







What's New in Biochemistry

PERSONNEL CHANGES:

	David Ball left his Student Assistant position in Bruce Knutson's lab. He joined the Biomedical Science Program as a Graduate Assistant in August.
	Diego Torrejon left his Research Support Specialist position in Alaji Bah's lab.
	Faizan Zaidi joins our graduate program in adjunct faculty, Peter Calvert's lab.
	Ahmad Alzouabi left his Student Assistant position in Alaji Bah's lab to move to Chicago.
	Rosemarie Daoud joins Wenyi Feng's lab as a Research Support Specialist. She graduated with a BS in Biotechnology and Minor in Chemistry from SUNY ESF in 2022.
	Kathryn Kielbasinki completed the SURF program in Wenyi Feng's lab and returned to her undergrad studies at Elmira College.

	Amanda Leonita completed the SURF program in Bruce Knutson's lab and returned to her undergrad studies at the University of Texas - Austin.
	Allie Marcin completed the SURF program in Jessica Ridilla's lab and returned to her undergrad studies at Bard College at Simon's Rock.
	Haleigh Pascual completed the PREP-Up program in Bruce Knutson's lab and joins Upstate's Biomedical Science Program as a PhD student.
	Eamon Fitzpatrick completed his Student Assistant then completed the SURF program in Xin Jie Chen's lab before returning to his undergrad studies at Union College.
	Andrew Phillips completed his PhD degree in adjunct faculty Audrey Bernstein's lab and is working as a Field Service Engineer for Becton Dickinson (BD).
	Anna Acosta joins Jessica Ridilla's lab as a Research Support Specialist.

GRANT INFO:

Congratulations to Nicole Maurici who was awarded a Ruth L. Kirschstein National Research Service Award (NRSA) Individual Predoctoral Fellowship to Promote Diversity in Health-Related

Research (Parent F31-Diversity), \$43,571/year for 4 years.

Congratulations to Wenyi Feng who was awarded a two-year NIH R21 for her project “Understanding the Genome Maintenance Function of the Fragile X Protein (FMRP). First year directs are \$150,000, \$448,250 total cost.

HJ Sekhon secured an NIH F30 predoctoral MD/PhD fellowship entitled “Molecular Devices for the Detection of Treatment of HCMV Infection”, on his first try. \$51,752 directs/year for 5 years. Gary Chan is his co-Sponsor. Congratulations HJ!

PUBLICATIONS:

Ryan J. Palumbo, Alana E. Belkevich, Haleigh G. Pascual, Bruce A. Knutson (02 June 2022) A clinically-relevant residue of POLR1D is required for *Drosophila* development, American Association for Anatomy
<https://anatomypubs.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1002/dvdy.505>

Identification of recurrent chromosome breaks underlying structural rearrangements in mammary cancer cell lines. Senter NC, McCulley A, Kuznetsov VA, **Feng W.** Genes (Basel). 2022 Jul 11;13(7):1228. doi: 10.3390/genes13071228.
<https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/35886011/>

AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS RECEIVED:

Congratulations to Allysa Kemraj who passed her Qualifying Exam on July 20th!

Congratulations to Nathan McKean who passed his Qualifying Exam on July 25th!

Congratulations to Sharmin Aktar who passed her Qualifying Exam on August 2nd!

Congratulations to Andrew Phillips who successfully defended his thesis on August 5th!



Left: Andrew Phillips

PREP-Up program featured in Upstate News, July 14, 2022, includes Biochemistry members: Alaji Bah, Bruce Knutson, Haleigh Pascual, and Kairo Baylor.

<https://www.upstate.edu/news/articles/2022/2022-07-14-studentresearch.php>



From left, PREP-Up codirector Bruce Knutson, PhD, with PREP-Up students Haleigh Pascual, Kairo Baylor and Lou Adebisi.

UPCOMING EVENTS DURING THE NEXT TWO MONTHS:

Seminars

September 19, 2022 - Jing Li
 September 26, 2022 - Connie Mitra
 October 3, 2022 - Andre Grageda
 October 11, 2022 - Ishita Joshi
 October 17, 2022 - Morgan Pimm
 October 31, 2022 - Akshay Patel

Dept Research Reports

September 27, 2022 - Bruce Knutson
 October 18, 2022 - Stewart Loh

Guest seminar speaker of Jess Ridilla:

October 24, 2022 - William Bement, University of Wisconsin

PERSONAL NEWS:

A retirement celebration was held on July 7th for Anne Smardon. We are all going to miss her and wish her the best! Her first scheduled trip is to Montreal with her family.



Mark Schmitt's daughter Summer, was married on July 9th to Nicholas Hedge of Middletown, NJ. The wedding was in Skaneateles on a beautiful summer afternoon. After the wedding the couple headed to Hawaii for their honeymoon and then back home to where they currently live in Boston.



MISCELLANEOUS:

The department picnic was held at Jamesville Beach on Friday, July 22nd. It was great time! See next page for photos.



A REQUEST FROM THE BMB Dept.:

*A fund in honor of Richard Cross was established when he retired and is just \$500 shy of reaching the \$10,000 goal to endow the fund. Endowing the Richard L. Cross, Jr. PhD, Biochemistry and Molecular Biology Fund will ensure that Dr. Cross' legacy lives on for future generations. As an endowment fund, the fund will exist in perpetuity as it supports current needs and future needs, yet to be imagined. In essence, endowment funds are "forever funds." **Every gift makes a meaningful difference!***

There are three ways to make a donation to this fund (see next page):

1. Send a **check made out to the Upstate Foundation:**
Upstate Foundation
Campus Activities Building, Room 326
750 E. Adams Street
Syracuse, NY 13210-9943
On the check memo line, please indicate the gift is for the Richard L. Cross, Jr. PhD Biochemistry & Molecular Biology Fund
2. To make a **credit card gift via phone**, call the Upstate Foundation at 315-464-4416.
Please indicate your gift is for the Richard L. Cross, Jr. PhD Biochemistry & Molecular Biology Fund
3. To make a **gift on-line via credit card**, head to the Upstate Foundation's website at www.UpstateFoundation.org. Then...
 - Tap “Ways to Give” in the top right-hand side of the screen
 - Tap the “Donate Now” button
 - Scroll down to the donation form and type in the donation amount
 - In the designation box, scroll down to “other” and then type in Richard L. Cross Biochemistry & Molecular Biology Fund
(even if the full fund name won't populate, including Dr. Cross' name is enough information)
 - Complete the billing and payment information
 - At the bottom, donors may indicate in honor of Richard L. Cross *(optional)*
 - Hit the blue “DONATE NOW” button to finish the transaction
 - You should receive an immediate acknowledgement that the gift has been received. You will also receive a formal thank you letter via mail.

*Thank you for your kind consideration as we honor Dr. Cross' legacy. Your gift by **September 30, 2022** would be appreciated.*