Biochemistry Student Association Newsletter

Happy March!

The days are getting longer and warmer - spring is on it's way! 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

➢ Follow us on Twitter for the latest news, reminders, and shout outs! @VandyBiochem

➢ The **Departmental Retreat** is scheduled for April 22nd through the 23rd in Chattanooga, TN. We will hopefully have more details in next month's newsletter.

➢ Good luck to all second year students preparing for their upcoming qualifying exams!

➢ With the sharp decline in COVID cases nationally and at Vanderbilt, **BSA Colloquium** will be moving back in person starting on the 11th. Please keep an eye out for an email from our colloquium committee members for the details.

➢ We want to acknowledge that these past few weeks have been challenging for many members of our department. We are grateful to be part of such a strong group of scientists who foster a close sense of community.

➢ **Thank you Carter Lab** for the cover image for this issue of the newsletter! We are still looking for more to feature in the coming months! Please email either Kaitlyn (kaitlyn.r.browning@vanderbilt.edu) or Lindsey (lindsey.n.guerin@vanderbilt.edu) with your submissions!

Trainee of the Month

Lillian Campos

What year are you? Midway through my fourth year of my post-doc

Whose lab are you in? James Dewar's lab where I study DNA replication termination in Xenopus egg extracts.

What do you like best about the department? The people! I have met so many awesome scientists that are also awesome human beings

What advice do you have for other trainees? My advice for other trainees would be to take advantage of all the great additional training opportunities that Vanderbilt has to offer, not every program out there offers as much as Vanderbilt does.

What's your favorite experiment to run? My favorite experiment to run are the ones that work, just kidding. I really love all aspects of biochemistry.

What's your favorite place to go or favorite thing to do in Nashville? My favorite thing to do in Nashville is salsa dancing at Plaza Mariachi.

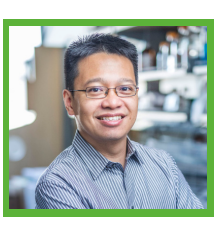
Department Events

- **2nd** at 10 am, Zoom - Coffee & Conversations with Patty Mueller and Brandee Mills - Free food! RSVP here!
- **4th** at 12 pm, LH 202 - Frontiers Seminar: Cynthia Wolberger, Johns Hopkins University
- **7th** at 1 pm, PRB 206 - Dissertation Defense: Esha Dalvies, Osheroff Lab
- **8th** at 11 am, LH 618 - Special Seminar: Gabriel A. Frank, National Institute for Biotechnology and Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, Beer-Sheva, Israel
- **10th** at 12 pm, LH 202 - Frontiers Seminar: Theresa Loveless, Univ. of California at Irvine. NOTE: date change
- **11th** at 12 pm, LH 202 - BSA Colloquium: Kate Clowes, Jessica Collins
- **14th** at 10:30 am, LH 512 - Dissertation Defense: Alexandria Oviatt, Osheroff Lab
- **25th** at 12 pm, LH 202 - BSA Colloquium: Oyku Sensoy, Verda Agan

Click here to nominate a fellow grad student or post doc for Trainee of the Month!

Congrats to...

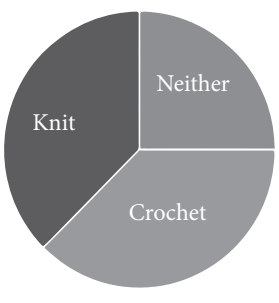
- **Dr. Manny Ascano**, for achieving tenure!
- **Ankita Kotnala** (Schey Lab) for her publication, "Tissue fixation effects on human retinal lipid analysis by MALDI imaging and LC–MS/MS technologies."
- **Taha Mohamed** and **Madison Adolph** (Cortez Lab) for their paper, "Oligomerization of DNA replication regulatory protein RADX is essential to maintain replication fork stability."



Your pipettes are personal... This month we came across this image in our meme search, and it got us thinking...

What pipette do you most identify with?

A) Standard issue P20, P200, or P1000
B) Multi-channel
C) Repeater multi-dispensor



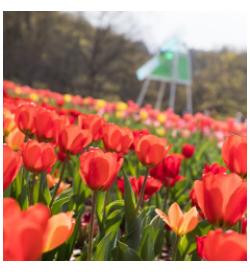
The results are in!

Seems like the artsy in the department are fairly split-- 37.5% crochet, 37.5% knit, while the remaining 25% respectfully decline to participate in yarn based crafts.

In Other News

- March is Women's History Month and Vanderbilt has a variety of events scheduled. Here is a calendar of events.
- The Excellence in Podcasting Competition is ongoing and accepting applications until April 1st. If you practice your science communication in this way, we encourage you to apply!
- The masking guidelines on campus are altering slightly starting the week of March 14th. Updated protocols can be found here.
- There is a Graduate Student Council General Body Meeting on the 3rd from 6-7 in Alumni Hall 201 for those interested. It will also be available via zoom but the in person meeting will provide food so choose your own adventure.

Check it out!



➢ **Places to go:** Cheekwood in Bloom starts this month on the 12th and runs until April 10th. There will be live music, workshops, tours, and of course, more than 250,000 blooming tulips! Events even include a Holi Celebration on March 26th and a Native Plant Sale on April 2. Advanced reservations are required. Student tickets are $16 with ID.

➢ **Things to do:** Feeling the luck of the Irish? There's a ton of ways to celebrate St. Patrick's Day in Nashville this month. Von Elrod's is having an event the 12th, with tickets available here. There is also a St. Patrick's Day Bar Crawl in Assembly Food Hall the 17th, complete with food trucks and live music. Those tickets are a bit pricier but can be found here. In another vein, the Music City Flea Market is Saturday from 11am to 4pm on the 5th, 12th, and 19th. Starting the 26th, their Music City Food Truck Park will be returning. Check out the details here.

➢ **People to see:** Dear Evan Hansen, Summer: The Donna Summer Musical, and What the Constitution Means to Me are all coming to the TPAC this month.

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI)

The Department has launched a new monthly blog series focused on diversity, equity, and inclusion: '**Conversations with Vandy Biochemistry: Celebrating our Differences and Shared Experiences**.' The blog is centered around conversations with trainees, staff, and faculty within the department with the goal of building a culture of curiosity, a willingness to share, and understanding when it comes to both our differences and our shared experiences. The first two posts feature Dr. Carlos Lopez and student Kathryn Brewer, where we discuss how different cultures define professional behavior, dealing with failure, and the intersection of religion and science. Please take a look!

Wellness

Mental Wellness: Have you seen our new BSA Wellness Board by the elevators of the 6th floor of Light Hall? The Wellness Board is a great place to check out the latest news on Vanderbilt-related wellness. Right now there's a great "Wellness map" posted for BRET graduate students that outlines the main options for therapy and wellness help at Vanderbilt. Any suggestions for the board can be sent to sabrina.van.ravenstein@vanderbilt.edu

Physical Wellness: Want to spice up your exercise routine? The Vanderbilt rec center offers a variety of group fitness classes from yoga to kettlebell training to even Irish dance! You can check out the classes here.

Please reach out to lindsey.n.guerin@vanderbilt.edu or kaitlyn.r.browning@vanderbilt.edu if you have any feedback, questions, or trainee of the month nominations.