



Welcome to August!

August in Tennessee - much like the inside of an oven but humid... Weather aside, it's shaping up to be another good month for the Department folks! We really appreciated all the engagement with the newsletter last month. If you'd like to help keep it up, please fill out our [anonymous Google form](#). Have a great month!
- Lindsey and Kaitlyn

DEPARTMENT NEWS

- Annual parking permits will become available this month. Vanderbilt has expanded access to the daily parking program this fall with an additional sustainable commute incentive. Find more information or buy a permit, [here](#).
- The Writing Studio will be available online through August 13th, offering resources and support for all students. Schedule an appointment and find more information, [here](#).
- In case you missed it, earlier this year the School of Medicine-Basic Sciences assembled a [Mental Health and Wellness Report](#) We encourage students to check it out and offer feedback through this [link](#) or by contacting our DGS, Manny Ascano.
- As new students begin settling into our department, questions and concerns about the graduate experience may arise. A fellow Vandy grad student, Adri Cortez, has put together a great youtube channel addressing some of these topics. Check it out [here](#)! If you have any specific concerns please let us know through our anonymous Google form. We'll try to address them in the next newsletter.
- Summers are generally quiet in the department. Get out and enjoy what summer has to offer in TN! However if your silence is due to hard working, we recently came across this "[Hall of Shame](#)" compiled by Rice University. We'd love to see some of your epic fails (and the eventual success if it exists) so send them our way and good luck!

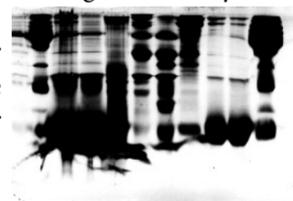
TRAINEE OF THE MONTH

Archana Krishnamoorthy

What year are you? 6th, I think. Hard to keep track of time when you're that ancient.
Whose lab are you in? David Cortez
What do you like best about the biochemistry department? I have always appreciated the camaraderie in the department.
What advice do you have for other students? Enjoy the process and ask for help!
What was it like to have your illustration chosen as cover art for Molecular Cell? I was surprised and absolutely thrilled. It has motivated me to try more science illustrations.



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



We all have aspects of science that we find... less than ideal... but are you in good company?
 Select your answer and like the good scientists we are, we will share our findings in the next newsletter. For this month,



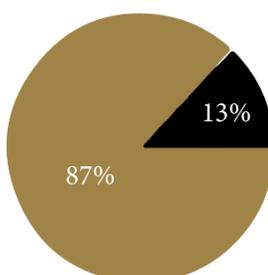
Would you rather...

- A) never doubt your results for the rest of your career
- B) publish in any journal you want for the rest of your career

@researchgotmelike on instagram

The results are in!

A mere 13% of you are willing to sign up for a year of weekends-- fair enough in the humble opinion of this grad student.

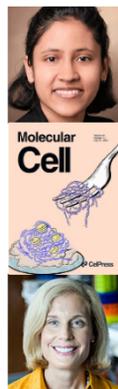


Split your cells every Saturday for a year
Collect a timepoint every 12 hours for a month

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

Congrats to...

- **Ivette Perez (Iverson Lab) and Melissa Wolf (Rathmell Lab)**, who were among the 11 recipients of the [Dean's Award](#) for Exceptional Achievement in Graduate Studies. They were recognized for the originality, significance and rigor of their research.
- **Archana Krishnamoorthy (Cortez Lab)**, whose illustration made the cover art for Molecular Cell, where her and her colleagues' [paper](#) was published as a "Feature Article"!
- **Dr. Fred Guengerich**, whose [manuscript](#) was selected as one of the Journal of Biological Chemistry's "Editors' Picks" for providing an exceptional contribution to the field. JBC will also run a highlight on co-author Kevin McCarty who is joining QCB this fall as a grad student.
- **Dr. Jennifer Pietenpol**, for being among the VICC members receiving \$14 million from Susan G. Komen to uncover new, subtype-specific therapy combinations to personalize treatments for patients with TNBC.



IN OTHER NEWS

- The Vanderbilt Farmer's market is back! It runs on Thursdays from 1:30 to 5pm in the courtyard area in front of Au Bon Pain. I *highly* recommend trying some of Laurel Mountain Bakery's rosemary & thyme sourdough.
- Don't forget that the ASPIRE program in the BRET office continues to offer [CV and resume consultations](#) and [individual advising appointments](#) virtually over the summer!



Check it out!

Places to go: Cool off from the heat at some of Middle TN's best waterfalls! The towering [Cummins Falls](#) awaits you at the end of moderately difficult hike through a flowing riverbed. The swim at the base is your reward! (\$5 permit required for this hike.) Not too far away from Cummins is [Burgess Falls](#). Reaching this falls is a bit easier but equally rewarding!

Things to do: Calling all fair foodies and amusement junkies - [the fair's coming to town](#)! The newly-combined Wilson County Fair - Tennessee State Fair is being held from Aug. 12 to 21 at the Wilson County Fairgrounds, just under 1 hr from campus. Apparently it will be the "best fair yet" with the Wilson County Fair historically ranking in the Top 50 Fairs. I didn't know there was such a contest.

People to see: Concerts are coming back to Nashville! August headliners include John Legend, All Time Low, and Lady A. If you like to plan further ahead, catch Blake Shelton, Jonas Brothers, Brothers Osborne and [more](#) in September!



Soliciting opinions... If you have any suggestions for a speaker to invite for the student invited speaker series please fill out [this google poll](#).

Wellness

Mental Wellness: The Graduate School's Academic Life Coaching team is expanding this summer. We welcomed Nadine De La Rosa on board as our second coach in June and she will be available for 1:1 coaching appointments with our grad students and postdocs. The team is also projected to hire a 3rd coach later this month.

Physical Wellness: You can now work out at the David Williams II Recreation and Wellness Center without reserving a spot in the main workout room beforehand. Also, the Main Gym Courts (1-3) will reopen Wednesday, July 21 at 2pm-- basketball anyone?

Social Wellness: Celebrating 10 years as a local nonprofit, The Nashville Food Project was recently highlighted in a recent piece in the Nashville Scene; they are offering a free farm tour on July 31st! If you prefer to stay indoors, The Frist Art Museum offers \$5 student discounts (making their tickets only \$10 per person).



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 submissions