



## Happy October!

The weather is finally cooling, football has started, and all the Halloween candy is out! Fall is finally here! As always, if you have any comments or concerns, please fill out our [anonymous Google form](#). Have a great month!

- Lindsey and Kaitlyn

### DEPARTMENT NEWS

- The department is on Twitter! Give us a follow @VandyBiochem for department announcements.
- We had our first social event of the year last month! Getting together in person again was really fun and everyone had a great time! Check the [BSA calendar](#) for this month's events.
- IGP rotations are beginning this month. The first rotation will be from Oct 25th to Nov 19th.
- Students at the University of Pittsburg have compiled a monthly job opportunity newsletter through Benchspace. If you're interested, you can [subscribe here](#).

### TRAINEE OF THE MONTH

#### Taha Mohamed

**What year are you?** I'm a 5th year graduate student.

**Whose lab are you in?** The Cortez lab

**What do you like best about the department?** The biochemistry department is highly collaborative and inclusive. It includes a truly diverse group of labs that span the entire field with remarkable expertise! Everyone is willing to help you to achieve your goals and become a better scientist.

**What advice do you have for other students?** Take advantage of the great mentors in this department, their guidance could make your PhD journey much easier. Think about your research question, write a proposal and get it criticized.

**What's your favorite experiment to run?** My favorite experiment is one that shows all the controls yet challenges my model or implied assumptions.

**What's your favorite place to go or favorite thing to do in Nashville?** Lots of nice places. I liked hiking in window cliff falls.



[Click here to nominate a fellow grad student or post doc for Trainee of the Month!](#)



### DEPARTMENT EVENTS IN OCTOBER

- **5th** at 2 pm, Zoom - Lindsay Redman-Rivera Dissertation Defense
- **6th** at 10 am, Zoom - Coffee & Conversations with Will Wan (free food!)
- **8th** at noon, LH 214 - Colloquium: Digital Literacy Training
- **15th** at noon, LH 214 - Frontiers Seminar: Yuan He, Northwestern University
- **28th** at 4 pm, MRBIII 1220 - Frontiers Seminar: Asit Parikh, MOMA Therapeutics
- **29th** at noon, Zoom - Frontiers Seminar: John Diffley, Crick Institute

### Congrats to...

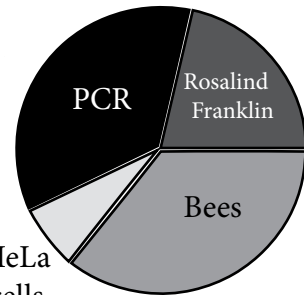
- **Lindsay Redman-Rivera**, (Pietenpol Lab) who recently published "[Acquisition of aneuploidy drives mutant p53-associated gain-of-function phenotypes](#)" in Nature Communications in addition to her upcoming defense.
- **Lauren Salay** (Chazin Lab), who published "[DNA Recognition/Processing | DNA Polymerase Alpha-Primase: Biochemical and Structural Mechanisms](#)".
- **Vivianne Morrison** (Carter lab), who published "[Metabolic control of sensory neuron survival by the p75 neurotrophin receptor in Schwann cells](#)".
- **Pratibha Ghodke** (Guengerich Lab), who published "[DNA polymerases η and κ bypass N2-guanine-O6-alkylguanine DNA alkyltransferase cross-linked DNA-peptides](#)".
- **Alexander Lubbock** (Lopez Lab), who published "[Thunor: visualization and analysis of high-throughput dose-response datasets](#)".
- **Martina Prugger** (Lopez Lab), who published "[Unsupervised logic-based mechanism inference for network-driven biological processes](#)".
- **Sarah Glass** (Guengerich Lab), who published "[Cellular retinoid-binding proteins transfer retinoids to human cytochrome P450 27C1 for desaturation](#)".



Many things have had their science and/or pop culture moments in the last decade. Maybe they weren't appreciated like they should be, maybe they were actively hated, but they've turned over a new leaf in 2021...

### Would you rather explain your thesis in detail to...

- A) Your grandparents
- B) Someone on a first date



### The results are in!

Bees and PCR tied for the most underrated science topic last month with 35.7%. Rosalind Franklin came in second with 21.4% and in last place was HeLa cells with 7.1%.

Is there anything you're dying to know about your fellow biochemists? Send them our way and we may just add it next month.

### IN OTHER NEWS

- Flulapalooza has been postponed again this year, but you can still get your flu shot! They are available for free at [Student Health](#) (students) and [Occupational Health](#) (staff). No appointment necessary!
- Asymptomatic, random COVID testing is back for vaccinated graduate students, postdocs, staff, and faculty. Learn more [here](#).



### Check it out!

As always, double check events for their COVID hours and regulations.

- **Places to go:** It's spooky season - the best time to scare your socks off at one of the local [haunted attractions!](#) Not into spooky? There's plenty of local [pumpkin patches](#), [corn mazes](#), and [hayrides](#) - including the popular [Cheekwood Harvest](#) - where you can still get your fall on!
- **Things to do:** Its Hillsboro Village's 101st birthday! This free event is on Saturday, the 2nd from 10am to 5pm. This festival will have food, drinks, and live music all afternoon and is spread out across Hillsboro Village. For a map and more information, visit their [website](#). Some other fall festivities include [Boo at the Zoo](#), [Oktoberfest at Von Elrod's](#) in Germantown, and the [Whiskey, Wine, and Cider Festival](#) to benefit the Tennessee Breast Cancer Coalition. Finally, [Nashville Scene's Best of Nashville Festival](#) is from 11am to 4pm on the 16th.
- **People to see:** Chris Distefano is at Zanie's the 14th through the 16th, you can buy tickets [here](#). Concerts are also still up and running (with previously mentioned vaccine and testing requirements) at many local venues including [The Basement East](#), [3rd and Lindsley](#), and [Exit/In](#).

### Wellness

**Mental Wellness:** The Academic Life Coach has some helpful on-line workshops for this month. The Peak Performance series has a workshop every other Friday at 12-1PM (Oct. 1, 15, and 29), ranging from topics such as managing conflict in academia to fighting procrastination. The Critical Conversations series has sessions on how to communicate with your mentor and build self-efficacy. For postdocs, there is a "Managing Up" postdoc workshop on Oct. 12 at 12-1PM. All Fall 2021 Programming can be found [here](#).

**Social Wellness:** Need fun ideas to relax and recharge? Check out the ideas above and/or the Nashville Scene Event [calendar](#). From National Banana Pudding Festival on Oct. 2-3 to Farmers Markets like the one on 12South on Tuesdays, you're sure to find new things to explore.

When my supervisor asks how things are going



(If you're a fan, the Great British Baking Show is back with new episodes on Netflix every Friday!)