



School of Biomedical Sciences

Spring Newsletter, 2024

Welcome to the second issue of the BMS Newsletter. As we look back at 2023, we have a lot to celebrate: 15 students graduated from the program, 7 students earned 1st authorship on manuscripts, 5 students won presentation awards at conferences and symposiums, 1 student received a NSF Doctoral Dissertation Research Grant, and we welcomed 18 new graduate students into the program! Unfortunately, we also mourned the loss of one of our esteemed colleagues, [Dr. Derek Damron](#), who touched the hearts and minds of so many trainees. Derek showed us how to have fun while doing science, so please remember to enjoy the science of discovery! Have a great 2024!!!

-John



[Salute to our new graduates!](#)

It's time to say goodbye to Ruba and Megan, our most recent BMS graduates. Learn about what they did and where they are going!



[Meet our incoming BMS students](#)

Nusrat Jahan and Pratibha Singh joined the program starting this Spring semester 2024. Learn about their background and research interests!



[BMS student awarded NSF Doctoral Dissertation Research Grant](#)

[BMS students publish 1st author papers](#)



[Call for Nominations!!](#)

We seek nominations for student awards including the University Fellowship, Khitrin Memorial Award, and a NEW Student Success Award!

We are looking to raise \$\$ to monetize a NEW "Student Success Award".

Please use the QR code to donate & support our students

[Donate to BMS](#)



[Professional Development Opportunities](#)



Plan to graduate this Spring?

[Important deadlines](#)

[Guidelines & Style Guide](#)

Progress Corner



1st Year Lab Match

Dayanara Moore (Suh Lab)

Bevelyn Egleh (Yin Lab)

Passed Candidacy

Fayez Almashhori
Samantha Margin
Blessing Nagy

Iyanuoluwa Ogunmiluyi
Mercy Oso

Approved Prospectus Topics

Neha Bhavnani (Raman Lab)

"Role of O-GlcNAc transferase in vascular smooth muscle cell phenotypic regulation in diabetes"

Chloe Edmonds (German Lab)

"Sensorimotor Control of Infant Feeding with Peripheral Capsaicin Exposure"

Thywill Ettey (Coolen Lab)

"Investigating the effects of spinal cord injury on supraspinal dopaminergic inputs to the spinal ejaculation generator"

Alhussain Ojaym (Min-Ho Kim Lab)

"Developing a copper nanoparticle-based hydrogel scaffold for wound healing"

Praneetha Sundar Prakash (Schmidt Lab)

"DNA based nanotools for spatial and structural characterization of membrane proteins"

Melia Romine (Lamichhane Lab)

"Population and comparative genomic studies of Himalayan and American Pikas: Unraveling adaptations and genetic diversity in extreme environments"

Tasmuna Tanmy (Lu Lab)

"Calcium signaling during development of auditory brainstem neurons"

Rachel Tinkey (Williams Lab)

"BATF2 suppresses astrocytic AP-1-induced neuroinflammation during CNS autoimmunity"

Executive Committee

Director – Kent State University: *John Johnson, PhD*
Associate Director - NEOMED: *Jeffrey Mellott, PhD*
Associate Director - Cleveland Clinic: *Jessica Williams, PhD*
Chair CMBI: *Helen Piontkivska, PhD*
Chair BHEB: *Owen Lovejoy, PhD*
Chair NEUR: *Woo-Yang Kim, PhD*
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Chair PSII: *Michael Lehman, PhD*
Ad hoc: *Oscar Rocha, PhD*
Ad hoc: *Hanbin Mao, PhD*
Student Rep: *Emilee Hart*

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