

MCB

School of Molecular & Cellular Biology

University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign

Awards Ceremony

May 5, 2022

Biochemistry

Cell & Developmental Biology

Microbiology

Molecular & Integrative Physiology

This program contains an unofficial list of award recipients for December 2021, May 2022 and August 2022. Due to printing deadlines, names of some award recipients may not appear, while names of some students who have not yet completed all degree or award requirements may be included.



MCB UNDERGRADUATE AWARDS & HONORS

Students Graduating with a Major in MCB Honors

Ashley Akrami	Britney Naolhu
Karen Back	Jill Patel
Yoonje Cho	Aashna Prakash
Eva Cornman	Rithva Ramesh
Evan Dray	Priya Rao*
Bindu Edupulapati	Ria Ravi
Dev Gandhi	Rahul Reddy
Joshua Gille	Sandra Samborski
Olivia Gough	Bianca Savant
Maaz Haji	Muskaan Sawhney
Niraj Lawande	Madison Scaggs
James Lopez	Angelina Wilton
Alfredo Martinez Ruiz	Eileen Zheng

Oliver J. Bell Merit Scholarship in MCB Honors

Emily Tung

Distinction for Excellence in Academics

Joshua Adisumarta	Rachel Habbal
Ashley Akrami	Deanna Hagberg
Sammy Alhayek	Gavin Hage
Darya Asoudegi	Linh Hua
Javan Baker	Lina Issa*
Jacqueline Bienduga	Imadh Khan*
Diana Brown	Megan Klode
Matthew Carroll*	Niraj Lawande
Anna Carter	Jason Liu
Mati Chaudhery	Parker Meyer
David Chen	Britney Naolhu
Yoonje Cho	Ivie Osagiede
Victoria Chu	Rithva Ramesh
Eva Cornman	Rahul Reddy
Evan Dray	Alexander Wang
Myra Esmail	Matthew Wattlelet
Chime Ezenekwe	Angelina Wilton
Chase Fincham	Jeongi Won
Joshua Gille	Isabella Wrobel
Olivia Gough	Shirley Yang
	Yimeng Zhao

Highest Distinction for Excellence in Research

Sammy Alhayek	Dr. Steven Blanke
Darya Asoudegi	Dr. Supriya Prasanth
Evan Dray	Dr. Daniel McKim
Niraj Lawande	Dr. Catherine Christian-Hinman
Rithva Ramesh	Dr. William Brierher
Angelina Wilton	Dr. Hee Jung Chung
Yimeng Zhao	Dr. Huimin Zhao

*Denotes Fall 2021 graduate

High Distinction for Excellence in Research

David Chen	Dr. Supriya Prasanth
Yoon Min Cho*	Dr. Jay Ko
Neal Dadlani*	Dr. Sayee Anakk
Degaulle Dai*	Dr. Yong-Su Jin
Jeong Won Han	Dr. Kai Zhang
Harish Kesavan*	Dr. Hee Jung Chung
Shreyaa Khanna	Dr. Roy Dar
Laura Kilikevicius	Dr. Gene Robinson
Alfredo Martinez Ruiz	Dr. Mary Schuler
Carolyn Oh	Dr. Jonathan Sweedler
Aashna Prakash	Dr. Huanyu Qiao
Veronica Pronitcheva*	Dr. Justin Rhodes
Priya Rao*	Dr. Mary Schuler
Ria Ravi	Dr. Steven Blanke
Yiting Song	Dr. Steven Blanke
Srishti Tiwari	Dr. Erik Nelson

Distinction for Excellence in Research

Jack Feldner	Dr. Martin Burke
Bryan Himmel	Dr. Beth Stadtmueller
Peyton Hopkins*	Dr. Prabhakara Reddi
Lina Issa*	Dr. Daniel Llano
James Lopez	Dr. Brenda Wilson
Martin Lundy	Dr. Jeffrey Woods
Saahil Rastogi	Dr. Mary Schuler

MCB Undergraduate Research Symposium Awards

Director's Award for Exceptional Research Presentation

Neal Dadlani* Dr. Sayee Anakk

Outstanding Research Presentation Award

Veronica Pronitcheva* Dr. Justin Rhodes

Research Presentation Award

Niraj Lawande Dr. Catherine Christian-Hinman

BEST Scholars

Hallie Balika	Lydia Foster
Delaney Blohm	Dan Lam
Peyton Carmicheal	Cesar Maldonado, Jr.
Belén Chamorro Rosales	Cynthia Mu
Neel Donthamsetti	Cindy Tran
Alyson Ficca	Elaine Wei
Samantha Florey	Chloe Zant

AbbVie Black Business Network Fellowship

Zaria George Dr. Benjamin Auerbach

Berkowitz Research Fellowship

Yufei Tian Dr. Xinzhu Yu
Lily Wenger Dr. Jefferson Chan

Kristin L. Grampp Summer Research Fellow

Sani Kimura Dr. Lin-Feng Chen

Jenner Family Research Fellowship

Shivang Bhaskar	Dr. Kannanganattu Prasanth
William Dai	Dr. Daniel Llano
Mingyi Ma	Dr. Xinzhu Yu
Isaiah Lopez	Dr. Wilfred van der Donk
Neha Ramachandran	Dr. Milan Bagchi

School of MCB Undergraduate Research Fellowship sponsored in part by Dr. Keith Westcott

Austin Douglas Dr. Daniel Llano

School of MCB SURF sponsored in part by Frank Witney

Nathan Carmichael Dr. Andrew Leakey
Hunter Carrell Dr. Paul Hergenrother

School of MCB Summer Undergrad Research Fellowship

Nafay Abdul	Dr. Kai Zhang
Matthew Babik	Dr. Nien-Pei Tsai
Michelle Bishka	Dr. Scott Silverman
Katelyn Boetel	Dr. Makoto Inoue
Austin Borri	Dr. Jefferson Chan
Emma Bridgeman	Dr. Hee Jung Chung
Jared Butts	Dr. Patrick Sweeney
Miguel Cholico	Dr. Patrick Sweeney
Yilin Feng	Dr. Rutilio Fratti
Emma Ibanez	Dr. Justin Rhodes
Jie Ji	Dr. Wenyan Mei
Erica Joo	Dr. Huanyo Qiao
Sarika Kumar	Dr. Benjamin Auerbach
Jungbin Lee	Dr. Kai Zhang
Amanda Lexington	Dr. Wilfred van der Donk
Madeleine Meehan	Dr. Marni Boppart
Aneek Mirza	Dr. Supriya Prasanth
Tiffany Nguyen	Dr. Erik Nelson
Kaitlyn Ortgiesen	Dr. Daniel Llano
Prithika Ravi	Dr. Justin Rhodes
Yiyang (John) Shen	Dr. Weiping Zhang
Tyler Smith	Dr. Thomas Gaj
Emily Tung	Dr. Wenyan Mei
Haichao Wang	Dr. Benjamin Auerbach
Hannah (Xilu) Zhou	Dr. Huimin Zhao

MCB GRADUATE STUDENT AWARDS & HONORS

John G. and Evelyn Hartman Heiligenstein Outstanding Teaching Assistant in MCB

Sabrina Abdulla

Julie and David Mead Graduate Fellowship

Lucy Chou Zheng

Outstanding Teaching Assistant in Molecular & Cellular Biology

Deborah Frederick	Qiuyan Ma
Xiyu Ge	James Nguyen
Nicole Godellas	Alexander Polidore

BIOCHEMISTRY AWARDS

BIOC Undergraduate Awards & Honors

Highest Distinction

Adam Balutowski Kevin Ingram Haolin Luo Sarah Matatov Maureen McCoy Madeline Melzer	Dr. Rutilio Fratti Dr. Bo Wang Dr. Taras Pogorelov Dr. Auinash Kalsotra Dr. Lin-Feng Chen Dr. Jonathan Sweedler
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High Distinction

Jessica Hindenberg	Dr. Vivian Tang
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Distinction

Le'Mark Russell David Van Wazer	Dr. Rachel Smith-Bolton Dr. Satish Nair
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Outstanding Student Award

Adam Balutowski	Dr. Rutilio Fratti
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William T. and Lynn Jackson Senior Best Thesis

Sarah Matatov	Dr. Auinash Kalsotra
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William T. and Lynn Jackson Senior Merit Award for Outstanding Thesis

Adam Balutowski Kevin Ingram Haolin Luo Maureen McCoy Madeline Melzer	Dr. Rutilio Fratti Dr. Bo Wang Dr. Taras Pogorelov Dr. Lin-Feng Chen Dr. Jonathan Sweedler
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Biochemistry Summer Research Scholarship

Madison Ardagh	Dr. Hong Jin
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H. Edward Conrad Summer Research Scholarship

Albano Toska	Dr. Lin-Feng Chen
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William T. and Lynn Jackson Scholars in Biochemistry

Zhuoran Zhong	Dr. Jefferson Chan
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Padbury Family Scholarship in Biochemistry

Isaiah Lopez	Dr. Wilfred van der Donk
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Graduate Student Awards & Honors

Robert L. Switzer Award for Teaching

Arpita Chakravarti Chris Hawk Andrea Hernandez Garcia Iris Lyu	Rachel Martini Kritika Mehta Gilberto Padron Adrika Raybarman
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2021 Anne A. Johnson Work Award for Excellence in Graduate Studies

Surbhi Jain	Dr. Huimin Zhao
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Dr. Michael A. Recny Graduate Fellowship in Biochemistry

Santanu Ghosh	Dr. David Shapiro
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2021 Colin A. Wraight Memorial Award in Biochemistry for Outstanding Paper

Ullas Valiya Chembazhi	Dr. Auinash Kalsotra
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William T. and Lynn Jackson Graduate Student Fellow in Biochemistry

Wenhao Ouyang	Dr. Nicholas Wu
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2021 Biochemistry Trust of Urbana for Excellence in Graduate Studies

Waqar Arif	Dr. Auinash Kalsotra
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CELL & DEVELOPMENTAL BIOLOGY AWARDS

Undergraduate Awards & Honors

Undergraduate Research Achievement Award

David Chen Alfredo Martinez Ruiz Priya Rao* Saahil Rastogi	Dr. Supriya Prasanth Dr. Mary Schuler Dr. Mary Schuler Dr. Mary Schuler
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Undergraduate Outstanding Research Achievement

Darya Asoudegi Rithva Ramesh	Dr. Supriya Prasanth Dr. William Brierher
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Roderick MacLeod Award for Academic Excellence

David Chen	Dr. Supriya Prasanth
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Tom and Cynthia Cycyota Research Scholarship

Jay Sonalkar	Dr. Supriya Prasanth
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Graduate Student Awards & Honors

Tom and Cynthia Cycyota Research Scholarship

Neha Chivukula	Dr. Andrew Belmont
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Tunji Toogun Research Excellence Award

Qinyu Hao	Dr. Kannanganattu Prasanth
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Outstanding Teaching Assistant Award

Allison Boss-Kennedy	Dr. Jie Chen
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Graduate Student Platform Presentation Award

Pradeep Kumar	Dr. Andrew Belmont
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MICROBIOLOGY AWARDS

Undergraduate Awards & Honors

Dr. Walter A. and Loretta M. Zygmunt Microbiology Scholarship - Summer Research

Neha Arun Abdullah Mubarik Olivia Rodriguez Faisal Zaidi	Dr. Collin Kieffer Dr. Douglas Mitchell Dr. Steven Blanke Dr. Steven Blanke
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Francis M. and Harlie M. Clark Microbiology Scholarship - Achievement

Joshua Adisumarta Sammy Alhayek	Dr. Steven Blanke Dr. Steven Blanke
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Graduate Student Awards

Francis M. and Harlie M. Clark Microbiology Scholarship - Teaching

Nicholas Handy	Roy Rodriguez Carrero
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Professor Marie Chow Teaching Scholarship

Sabrina Abdulla	Alexander Polidore
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Chester W. and Nadine C. Houston Endowment Fellowship - Excellence

Saika Hossain	Dr. Thomas Kehl-Fie
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Mr. Chinoree T. and Mrs. Kimiyo Enta Fellowship - Accomplishment

Lucy Chou Zheng Alexander Polidore	Dr. Asma Hatoum-Aslan Dr. William Metcalf
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MOLECULAR & INTEGRATIVE PHYSIOLOGY AWARDS

Undergraduate Awards & Honors

Howard S. Ducoff Award for Outstanding Senior Thesis

Niraj Lawande	Dr. Catherine Christian-Hinman
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C. Ladd Prosser Outstanding Achievement Award

Angelina Wilton	Dr. Hee Jung Chung
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Graduate Student Awards & Honors

Outstanding Thesis Award

Liqian Ma	Dr. Erik Nelson
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TEACHING ASSISTANTS RANKED AS EXCELLENT BY THEIR STUDENTS

For Molecular and Cellular Biology and Biochemistry Courses Taught in Spring and Fall 2021

Jacob Beal Andrew Blake Allison Boss-Kennedy † Tori Boyle † Arpita Chakravarti Yanheng Chen † Lucy Chou Zheng Molly Crowder † Cathryn Cutia † Angela Dean † Daphne Eagleman † Amanda Erlandson † Katie Frye † Kevin Gill Rachel Gonzalez Brittney Gorman Christopher Hawk Maxine He Marinos Kalafatis † Collin Kaufman Isaac Kim	Colin Lee † Qianqiao Liu † Moeen Meigooni Jesus Moreno Castillo Krishna Narayanan Aatiqa Nawaz Teak Jung Oh Alex Phillips † Jack Przybyla † Adrika Raybarman Roy Rodriguez Carrero † Ruben Sanchez-Nieves † Ami Seeger Jaishree Sharma Ryan Shaw Eric Shinn † Matthew Sinclair Surabhi Sonam Shukun Yang † Tianjiong Yao
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† The instructor ratings were outstanding.