

Graduate Student Awards & Honors

Robert L. Switzer Award for Teaching

Arpita Chakravarti	Rachel Martini
Chris Hawk	Kritika Mehta
Andrea Hernandez Garcia	Gilberto Padron
Iris Lyu	Adrika Raybarman

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	Dr. Supriya Prasanth
Alfredo Martinez Ruiz	Dr. Mary Schuler
Priya Rao*	Dr. Mary Schuler
Saahil Rastogi	Dr. Mary Schuler

Undergraduate Outstanding Research Achievement

Darya Asoudegi	Dr. Supriya Prasanth
Rithva Ramesh	Dr. William Brieher

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	Dr. Collin Kieffer
Abdullah Mubarik	Dr. Douglas Mitchell
Olivia Rodriguez	Dr. Steven Blanke
Faisal Zaidi	Dr. Steven Blanke

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

Joshua Adisumarta	Dr. Steven Blanke
Sammy Alhayek	Dr. Steven Blanke

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	Dr. Asma Hatoum-Aslan
Alexander Polidore	Dr. William Metcalf

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

† The instructor ratings were outstanding.

M C B

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 Brieher
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
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Outstanding Research Presentation Award

Veronica Pronitcheva*	Dr. Justin Rhodes
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Research Presentation Award

Niraj Lawande	Dr. Catherine Christian-Hinman
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BEST Scholars

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

AbbVie Black Business Network Fellowship

Zaria George	Dr. Benjamin Auerbach
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Berkowitz Research Fellowship

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

Kristin L. Grampp Summer Research Fellow

Sani Kimura	Dr. Lin-Feng Chen
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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
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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 Cholino	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	Dr. Rutilio Fratti
Kevin Ingram	Dr. Bo Wang
Haolin Luo	Dr. Taras Pogorelov
Sarah Matatov	Dr. Auinash Kalsotra
Maureen McCoy	Dr. Lin-Feng Chen
Madeline Melzer	Dr. Jonathan Sweedler

High Distinction

Jessica Hindenberg	Dr. Vivian Tang
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Distinction

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

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	Dr. Rutilio Fratti
Kevin Ingram	Dr. Bo Wang
Haolin Luo	Dr. Taras Pogorelov
Maureen McCoy	Dr. Lin-Feng Chen
Madeline Melzer	Dr. Jonathan Sweedler

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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