John Lewis Etter

Epidemiology

Investigating novel clinical and molecular markers of X-linked ovarian cancer

Major Professor: Kirsten Moysich, PhD

Cameron MacDonald

Tumor Immunology

Understanding how chronic stress impacts radiation therapy and the immunosuppressive tumor

Major Professor: Elizabeth Repasky, PhD

Seth Moore

Neuroscience

Modulating the levels of myelin proteins in demyelinating inherited peripheral neuropathies

Major Professor: M. Laura Feltri, MD

Zachary Weinstock

Neuroscience

Cognitive relapse, structural brain networks, and cognitive reserve in multiple sclerosis

Major Professor: Michael Dwyer, PhD

Doctor of Philosophy

August 2024

Hongjoo An
Neuroscience
Role of Myrf enhancers in CNS myelination
Major Professor: Yungki Park, PhD

Tatiane Da Silva Fernandes
Cancer Sciences
The role of inosine monophosphate dehydrogenase 2 in the chemoresistance of triple negative breast cancer
Major Professor: Anna Bianchi-Smiraglia, PhD

Thejaswini Giridharan
Cancer Sciences
Neutrophil-Driven Injury and Direct Complement Signaling Render T Cells Non-Responsive in the Tumor Microenvironment
Major Professor: Brahm Segal, PhD

Shuo Qian
Cancer Sciences
Ultra-high-resolution MS1-based Quantification Combined with Chimeric MS2 Spectrum Deconvolution Enables In-depth Quantitative Proteomics with High Quality and its Biological Applications
Major Professor: Jun Qu, PhD

Shaina Lorelle Rosenblum
Biochemistry
Inflammatory Signals Alter Barrier Systems of the Brain and Heart to Modulate Iron Metabolism
Major Professor: Daniel Kosman, PhD

Frances M. Smith
Biochemistry
In vitro investigation of barrier physiology in a human brain microvascular endothelial cell model of Friedreich's Ataxia
Major Professor: Daniel Kosman, PhD

February 2025

Hannah Rose Stepakof Fay
Cancer Sciences
Hypoxia-Enhanced Effects of Autophagy Inhibitor Lys05 in Acute Myeloid Leukemia
Major Professor: Eunice Wang, MD

Wen Li
Cancer Sciences
Preclinical Development and Mechanistic Studies of miR-34a to Target Aggressive Prostate Cancer
Major Professor: Dean Tang, MD, PhD

Michelle Katharine Page
Cancer Sciences
The toxic legacy of cigarette filters: assessing harmful chemical exposures and environmental impact from filtered cigarettes
Major Professor: Richard O'Connor, PhD

Peng Peng
Cancer Sciences
CD28 Mediates Pro-Survival Lipophagy in Multiple Myeloma
Major Professor: Kelvin Lee, MD

Priyanka Rajan
Molecular and Cellular Biophysics
Blockade of p38 MAP kinase reverses the immune suppressive tumor microenvironment in metastatic breast cancer
Major Professor: Andrei Bakin, PhD

Roopa Ravichandar
Neuroscience
Elucidating the role of intra and extracellular molecular regulators influencing oligodendrocyte maturation following demyelination
Major Professor: Fraser Sim, PhD

Essi Yayra Ines Tchalla
Microbiology and Immunology
Neutrophils induce effective antibody responses to the pneumococcal conjugate vaccine by inhibiting regulatory T cells
Major Professor: Elsa Bou Ghanem, PhD

Mae Grace Weaver
Neuroscience
Molecular determinants of Ca²⁺ modulation and permeability in the NMDA receptor
Major Professor: Gabriela Popescu, PhD

Robert Anthony Zollo
Immunology
Neuritin promotes robust immune suppression and disease progression in ovarian cancer by giving rise to a highly active and suppressive Treg subset
Major Professor: Joseph Barbi, PhD

June 2025

Syed Fardin Ahmed

Structural Biology

Structural and Functional Characterization of Bacterial Non-ribosomal Peptide Synthetase

Major Professor: Andrew Gulick, PhD

Mohammed Muharrab Alruwaili

Cancer Sciences

Development of novel drug combination regimens for p53 mutant cancers leveraging their DNA damage response liabilities

Major Professor: Andrei Muharrab Bakin, PhD

Christy Angeliu

Neuroscience

Chemogenetic manipulation of astrocytes in the context of demyelinating disease

Major Professor: Pablo Paez, PhD

Samuel P. Border

Computational Cell Biology, Anatomy, and Pathology

Increasing the depth and quality of computational pathology research through interactive tools and multi-modal data

Major Professor: John Tomaszewski, MD

David Goich

Microbiology and Immunology

Crosstalk and compensation between Hog1 and Gcn2 in the Cryptococcus neoformans stress response

Major Professor: John Panepinto, PhD

Chuan He

Medical Physics

Beyond measurements and gamma passing rates: an AI-driven DVH-based framework for patient-specific QA in lung SBRT VMAT

Major Professor: Iris Wang, PhD

Chinemerem Paschaline Ogbu

Structural Biology

Biophysical investigation of claudin-5 and other claudins using natural and synthetic molecular tools

Major Professor: Alex Vecchio, PhD

Martina Precious Orji

Medical Physics

Enhancements to the Scatter Display System (SDS) for Staff Dose Management during Fluoroscopically Guided Interventional Procedures

Major Professor: Daniel Bednarek, PhD

Ankit Pant

Medical Physics

Physics and Geometry Input-based Neural Network

Major Professor: Daryl Nazareth, PhD

Raider E. Rodriguez

Pharmacology

The Role of Nociceptor Scaffold Protein Magi-1 in Osteoarthritis Pain

Major Professor: Arindram Bhattacharjee, PhD

Tyler Rolland

Physiology

Mechanisms of Acute Inflammation in Post-Cardiac Arrest Syndrome

Major Professor: Brian Weil, PhD

Treefa Shwani

Neuroscience

Elucidating Transcriptomic and Epigenetic Changes Across the Clinical Spectrum of Age-Related Macular Degeneration in Human Donor Eye Tissue

Major Professor: Margaret DeAngelis, PhD

Shaunna Richelle Simmons

Microbiology and Immunology

Signaling pathways controlling neutrophil responses to Streptococcus pneumoniae in naive and vaccinated aged hosts

Major Professor: Elsa Bou Ghanem, PhD

Emily Arlene Vanderbilt

Study of Vascular Flow with 1000 fps High Speed X-Ray Angiography

Major Professor: Stephen Rudin, PhD

Yin Wan

Cancer Sciences

Genetic and pharmacological approaches to understand multitude functions of RB in Triple Negative Breast Cancer

Major Professor: Erik Knudsen, PhD

Brandon Green Waxman

Microbiology & Immunology

Heparanase (HPSE) blocks retrovirus infection by targeting provirus transcription

Major Professor: Spyridon Stavrou, PhD

Master's Degrees

Bachelor of Science/ Master of Science

Pharmacology

June 2025

Brooklyn Nguyen
Alex Thomas

Master of Arts

Biochemistry

August 2024

Elle Cheek

February 2025

Joseph McCarron

June 2025

Sarah Obeidat
Robbie Unruh

Master of Science

Biomedical Informatics

February 2025

Chi Hua Lu

June 2025

Ram Challa
Usman Piracha
Samuel Tiosano
Hannah Wang

Biomedical Sciences

February 2025

Andrea Botchway
Elizabeth Clark
Eeman Farooqui
Ryan Grisewood
Ian K. Shea

Biotechnology

February 2025

Husn E Saba Rani

June 2025

Aditi Chitnis
Fred Earl

Cancer Sciences

August 2024

William Edward Morris, Jr.

February 2025

Mansirat Chhina
Lydia Joelle Redman

June 2025

Meshal Khalid Alghanem
Ryan Corey
Abhilash Gireesh Nair

Computational Cell Biology, Anatomy, and Pathology

August 2024

Ashwitha Legala

June 2025

Sefunmi Babatunde
Ignacio Novoa Cornejo

Genetics, Genomics, and Bioinformatics

June 2025

Afreen Hussain
Elena Baugh
Aditi Yeshwant Bedekar
Eshaan Deshmukh
Nissa Medwid
Kavin Velur Ganesan
Jathush Vivekanandam

Medical Anatomy and Experimental Pathology

August 2024

TaJania Donnae' Jenkins

February 2025

Mark Sobetski

June 2025

Maryam Alhadlaq
Sarah Balghonaim
Jessica Jong

Medical Physics

August 2024

Helena Maren Frisbie-Firsching

June 2025

Kyle Williams

Microbiology and Immunology

August 2024

Vitus Leander Brix

February 2025

Frances M. Gonzalez-Hernandez
Shadman Khan
Krushe Mundru
Megha Raghu
Deklan Rummel

June 2025

Patrick Root

Neuroscience

August 2024

Christian Bruno

June 2025

Sara Cruz
Ravleen Liu
Tim Mackey
Prachi Maheshbhai Patel
Siqi Men
Pallavi Dattatray Phadtare
Renee Marie Rouleau
Vikyath Saraf

Pharmacology

August 2024

Xinhao Yu

June 2025

Aniket Vasant Hiray
Karishma Ganesh Kedari
Prachi Kulkarni
Susmitha Naidu Madasu
Sakshi Narwekar
Rathnakar Poddeti
Shruti Rangnekar
Aneri Pradipkumar Shah
Shreya Shyam Sundar
Aniritha Thirumurugan
Maowei Wang
Rong Xu

Physiology

June 2025

Zachary Nelson

Structural Biology

June 2025

Xiangdong Liu



Bachelor of Science

Biochemistry

August 2024

Boris Kunnev

February 2025

Joan A. Liu ***C

Bradley James Voelker **

June 2025

Gorkem Bogubaev *

Aum Jayesh Champaneri **

Emily Rose Cohen ***

Daniel Faber **

Jaime M. Fitzgerald *

Jack A. Forster ***P O

Finch Garry *

Shawn Gupta ***

Gabrielle Marie Inerra ***

Muhammad Daniyal Kashif *

Brandon Mcilvain ***P

Lam Minh Khoi Nguyen ***

Chloe Picciano ***

Flora L. Qu ***

Dania Ali Senussi **

Arnav N. Shah *

Elijah Andre Sharpe **

A. Jo Tarbell **

Jaden Joseph Troiano **

Abigail Elizabeth Udy ***

Jackie Zhang **

Biomedical Informatics

June 2025

Katelyn Marie Hawkins **O

Biomedical Sciences

February 2025

Sasha Brown *

Anshu Patel ***

Linda Vu Pham

June 2025

Olatubosun O. Aborisade **

Maymuna Akter ***C

Alex Alder ***

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The modern seal for the University at Buffalo harks back to a design adopted in 1923 to reflect the evolution of the university from separate schools into a more close-knit organization. Though the seal has been revised several times over the decades, the foundational elements remain: a proud bison signifying the City of Buffalo atop a shield supported by the palm leaves of victory and emblazoned with the flames of wisdom.

