

BIOCHEMISTRY POSTDOCTORAL RESEARCHER AND STUDENT ASSOCIATION

DECEMBER NEWSLETTER



Happy December

Hope everyone had a great Thanksgiving and is ready for the most wonderful time of the year! Safe travels and stay warm :) If you have any comments or concerns, please fill out our [anonymous Google form](#).

- Lily & Kevin
(BPSA Communications Committee)

Department Events:

- 01 Dec at 12:00 p.m. 202 LH, Xiaochun Li, UT Southwestern, “Molecular basis of Wnt biogenesis, secretion and Wnt7 specific signaling”
- 05 Dec at 6:00 p.m. in Student Life Center, BCHM 2023 Holiday Party
- 12 Dec, 3-4 p.m. in 618 LH, DEI Journal Club. Discussion led by Eli McDonald (Plate and Meiler Labs): “Differential retention contributes to racial/ethnic disparity in U.S. academia”.
- 15 Dec, 12:00 p.m. in 202 LH, The Richard Armstrong Lecture: Michelle Wang, Cornell University, “DNA Topology and Mechanics of Fundamental Processes”

News:

- Colloquium (202 LH at 12:00 p.m.):
 - 08 Dec: Carla O’Neale (Schey lab) and Samika Joshi (Osheroff lab)
- New Director of Graduate Studies in Biochemistry: Dr. Doug Kojetin will become the new DGS effective January 01, 2024. We welcome Doug and thank Manny for his years of service in this VERY IMPORTANT ROLE
- December 22-January 01 is Vanderbilt Winter Break (Administrative Offices closed)



Congrats to:

- Pradeep Pallan (Egli lab). Conformational Morphing by a DNA Analogue Featuring 7-Deazapurines and 5-Halogenpyrimidines and the Origins of Adenine-Tract Geometry. *Biochemistry*.
- Osheroff receives Distinguished Teacher Award from Association of American Medical Colleges
- Biochemist Martin Egli elected to the European Academy of Sciences and Art
- Jorge Rúa-Fernández (Cortez lab). Self-reversal facilitates the resolution of HMCES DNA-protein crosslinks in cells. *Cell Reports*.
- Vivianne Morrison. Jedi-1/MEGF12-mediated phagocytosis controls the pro-neurogenic properties of microglia in the ventricular-subventricular zone. *Cell Reports*.
- Kevin McCarty (Guengerich lab). The multi-step oxidation of cholesterol to pregnenolone by human cytochrome P450 11A1 is highly processive. *JBC*.

Trainee of the month - Hillary Layden



- **What year are you?** I'm in my 7th year.
- **Whose lab are you in?** I'm in Scott Hiebert's lab.
- **What do you like best about the biochemistry department?** I like how collaborative and supportive everyone is. If you're trying a technique for the first time or trying to get a handle on the literature in a new field there's always someone to ask for help. No one has ever turned me down when I've asked them for help.
- **What advice do you have for other students?** I have two pieces of advice: 1. Everyone has different responsibilities outside of the lab, but science can't be anyone's only source of joy or self-worth. Find something not science related (or at least not related to what you're doing in the lab) that gets you really excited and spend a couple of hours per week/month on that. 2. You should have an idea about how your proposed thesis research will break into papers from the get-go (if you don't talk to your adviser about how they think your first paper will look). Map out these papers in Illustrator or PowerPoint and fill in each figure as you go. This will help you stay on track and prioritize experiments. Something Scott always tells us is that if we're doing an experiment we should assume the results are going in a paper. If the blot or gel isn't publication quality redo it immediately because you don't want to have to redo it in two years when you're getting ready to submit the manuscript.
- **What's your favorite experiment to run?** Flow cytometry experiments are a lot of fun. They're pretty easy to set up and have the quickest turnaround time of any of the experiments I do regularly. Flow is cool because you get measurements from single cells and that can be more informative than a Western.
- **What's your favorite place to go or favorite thing to do in Nashville?** I go to a lot of concerts (anything but modern country). Nashville has a lot of smaller independent venues that are all really unique.

Check this out:

- [Jack Daniel's New Year's Eve Live: Nashville's Big Bash](#). Ring in 2024 in Nashville with hours of live music, fireworks, and the signature midnight Music Note Drop.
- Until 07 Jan 2024. [Zoolumination](#). Visit the country's largest Chinese lantern festival!
- Until 07 Jan 2024, 5-10 p.m. [Holiday LIGHTS at Cheekwood](#) is an annual holiday attraction featuring a one-mile-long path and over a million twinkling lights.
- "[CMA Country Christmas](#)" rings in the holiday season annually with festive classics and one-of-a-kind musical performances. 14 Dec at 8/7c on ABC and next-day on Hulu and Disney+!
- 02-03 Dec, 9AM, First Center. [Bank of America's Museums on Us: First Art Museum](#). Enjoy free admission this weekend at the Frist Center for the Visual Arts with Bank of America/Merrill Lynch credit or debit card.
- 02 Dec, 5 - 8 p.m., [FirstBank First Saturday Art Crawl](#). Presenting local and world-renowned diverse exhibitions featuring every genre of art.

Faculty Trivia:

Which one of the following has featured Dr. Guengerich?

- [Cranium](#)
- [Who Wants to Be a Millionaire](#)
- [Jeopardy!](#)
- [Trivial Pursuit](#)

Last month: Which influential figure has Dr. Guengerich personally met on 2 occasions?

