

JUNE 2021 BIOCHEMISTRY NEWS



CONGRATULATIONS TO...

Jim Forney recipient of the Outstanding Basic Science Teaching Award-West Lafayette from the IU School of Medicine Class of 2021.

Vikki Weake (Co-PI) for receiving a 2021 Showalter Trust Research Award for her proposal "*How does a honey bee reverse cognitive decline: Characterizing the roles of taxonomically novel proteins in regulating senescence.*"

MAY GRADUATES...

The Department of Biochemistry recently said good-bye to 26 undergraduate students and one graduate student. Click the link to see our graduates and where they are heading.

[May 2021 graduates.](#)

SAYING GOODBYE...



Sherry Pogranichniy will be leaving the Department of Biochemistry and Purdue on June 30th for a new position at Kansas State. For the past 14 years, we have been fortunate to have her as our undergraduate program administrator. In this role, Sherry advised students, supported undergraduate student recruitment, did outreach activities with students, represented the Department on College of Agriculture committees, coordinated and taught our undergraduate professional development class (BCHM 39000), and much more! Associate Head, Joe Ogas, worked extensively with Sherry and had the following to say: "Sherry has played a critical role in the success of our undergraduate program and in making our department a welcoming home for our students. Every year at the College of Agriculture graduation reception, seniors gave Sherry heartfelt hugs of goodbye, a testimony to the powerful positive impact she had on their lives." Sherry will be greatly missed, and we wish her the best of luck in her future endeavors.

BIOCHEMISTRY IN THE NEWS...

Dr. Majid Kazemian was recently featured in two news articles. Click the [se](#) links to ~~read the articles~~ more.

[The COVID-19 virus may not insert genetic material into human DNA, research shows](#)

[Data science pairs with cancer research for better diagnostics, therapies](#)

GOING THE EXTRA MILE...

Dr. Sandy Rossie is teaching a month-long online science writing course for students at the University of Kassel in Kassel, Germany.

GRADUATE STUDENT NEWS...

Sarah Stanhope has been awarded the Purdue Drug Discovery Training Program (PDD-TP) traineeship starting July 2021. She'll be co-mentored by Dr. Andy Mesecar as part of this award.

SAFETY CORNER...

All Purdue employees are encouraged to report near miss accidents to their supervisors. These reports help the entire University track trends that may help others avoid similar accidents in the future. The Department of Biochemistry has created its own version of this form. The BCHM Safety Committee encourages you to fill it out when needed. Below is the description found on the form.

What constitutes a near miss? A near miss is a safety related incident that does not cause personal injury, damage to equipment or buildings, or require the discharge of a fire extinguisher. This form is not only for laboratory personnel. All faculty, staff and students should report any mishap. Print and complete the form. Once completed, give the form to someone in the main office, room 120. The Near Miss Report form can be found on the Biochemistry website add link or by clicking [here](#).

GRANTS...

Steven McKenzie received a \$180000.00 grant from USDA-NIFA doctoral fellowship for his proposal "Investigating the damage-mediated disassembly of Photosystem II in Arabidopsis thaliana."

Beth Tran and Matt Olson received a \$8500 award from Purdue University Center for Cancer Research's CIS Program Special Projects for their proposal "Combined effects of DDX5 inhibition on small cell lung cancer growth and anti-tumor immunity."

RECENT PUBLICATIONS...

Gutensohn, M., L. K. Henry, S. A. Gentry, J. H. Lynch, T. T. H. Nguyen, E. Pichersky, **N. Dudareva** 2021. Overcoming Bottlenecks for Metabolic Engineering of Sesquiterpene Production in Tomato Fruits. *Frontiers in Plant Science*. (12):691754.

Diaz, S., L. Li, K. Wang, **X. Liu** 2021. Expression and purification of functional recombinant CUL2•RBX1 from *E. coli*. *Scientific Reports*. 11(1):11224.

Jauregui-Lozano, J., K. Bakhle, **V. Weake** 2021. In vivo tissue-specific chromatin profiling in *Drosophila melanogaster* using GFP-tagged nuclei. *Genetics*. Online ahead of print.

IMPORTANT DATES...

July 5	Independence Day Observed - No Classes
July 9	First 8-week Summer Module ends
July 12	Third Summer Module begins
Aug. 6	Summer Classes End
Aug. 7	Summer Commencement