



Happy June!

Welcome to Summer! As always, if you have any comments or concerns, please fill out our [anonymous Google form](#). Have a great month!

- BSA Social Media Committee

DEPARTMENT NEWS

- Both **Colloquium and the Frontiers Seminar Series** have concluded for the academic year. We're sorry that there isn't any more free food, but enjoy spending that extra hour on your experiments!
- The BSA is looking for **volunteers to serve on next year's leadership team!** Whether you enjoy planning social events or coordinating wellness initiatives, there's something for everyone! Check out the different roles [here](#) and sign up [here](#) to get more information! Forms will be open until June 16th.
- **Registration is open for the off-campus departmental retreat!** It will be held at The Chattanooga Hotel August 18-19. Transportation from Nashville will be provided for those who require it. [Registration](#) closes June 15th.
- Last year students and trainees had the opportunity to invite a speaker for the **Frontiers Lecture** series and invited Cigall Kadoch for an awesome talk. We are getting the opportunity to do the same again this year and would love to hear from you all. If there is someone you would love to hear from please let us know [here](#).

TRAINEE OF THE MONTH

Jillian Armenia

What year are you? I'm a rising 3rd year
Whose lab are you in? Dr. Neil Osheroff
What do you like best about the biochemistry department? I think my favorite thing about the department is that we have such a wide variety of research topics. Hearing the perspectives of students and faculty who approach problems from such different angles is really cool. A close second has to be the free lunch at colloquium :)
What advice do you have for other students? Be persistent. It's so easy to get discouraged when things aren't going well, but the sense of accomplishment you feel when you finally get results is worth it. Just keep going!
What's your favorite experiment to run? Weirdly enough, I think the experiment I like the most is the one I had the hardest time with. I spent a good part of the last year troubleshooting how to measure DNA catenation by gyrase, and by the time I got it to work, I felt like I had mastered the assay. Now, I could probably do catenation time courses in my sleep.
What's your favorite place to go or favorite thing to do in Nashville? I absolutely love bar trivia, and there are so many places to go in Nashville that host trivia nights. I go with a friend from my IGP cohort almost every week!



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

Congrats to...

- **Kevin McCarty** (Guengerich lab) for his paper, "[Processive kinetics in the three-step lanosterol 14alpha-demethylation reaction catalyzed by human cytochrome P450 51A1](#)"
- **Xiaoyu Yu** (Kojetin lab) for her paper, "[Molecular basis of ligand-dependent Nurr1-RXRalpha activation](#)"
- **Wenpeng Liu** (Cortez lab) for his paper, "[RAD51 bypasses the CMG helicase to promote replication fork reversal](#)"
- **Michael Irvin** (Lopez lab) for his paper, "[Model certainty in cellular network-driven processes with missing data](#)"



It's berry season! Berries can all be picked at quite a few places around Nashville (my favorite is Kelley's Berry Farm). Strawberry season is ending soon for middle Tennessee but blackberries and blueberries often go into July/August. If you decide to go, here's a [fun collection](#) of berry recipes!

What is the word for the scientific study of berries?

- A) Batology
- B) Pomology
- C) Phytomorphology

The results are in!

Queso was the winner for what you all would like to order with your chips on Cinco de Mayo coming in at 47.4%. Second runner up was guacamole at 31.6% and poor salsa was last at 21.1%. Of course its the side they give you for free that no one wants...

IN OTHER NEWS

- The ASPIRE office is hosting their **annual career symposium** virtually on June 2nd A Kaleidoscope of Biomedical Science Careers. It will be hosted in the Student Life Center starting at 9am. [Click here](#) to view the schedule and sign up for sessions!
- The **VUMC Farmers' Market** is back for 2023! It will be on the Medical Center Plaza (outside Panera) every Thursday from noon to 3:30, June 1st through October 26.



Check it out!

Things to do:

- If you enjoy outdoor movies, then you're in luck this month! Catch free movies every Thursday at either [Elmington Park](#) or [TailGate Brewery!](#) It's also a great time of year to check out new movie releases at the local drive-in movie theater, [Stardust Drive-In](#), which is just under an hour drive from Vanderbilt. One (inexpensive) entry fee allows you to see two new movies a night on their giant outdoor screens!

Places to go:

- Love + Exile Winery and Bar for their [I'm With the Banned](#) event on June 6th. This is a night of music and cocktails to support the Nashville Public Library. There's a suggested donation of \$15, and all proceeds go toward the library's literacy programs and efforts to make Nashville a more equitable city.
- The Dive Motel is hosting Dive Hard Comedy every Thursday at 7:30. There's no cover but there is a 2 drink minimum for the night. You can get more information [here](#).

People to see:

- They don't call Nashville "Music City" for nothing. CMA fest is this month, from June 8th - 11th. Catch free shows featuring upcoming country music artists all across the city. Tickets are available for shows at Nissan and Ascend featuring bigger names. View the line up and purchase tickets [here](#).

"What are your plans after graduation?"

Me:



PhD in Germany @PhDinGermany
 10 year old me: when I grow up I'll be a scientist
 me, a scientist:



"While we appreciate the effort that went into your work, we have decided to rej..."



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