





What's New in Biochemistry

PERSONNEL CHANGES:

	Alexandra Iankoulska joins the Biochemistry graduate program in adjunct faculty, Chunyu Liu's, lab as a Graduate Assistant.
	Rafael Schulman joins the Biochemistry graduate program in adjunct faculty, Frank Middleton's, lab as a Graduate Assistant (MD/PhD).
	Melanie Salas joined Alaji Bah's lab as a Student Assistant.
	Allison Ortiz joined Alaji Bah's lab as a Student Assistant.

GRANT INFO:

Stewart Loh's project "Combining protein and DNA engineering to create bioswitches" received NIH funding for four years with first year directs of \$285,001. Congratulations!!

This was highlighted in Upstate Research: [https://www.upstateresearch.org/about/happening-in-research/new-blog-pnew-project-combining-protein-and-dna-engineering-earns-1-5-million-grant-has-the-potential-to-fight-the-most-common-](https://www.upstateresearch.org/about/happening-in-research/new-blog-pnew-project-combining-protein-and-dna-engineering-earns-1-5-million-grant-has-the-potential-to-fight-the-most-common-cause-of-illness-and-death-for-transplant-patientsost/)

[cause-of-illness-and-death-for-transplant-patientsost/](https://www.upstateresearch.org/about/happening-in-research/new-blog-pnew-project-combining-protein-and-dna-engineering-earns-1-5-million-grant-has-the-potential-to-fight-the-most-common-cause-of-illness-and-death-for-transplant-patientsost/)

PUBLICATIONS:

Ryan J. Palumbo, Nathan McKean, Erinn Leatherman, Kevin E.W. Namitz, Laurie Connell, Aaron Wolfe, Kelsey Moody, Cene Gostincar, Nina Gunde-Cimerman, Alaji Bah, and Steven D. Hanes. (September 7, 2022) Coevolution of the Ess1-CTD axis in polar fungi suggests a role for phase separation in cold tolerance. Science Advances Vol. 8, No. 36.

<https://www.science.org/doi/10.1126/sciadv.abq3235>

Here is a link to an article in The Scientist reviewing the above publication in Science Advances.

<https://www.the-scientist.com/news-opinion/fungal-cold-adaptation-linked-to-protein-structure-changes-study-70521>

AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS RECEIVED:

Nicholas Brennan from the Chen lab won the best poster award at the 3rd International Conference on Musculoskeletal and Neural Interaction that was held on August 24-26 at Emory University in Georgia.

Wenyi Feng was featured in Upstate Online (9/2/22) for her discovery in the Fragile X syndrome.

<https://www.upstate.edu/news/articles/2022/2022-09-01-feng.php>

Congratulations to Xinbei Liu who passed her qualifying exam on August 23rd!

Congratulations to Xin Jie Chen who was named SUNY Distinguished Professor at the Fall Faculty Convocation on September 14th!

Congratulations to Nicole Maurici who won third place for overall best poster (\$200 reward) at the BioInspired Institute's First Symposium hosted by Syracuse University on October 7, 2022.

<https://news.syr.edu/blog/2022/10/13/bioinspired-institutes-first-symposium-provides-continuing-inspiration-for-research-cluster-initiative/>

Congratulations to Tom Duncan for being recognized by Dr. Chin for "Exceptional Moments in Teaching". Comments from the student:

"Dr. Duncan was a wonderful course director. When we had a tough quiz as a class he immediately went to work setting up times for us to get individualized help. I remember waking up to an email that had been sent well past midnight to schedule a review session after I had sent an email in total panic after failing my first quiz! He met with me two times and was so patient and kind helping me work through my mistakes. He went above and beyond and it was so incredibly appreciated! Thank you!"

UPCOMING EVENTS DURING THE NEXT TWO MONTHS:



Contact Graduate Assistant, Alana Belkevich for further information.

Upcoming Seminars:

Thesis Defense Seminar – 1159 Weiskotten Hall
Thursday, November 3, 2022; 10:00am
Baylee Porter-Hansen, Graduate Assistant, Kotula Lab

“The Dynamic Role of the Androgen Receptor (AR) and Abl Interactor-1(ABI1) Axis in Prostate Cancer”

Biochemistry & Molecular Biology and Urology Department Seminar – 1159 Weiskotten Hall
Friday, November 4, 2022; 10:00am
Alfonso Urbanucci, PhD, Junior Group Leader at the Institute for Cancer Research of the Oslo University Hospital; Associate Investigator at the Centre for Molecular Medicine Norway (European Molecular Biology Laboratory partnership)
“Single-cell analysis and spatial transcriptomics reveal insights into prostate cancer relapse”
Hosted by: Leszek Kotula, PhD (315-464-1690)

Graduate Student Seminar Series – Room 103 Weiskotten Hall
Monday, November 7, 2022; 12:00n
Akshay Patel, Graduate Assistant, Perl Lab
“Liver Inflammation in Lupus: The Role of Rab4A”

Department Research Report – Room 103 Weiskotten Hall
Tuesday, November 15, 2022; 4:00pm - Steve Hanes' Lab

Thesis Defense Seminar – Room 103 Weiskotten Hall
Friday, November 18, 2022; 9:00am – Maria Presti*, Loh Lab

Graduate Student Seminar Series – Room 103 Weiskotten Hall
Monday, November 28, 2022; 12:00n – Maria Ortiz, Kotula Lab

Graduate Student Seminar Series – Room 103 Weiskotten Hall
Monday, December 5, 2022; 12:00n – Md Murad Khan, Wilkens Lab

Department Research Report – Room 103 Weiskotten Hall

Tuesday, December 13, 2022; 4:00pm – Patty Kane’s Lab

Graduate Student Seminar Series – Room 103 Weiskotten Hall

Monday, December 19, 2022; 12:00n – Leonardo Dettori – Bah Lab

PERSONAL NEWS:

Congratulations to Kassidy Knight (previous Zimmer). She married Glen Knight on October 8th!



Congratulations to Stewart Loh’s and Jeung-Hoi (Jenny) Ha’s son, Daniel Loh. He passed his PhD thesis defense in Chemistry and Chemical Biology from Harvard University on October 11th.



MISCELLANEOUS:

Thank you to all those who participated in the BMB Fall Student Potluck! Looking forward to the next one (where we may invite faculty 😊)!





NEWS ABOUT ALUMNI:

Michael Cosgrove's postdoc, Dr. Nilda Alicea-Velazquez, has been promoted to Associate Professor with tenure at Central Connecticut State University in the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry.