

BIOCHEMISTRY POSTDOCTORAL RESEARCHER AND STUDENT ASSOCIATION



APRIL NEWSLETTER

HAPPY APRIL!

"Spring is the time of plans and projects."

—Leo Tolstoy, *Anna Karenina*

Congrats on finishing the first quarter of 2024! As always, if you have any comments or concerns, please fill out our [anonymous Google form](#).

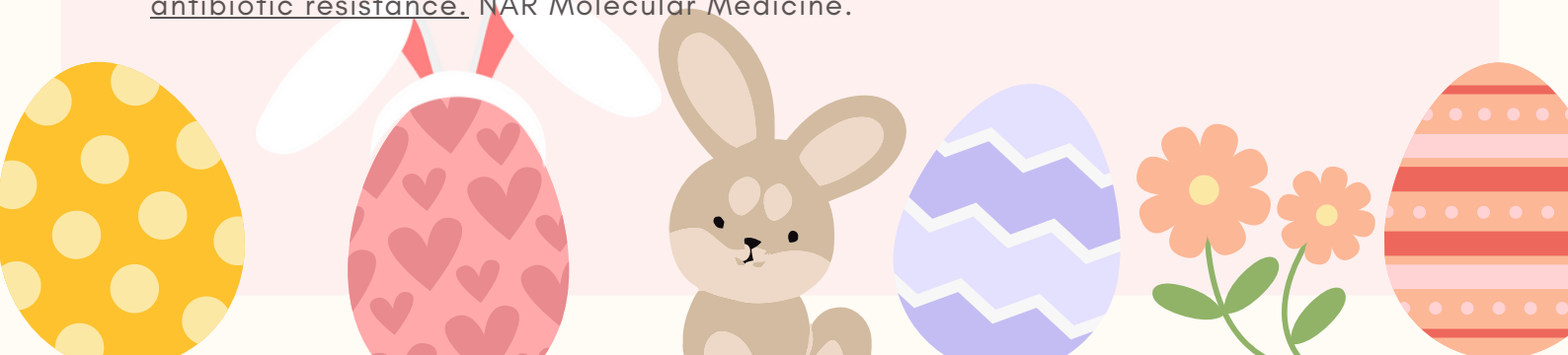
— Lily & Kevin (BPSA Communications Committee)

CONGRATS TO...

- Jenny Tran (Brown Lab) for receiving American Heart Association (AHA) Predoctoral Fellowship and [Ethel M. Wilson Scholarship](#) from Vanderbilt. This scholarship recognized excellence in research conducted by promising graduate women.
- Xiaoyu (Lily) Yu (Kojetin lab) as winner of the new Provost's Pathbreaking Discovery Award. This award recognizes doctoral students who exhibit exceptional academic excellence in areas such as publications, awards, patents, and other forms of national/international distinction.
- Kevin McCarty (Guengerich lab). [Oxygen-18 Labeling Reveals a Mixed Fe-O Mechanism in the Last Step of Cytochrome P450 51 Sterol 14 \$\alpha\$ -Demethylation](#). *Angewandte Chemie*.
- Alexandria Oviatt (Osheroff lab). [Interactions between Gepotidacin and Escherichia coli Gyrase and Topoisomerase IV: Genetic and Biochemical Evidence for Well-Balanced Dual-Targeting](#). *ACS Infectious Diseases*.
- Swati Balakrishnan (Chazin lab). [Structure of RADX and mechanism for regulation of RAD51 nucleofilaments](#). *PNAS*.
- Juan Carvajal-Garcia (Merrih lab). [A small molecule that inhibits the evolution of antibiotic resistance](#). *NAR Molecular Medicine*.

DEPARTMENT EVENTS

- 05 April, 214 LH, 12-1 p.m., Alan Tomkinson, University of New Mexico, "DNA ligase complexes in replication and repair"
- 10 April, 1220 MRB3, 2-3 p.m., Apex Lecture: Karen Adelman, Harvard University, "Transcriptional control of stress and immune responses." To learn more about Dr. Adelman's lecture, please click [here](#)
- 19 April, 214 LH, 12-1 p.m., Kerney Jebrell Glover, Lehigh University, "Membrane protein hairpins: Insights into the structure and topology of caveolin and oleosin"
- 18 April, ESB Lobby, 4-6 p.m. Annual Biochemistry Department Awards



TRAINEE OF THE MONTH

ALI ANGELOS



- **What year are you?** I am a second-year graduate student.
- **Whose lab are you in?** I am in Dr. Yi Ren's lab.
- **What do you like best about the biochemistry department?** What I like best about the Biochemistry Department is the sense of community, especially among the other trainees. I have made great friends in the department from my year, and more senior students have always been super kind and helpful, reaching out to see how they can help and support me. I am also grateful to have an excellent advisor and a supportive lab!
- **What advice do you have for other students?** I am still relatively new, but from my experience, my advice to other students would be to constantly remind yourself of why you love science by reading new research in your field and exploring other topics outside of your specific research project. I think it is easy to get overwhelmed with the details sometimes, but seeing the bigger picture keeps me excited and motivated.
- **What's your favorite experiment to run?** My favorite technique is cryo-EM. It is so rewarding to get to visualize the protein interactions you've been investigating! Thank you to Bradley Clarke from my lab for teaching me recently.
- **What's your favorite place to go or favorite thing to do in Nashville?** My favorite thing to do in Nashville is get a Full Moon iced latte from Ramblin' Joes cafe (the best coffee) and take a walk around Centennial or Percy Warner park. Tennessee is so beautiful, especially around this time of year!

NEWS

- Colloquium (at 12:00 p.m.):
 - 12 April: Jill Armenia (Osheroff lab) and Carla O'Neale (Schey Lab) in **PRB206**.
 - 26 April: Jordan Stacy (Iverson Lab) and Tara Hickman (Peck Lab) in **LH214**.
- 02 April 12:20 - 1:10 p.m., MRBIII, MBTP/CSB Seminar Series, Doug Kojetin: "Really Awesome Science!"
- 09 April at 3:00 pm in 618 LH, DEI Journal Club: Prof. Ray Blind will present Gender-diverse teams produce more novel and higher-impact scientific ideas
- 05 April, 618 LH, 3-5 p.m., Social Committee is holding an Ice Cream Social with treats from Baked Bear!

CHECK THIS OUT

- 06 Mar - 14 Apr, Tennessee Tulip Festival @ Lucky Ladd Farms
- 06 Apr, Community Clay Day @ Centennial Art Center
- 08 April, Solar Eclipse
 - Eclipse Party @ The Black Abbey Brewing Company
 - Eclipse Spectacular @ Nashville Public Library
 - Total Solar Eclipse @ Adventure Science Center
 - Solar Eclipse Watch Party @ Tanger Outlets Nashville
 - Solar Eclipse Viewing @ Tennessee State Parks
- 27-28 April, ROCK 'N' ROLL Running Series Nashville.
- 12-21 April, Nashville Comedy Festival: Experience Nashville with a laugh.
- 13 April, The Annual East Nashville Beer Festival, presented by M.L. Rose Craft Beer and Burgers.
- 13 April, Nashville celebrates cherry trees and friendship between Japan and USA with the Nashville Cherry Blossom Festival.