



2026

**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 17, 2026

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*

# Letter to the Class of 2026 from President Tripathi



Dear Graduates,

Congratulations! You have reached an important milestone—one that marks both the completion of your degree and your arrival at a threshold of new opportunities and responsibilities. For that reason, today we celebrate not only what you have accomplished, but who you have become.

Your time here has been defined by intellectual growth, perseverance and discovery. You arrived with promise; you leave with purpose, ready to make an impact in a changing landscape that needs your talents and will test your resolve.

As graduates of the University at Buffalo, you uphold a mission dedicated to advancing knowledge and serving society. Your education has endowed you with greater clarity: to understand complexity and question assumptions. If we have done our job well, you have also come to appreciate the resilience of our collective humanity while recognizing where it is fraying.

You will encounter trials in the years ahead. When confronted with division or adversity, I urge you not to turn away, but to engage. Draw on what you have learned here to mend and renew the fabric of our communities. Whatever your discipline, you possess both the capacity and the duty to champion the public good through your work, commitment and leadership.

As Martin Luther King Jr. reminded us, “We are all caught in an inescapable network of mutuality, tied in a single garment of destiny.” The challenges you encounter will not be yours alone, nor will their solutions be found in isolation. Beyond your knowledge, you carry a shared obligation—to fortify those bonds, enrich those connections and cultivate fairness and compassion in all that you do.

It has been one of the great privileges of my life to celebrate our UB graduates and to witness your growth. As I conclude my presidency this summer, my faith in the contributions you are poised to make remains unwavering.

To the Class of 2026, please accept my heartfelt best wishes. May your efforts advance integrity and harmony across society, and may you inspire others to follow your example.

Sincerely,

Satish K. Tripathi

President

# Program

## Processional

Selections from  
"Pomp and Circumstance"  
By Edward Elgar

## Opening Declaration

Norma Nowak, PhD  
Faculty Council President, Jacobs School of  
Medicine and Biomedical Sciences

## \*National Anthem

Performed by Abby Tyler  
BFA, Music Theatre '26

## Remarks

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

## Commencement Address

Zhijian 'James' Chen, Ph.D.  
Investigator, HHMI  
Professor, Department of Molecular Biology  
University of Texas Southwestern Medical  
Center

## Presentation of Candidates

### Doctor of Philosophy

John Panepinto, PhD  
Senior Associate Dean,  
Biomedical Education

### Conferring of Degrees

Dean Brashear

### Calling of Candidates

Mark Sutton, PhD  
Professor, Biochemistry

### Hooding

Hooding Party/Major Professors

## Presentation of Candidates

### Master's Degrees

Dr. Panepinto

### Conferring of Degrees

Dean Brashear

### Calling of Candidates

Amy Jacobs, PhD  
Director of Undergraduate Studies,  
Biomedical Sciences

## Presentation of Candidates

### Bachelor of Science

Dr. Panepinto

### Conferring of Degrees

Dean Brashear

### Calling of Candidates

D. Fernando Estrada  
Professor, Biochemistry

Anyango Kamina, PhD  
Assistant Dean for Trainee and  
Faculty Development

## Alumni Welcome

Dean Brashear

## \*UB Alma Mater

Performed by Abby Tyler

## 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](http://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](http://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 was appointed to the SUNY Board of Trustees in February 2010. During her tenure, she has been instrumental in

reinstating the Student Life Committee and in spearheading the committee's food insecurity and mental health task forces.

A retired bilingual social worker for the Buffalo Board of Education, Lewin is deeply dedicated to her community. She served on the Western New York Health Equity Task Force, was named co-chair of the 5/14 Remembrance Committee and is a founding member of the Roswell Park Alliance and the Greater Buffalo Racial Equity Roundtable. Lewin is also a member of the Hispanic Women's League and Hispanics United of Buffalo and previously served as a commissioner of the Niagara Frontier Transportation Authority. In 2024, she was named chair of the Buffalo Urban League, where she continues to advance its mission of social parity, economic self-reliance and civil rights for underserved communities.

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 and master's degrees in American and Puerto Rican studies and in educational administration 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. He was appointed UB Council chairman by New York State Governor Kathy Hochul in December 2024. His additional 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 the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers, the American Association for the Advancement of Science and the International Academy of Artificial Intelligence Sciences, 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 serves on the College Football Playoff Board of Managers and the board of University Innovation Alliance. 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 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 & Erie County.

Weber earned bachelor's and master's of science degrees in civil engineering from Virginia Polytechnic 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, is a world-renowned neurologist and a transformative leader reshaping academic medicine at the University at Buffalo. As vice president for health sciences and

dean of the Jacobs School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences, she oversees a comprehensive educational continuum—spanning undergraduate biomedical programs, graduate research and professional medical and postgraduate training. She drives health care innovation locally and nationally, advancing strategic partnerships and serving as president and CEO of UBMD Physicians' Group.

A leading authority on ATP1A3-related diseases, she has received continuous National Institutes of Health funding since 2008. Her groundbreaking research helped secure approval for three botulinum toxin therapies used to treat post-stroke spasticity and other neurologic conditions.

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

She earned her medical degree and completed her neurology residency at Indiana University School of Medicine and her MBA at Duke University's Fuqua School of Business.

In 2025, Brashear was elected to the National Academy of Medicine. She holds national leadership roles, including serving on the Association of American Medical Colleges' Council of Deans Administrative Board, where she became chair-elect in 2024, on the AAMC board of directors and as a trustee of the McKnight Brain Research Foundation. In Buffalo, she serves as a board member of the WNY Women's Foundation.

## Guest Speaker

### **Zhijian 'James' Chen, Ph.D.**

*Investigator, HHMI  
Professor, Department of Molecular Biology  
University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center*



Zhijian 'James' Chen received his B.S. degree in Biology in 1985 from Fujian Normal University, China, and his Ph.D. degree in Biochemistry in 1991 from the State University of New York at Buffalo. After his postdoctoral training at the Salk Institute, Dr. Chen joined Baxter Healthcare in 1992 as a Research Scientist to work on cancer immunotherapy. In 1994, Dr. Chen became a Senior Scientist at ProScript Inc, where he helped discover the proteasome inhibitor VELCADE, a medicine used for the treatment of multiple myeloma. In 1997, Chen joined the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center

as an Assistant Professor and became a Professor in 2005. Since 2005, Dr. Chen has been an Investigator of Howard Hughes Medical Institute. He is also George L. MacGregor Distinguished Chair in Biomedical Science and Director of Inflammation Research Center at UT Southwestern.

Dr. Chen has made a series of discoveries that transformed our understanding of cell signaling and innate immunity. His notable discoveries include the Mitochondrial Antiviral Signaling (MAVS) protein and cyclic GMP-AMP synthase (cGAS) that mediate innate immune responses in animal cells. For his work, Dr. Chen has received numerous honors including the Breakthrough Prize in Life Sciences (2019), Louisa Gross Horwitz Prize (2023), Albert Lasker Award for Basic Medical Research (2024), Paul Ehrlich and Ludwig Darmstaedter Prize (2025), Elaine Redding Brinster Prize (2026) and Japan Prize in Life Sciences (2026). Dr. Chen is a member of the National Academy of Sciences and the National Academy of Medicine, and a Fellow of Royal Society.

# 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 Dean's Award for Outstanding Dissertation Research

**Recipient:** Monica R. MacDonald

**Dissertation:** "Protein Engineering and Biosynthetic Approaches for Synthesis of Pyrrolobenzodiazepine Analog Natural Products"

**Department:** Structural Biology

**Major Professor:** Andrew Gulick, PhD

## Office of Biomedical Education Master's Research Award

**Recipient:** David Homer

**Dissertation:** "Developing a Mechanistic Understanding of the Functions Within the Msh3 N-Terminal Region"

**Department:** Biochemistry

**Major Professor:** Jennifer Surtees, PhD

## Roswell Park Graduate Division Award for Excellence in Cancer Research

**Recipient:** Sarah Athans

**Dissertation:** "STAG2 Controls Chromatin Architecture to Enforce Pro-Tumor Gene Expression Programs Lending Novel Therapeutic Opportunities in Muscle Invasive Bladder Cancer"

**Department:** Molecular Pharmacology and Cancer Therapeutics

**Major Professor:** Anna Woloszynska, PhD

## The Biochemistry Graduate Student Research Achievement Award

**Recipient:** Janie McGlohon

**Dissertation:** "Substrate-Driven Distal-to-Proximal Structural Regulation of CYP11A1 and Its Interaction with Its Redox Partner Adrenodoxin"

**Major Professor:** D. Fernando Estrada, PhD

## Bishop Neuroscience Thesis Award

**Recipient:** Li Li

**Dissertation:** "Understanding Neuronal Fate Transition and Degeneration by Transcriptomic Networks"

**Major Professor:** Jian Feng, PhD

## Dennis Higgins Award for PhD Dissertation Research in Pharmacology and Toxicology

**Recipient:** Raider Rodriguez

**Dissertation:** "Elucidating the Effect of Local Nav1.8 Channel Downregulation on Osteoarthritis-Related Chronic Pain"

**Major Professor:** Arindam Bhattacharjee, PhD

## Donald W. Rennie Prize in Physiology

**Recipient:** Niharika Jawalkar

## Neuroscience Master's Thesis Award

**Recipient:** Ajaykiran Mallavarapu

**Dissertation:** "Methamphetamine and Mitochondria: A Study on How Methamphetamine Exposure Reshapes Mitochondrial Morphology in Ventral Tegmental Area Dopaminergic Neurons"

**Major Professor:** Sergio Dominguez-Lopez, PhD

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

**Recipient:** Monica R. MacDonald

**Dissertation:** "Protein Engineering and Biosynthetic Approaches for the Synthesis of Pyrrolobenzodiazepine Analog Natural Products"

**Major Professor:** Andrew Gulick, 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:** Thomas Hohle, PhD

**Award Recipient:** Arielle Arbel

**Degree Program:** Biomedical Informatics

**Program Director:** Alexander D. Diehl, PhD

**Award Recipient:** Neha Nattanmai

**Degree Program:** Biomedical Sciences

**Program Director:** Amy Jacobs, PhD

**Award Recipient:** Colin Manke

**Degree Program:** Biotechnology

**Program Director:** Jinwoo Park, PhD

**Award Recipient:** Khandoker Ifaz Ahmed

**Degree Program:** Medical Laboratory Science

**Program Director:** Mujeeb Olushola Shittu, PhD

**Award Recipient:** RongHui Lu

**Degree Program:** Neuroscience

**Program Director:** Fraser Sim, PhD

**Award Recipient:** Gavin Labouf

**Degree Program:** Nuclear Medicine Technology

**Program Coordinator:** Egon W. Fast, MEd

**Award Recipient:** Kymani Getfield

**Degree Program:** Pharmacology and Toxicology

**Program Director:** Jeannie Padowski, PhD

**Award Recipient:** Max Wakshlag

## 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.*

**Kymani Getfield**

*Nuclear Medicine Technology*

**Ishfar Shaan**

*Biomedical Sciences*

**Emaan Sohail**

*Biomedical Sciences*



# 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 2, 2026, and upon such others as may meet the requirements of their respective degrees. Candidates are listed according to actual date of degree conferral (August 2025, February 2026 and June 2026).

## 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 2026 commencement programs, candidates for the June 2026 degree conferral date must qualify based upon their UB cumulative GPA through the Winter 2026 session and total number of UB credit hours projected through the Spring 2026 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 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 is open to all students and has historically 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 Celebration, celebrating achievements of graduating students who identify as LGBTQ+ or allies.

### 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 2026**

Jack Andrew Reeves

Physiology

"Imaging the Role of Chronic Active Inflammation in Multiple Sclerosis Disease Progression"

Major Professor: Michael G. Dwyer, PhD

## **Doctor of Philosophy**

### **August 2025**

Adam Brinkman

Cancer Sciences

"Alternative NF- $\kappa$ B Signaling in Human Myeloid Cells: Chemoattraction of T Cells and Dendritic Cell Function"

Major Professor: Pawel Kalinski MD, PhD

Katherine Crawford

Cancer Sciences

"The Role of HNF1A in Promoting Metastasis in PDAC via Upregulation of FGFR4"

Major Professor: Ethan Abel, PhD

Adam Paul Dommer

Cancer Sciences

"Bifurcated Approaches to Leveraging Cyclin E1 as a Selective Therapeutic Vulnerability"

Major Professors: Erik Knudsen, PhD & Agnieszka Witkiewicz, MD

Lakshmanan Suresh

Computational Cell Biology, Anatomy, and Pathology

"Role of non-HLA Antibodies in Kidney Transplant Rejections"

Major Professor: John Tomaszewski, MD, MASCP

Sora Suzuki

Cancer Sciences

"Tumor-Derived Complement C3 Overexpression in STK11-MUTANT Lung Adenocarcinoma Drives Tumor Growth and Immune Evasion"

Major Professor: Brahm Segal, MD

### **February 2026**

Nancy R. Crenshaw

Cancer Sciences

"DNA Methylation-Based Epigenetic Age Acceleration in Breast Tumors: Associations with Tumor Biology, Lifestyle Factors, Obesity and Race"

Major Professor: Christine Ambrosone, PhD

Christopher Raymond Handelman

Biochemistry

"Unraveling the Interplay Between CRISPR-Cas Nuclease Activity and Nucleosome Structure through the Development and Application of GEMINI-seq"

Major Professor: Michael Buck, PhD

# Doctor of Philosophy

Li Li

Neuroscience

“Understanding Neuronal Fate Transition and Degeneration by Transcriptomic Networks”

Major Professor: Jian Feng, PhD

Alexei Alexandrovich Maslov

Cancer Sciences

“Improved Targeting of the Oncogenic MAPK Cascade via Inhibition of the RAC/PAK Signaling Axis”

Major Professor: Eugene Kandel, PhD

Janie Elizabeth McGlohon

Biochemistry

“Substrate-Driven Distal-to-Proximal Structural Regulation of CYP11A1 and Its Interaction with Its Redox Partner Adrenodoxin”

Major Professor: D. Fernando Estrada, PhD

Sabrina Orsi

Pharmacology

“Targeting Metabolic Reprogramming in Renal Cell Carcinoma”

Major Professor: Roberto Pili, MD

Nathan Taylor Roberts

Cancer Sciences

“Adrenergic Signaling and Catecholamines in Post-Transplant Immune Cell Development and Recovery”

Major Professor: Elizabeth Repasky, PhD

Anand Sharda

Cancer Sciences

“Establishing a Permissive Chromatin Landscape for CD4<sup>+</sup> T Cell Differentiation Through CD28 Costimulation and Replication Dependent Histone Biosynthesis”

Major Professor: Scott Olenjiczak, PhD

Sonal Shukla

Computational Cell Biology, Anatomy and Pathology

“Privacy-Preserving Federated Learning for Secure and Scalable Digital Pathology”

Major Professor: Scott Doyle, PhD

Patrick D. Wilson

Biochemistry

“Structural Constraints of Nucleosomes on Transcription Factor Binding”

Major Professor: Michael Buck, PhD

## June 2026

Sarah Rose Athans

Molecular Pharmacology and Cancer Therapeutics

“STAG2 Controls Chromatin Architecture to Enforce Pro-Tumor Gene Expression Programs Lending Novel Therapeutic Opportunities in Muscle Invasive Bladder Cancer”

Major Professor: Anna Woloszynska, PhD

Liana Bruggemann

Biomedical Informatics

“Toward Precision Medicine: Multiscale Design and Validation for Drug-Resistant KRAS in NSCLC”

Major Professor: Ram Samudrala, PhD

Jacob Favret

Neuroscience

“Oligodendroglia NFkB Signaling in Krabbe Disease”

Major Professor: Daesung Shin, PhD

Becca Howell

Neuroscience

“Astroglial Modulation of Midbrain Dopamine Neuron Physiology”

Major Professor: Samir Haj-Dahmane, PhD

Emily Grace Isenhardt

Genetics, Genomics, and Bioinformatics

“Bioinformatic Identification of Molecular Signatures for Tumor Initiation and Progression toward Translational Medicine”

Major Professor: Joyce Ohm, PhD

Emily Blair Ivey

Microbiology and Immunology

“Elucidating the Antiviral Role of LGALS3BP/90K Against SARS-CoV-2”

Major Professor: Spyridon Stavrou, PhD

Caitlin Michele James

Immunology

“Investigating the Molecular Mechanisms Underlying  $\beta$ -adrenergic Receptor-Mediated Impairment of CD8 T cells”

Major Professor: Scott Olejniczak, PhD; Elizabeth Repasky, PhD

Alexandra Peyton Lenhard

Microbiology and Immunology

“Signaling Pathways Controlling Neutrophil Responses during Influenza A Virus/*S. pneumoniae* Co-infection: Intersection of Type I Interferons and Extracellular Adenosine”

Major Professor: Elsa Bou Ghanem, PhD

Monica MacDonald  
Structural Biology  
"Protein Engineering and Biosynthetic Approaches for Synthesis of  
Pyrrolobenzodiazepine Analog Natural Products"  
Major Professor: Andrew Gulick, PhD

Brian George Morreale  
Immunology  
"Modulating Nucleotide Metabolism Reprograms Myeloid and T Cell  
Landscapes to Potentiate Immuno-Oncology-Based Therapies"  
Major Professor: Scott Abrams, PhD

Edward Andrew Opalko Jr.  
Medical Physics  
"A 3D Printed Approach: End-to-End Verification of Gamma Knife  
Radiosurgery"  
Major Professor: Matthew Podgorsak, PhD

Samantha Lane Penman  
Pharmacology  
"Combined Vaporized THC in Utero and Adolescent Chronic Stress  
Exposure: Implications for Behavior and Brain Function in Adulthood"  
Major Professor: Panayotis Thanos, PhD

Stephen R Thompson  
Physiology  
"Selective Deletion of Mu Opioid Receptor in Astrocytes of Dorsal  
Hippocampus Induces Neuroinflammation, Altered Neuronal Activity  
and Impaired Social Behavior and Memory."  
Major Professor: Mikhail Pletnikov, PhD

# Master's Degrees

## Bachelor of Science/ Master of Science

### Pharmacology

June 2026

Jorden Tethong

### Master of Science

#### Biochemistry

August 2025

Karissa Bonis

June 2026

David Beorn Homer

#### Biomedical Informatics

June 2026

Kevin Brian Taylor

Kaity Tung

#### Biomedical Sciences

August 2025

Lashon Webb

February 2026

Luis Gustavo Carrillo Rubio

Deborah Asabere Frimpong

Janeliz M. Pereira

Saloni Sudhir Rasal

June 2026

Zuriel Arellano

#### Biotechnology

August 2025

Aditi Chitnis

Fred Earl

June 2026

Tanvi Abhiram Dixit

Trevor Ian Johnson

Md Rahadujjaman

Nandini Ramamurthi

Sejal Ashish Shukla

Aditya Sidharth

#### Cancer Science

August 2025

Cheyenne A. Ernst

February 2026

Juan E. Adrover Claudio

Ibrahim Alanazi

Denisha Lynn Robinson

June 2026

Shaivi Laveti

Jesal Mahendra Vora

#### Cellular and Molecular Physiology

June 2026

Mason A. de las Alas

Niharika Jawalkar

#### Genetics, Genomics, and Bioinformatics

August 2025

Afreen Afreen Hussain

June 2026

Adam John Ausman

Shuchi Burad

William Chaddock

N.F. Schaffer

James Daniel Weiser

#### Medical Anatomy and Experimental Pathology

June 2026

Khanh Le Ngoc Pham

#### Medical Physics

February 2026

Yuduo Wu

June 2026

Avantika Guleria

Liyanage Ravindu Sudeeptha Liyanage

#### Microbiology and Immunology

August 2025

Ron Shihab

February 2026

Nishat Tasnim Ananna

Nicholas Conrad Brown

Diya Chakravarty

Jason Kincaid

June 2026

Sofia Alexander

#### Neuroscience

June 2026

Ajaykiran Mallavarapu

Jose Martinez

Keshavan Ramasamy Kannan

Atmaja Sahu

Surya Prakash Shivakumar

#### Pharmacology

August 2025

Jiaming Gao

June 2026

Sai Ganesh Balaji Venkata Anupindi

Faaiz Faisal

Aditya Yogesh Lokhande

Gowri Rajashekar

Charvi Kishore Vukanti



# Bachelor of Science

## Biochemistry

### June 2026

Arielle Arbel \*\*\*<sup>O</sup>  
Samantha Arnone \*  
Kyle R. Brown \*\*\*  
Li Yi Hu \*\*  
Yichu Huang \*\*  
Nandini Kodey  
Leighton Seok Hyoen Lee \*\*\*  
Matthew Leyberman \*\*\*  
Adeeb Saleh \*\*

## Biomedical Informatics

### February 2026

Quinn Hu \*\*\*

### June 2026

Ava E. Cunningham \*  
Neha Nattanmai \*\*\*<sup>PO</sup>

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Rexine Laxamana  
Ivy Mon \*  
Mia Isabella Phillips \*

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Ziyang Zhuang \*\*\*

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### February 2026

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Amelia Zuo

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### February 2026

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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.

