

BPSA MONTHLY NEWSLETTER



**Biochemistry
Postdoctoral
Researcher and
Student
Association**

It was great seeing everyone at the Biochemistry Retreat! As always, if you have any comments or concerns, please feel free to leave them in the [anonymous Google Form](#). Happy October!

–Ali and Kevin,
BPSA Communications Committee



2024-2025 BPSA Officers

Upcoming Events

- Oct. 4th, 12 pm. **Colloquium, Jenny Tran** (Brown Lab), LH 202
- Oct. 11th, 12 pm. **Frontiers in Biochemistry, The Lubomir S. Hnilica Lecture, Anjana Rao**, La Jolla Institute for Immunology, “*The TET-DNMT-ASXL1-OGT axis: regulation of DNA and histone methylation, clonal haematopoiesis and cancer.*” LH 202
- Oct. 25, 12 pm. **Frontiers in Biochemistry, Rohit V. Pappu**, Washinton University, “*Biochemistry driven by phase separation.*” LH 202
- Oct. 30, 2 pm. **APEX Lecture, Agnel Sfeir**, Memorial Sloan Kettering Institute, “*Two Genomes, One Balance: Mitochondrial and Nuclear DNA Stability.*” LH 202

Congratulations to ...

- Verda Miranda, Amy Tran, and Chelsea Mann for winning the Top Poster award at the Biochemistry Retreat
- Kevin McCarty and Tim Scott for winning the Top Talk award at the Biochemistry Retreat
- Lilia Merbouche, Ali Angelos, and Zahrat El Oula Hassoun for winning the Honorable Mention Poster award at the Biochemistry Retreat
- Ronan Bracken and Carla O’Neale for defending their dissertations!
- Ansari Aleem and Michelle Mitchener (Marnett Lab). [Temporal Dissociation of COX-2-Dependent Arachidonic Acid and 2-Arachidonoylglycerol Metabolism in RAW264.7 Macrophages](#). *Journal of Lipid Research*.
- Fred Guengerich. [Updates on Mechanisms of Cytochrome P450 Catalysis of Complex Steroid Oxidations](#). *International Journal of Molecular Sciences*.
- Bradley Clarke (Ren Lab). [Cryo-EM structure of the CBC-ALYREF complex](#). *eLife*.

TRAINEE OF THE MONTH LILIA MERBOUCHE



What year are you? 5th year (scary when it's actually written!)

Whose lab are you in? Tansey lab

What do you like best about the Biochemistry Department? There are so many things to choose from but what really stands out about the biochemistry department is the collaboration and comradery. Everyone is genuinely supportive of each other, and it makes it so easy to get help with experiments, borrow equipment, and collaborate on projects. Its absolutely my favorite thing about biochem.

What advice do you have for other students? Take it one step at a time and don't compare yourself to others.

What is your favorite experiment to run? Not necessarily a favorite but I am in qPCR hell and it feels like that's I'll I've been doing recently!

What is your favorite place to go in Nashville? I am a huge foodie so I love trying new restaurants and bars in Nashville. Recently we've been loving Coral Club, definitely a must try!

Nominate a graduate student or postdoctoral researcher for trainee of the month [here](#)!

Announcements

- The BRET Office released a PostDoc Resource Guide, for both VU and VUMC, found [here](#).
- Ice Cream Social, 4-6 pm, Oct. 3rd in LH 618. Hosted by BPSA Social Committee. Build your own ice cream sandwich from Baked Bear! RSVP [here](#).
- Coffee and Conversations, 10-11 am, Oct. 22nd in LH 618 with **Dr. Katrin Karbstein**. Hosted by BPSA Wellness and Development Committee. RSVP [here](#).

Check This Out!

- Oct. 3-6, Nashville Oktoberfest, Germantown
- Oct. 11-14, Fall Tennessee Craft Fair, Centennial Park
- Oct. 26-27, Southern Festival of Books, Tennessee State Museum, Bicentennial Park, and Tennessee State Library & Archives

My PI: So, do you have a plan?

Me: I have concepts of a plan

My PI:

