



MCB

School of Molecular & Cellular Biology Awards Ceremony

4 p.m. Thursday, May 4, 2023

Alice Campbell Alumni Center

Biochemistry

Cell & Developmental Biology

Microbiology

Molecular & Integrative Physiology





MCB

Students Graduating with a Major in MCB Honors

Tomi Akin-Olabiyi	Jill Maier
Adedoyin Akisanya	Michael McHenry
Rutu Bhalavat*	Kayla Miner
Angela Beatriz Cabrera	Hanifa Mohammed
Catherine Cabrera	Abdullah Mubarik
Matthew Crimmins	Kaitlyn Ortgiesen*
Katherine D'Sylva	Anneliese Paton
Yilin Feng	Naomi Popoolapade
Cassandra Fitzgerald	Shreya Rao
Grace Homa	William Reiser
Shreya Jeyakumar	Emma Rosales
Jie Ji	Faaiza Saif*
Erica Joo	Royal Shrestha
Matthew Kim	Isaac Soloveychik
Allison Korkmaz	Amelia Steinlein
Michael Kraft	Zee Umardeen
Soohyun Lee	Tristan Worley
Zhengde Liu	Andrew Zhang

Oliver J. Bell Merit Scholarship in MCB Honors

Jamie Bernal

Academic Distinction

Elise Albertson	Erin Markowitz
Abid Anwar*	Michael McHenry
Neha Arun	Srinath Medakkar
Archit Bajaj	Youssef Messeh
Shaun Bhurgri	Abdullah Mubarik
Angela Beatriz Cabrera	Fatima Mubarik
Catherine Cabrera	Kaitlyn Ortgiesen*
William Drake	Nicole Park
Yilin Feng	Ronak Parmar
Meenakshi Gupta	Pooja Patel
Emma Ibanez*	Riya Patel
Madeline Johnson	Matthew Pudik
Hannah Kim	Shreya Rao
Allison Korkmaz	William Reiser
Soohyun Lee	Mathew Reji*
Shuning Liu	Arman Sandhu*

Isha Satani
Jay Sonalkar
Anna Tsyrunnikov
Tristan Worley

Sharbel Yako
Brian Yoon*
Andrew Zhang
Jolin Zheng

Highest Distinction for Excellence in Research

Neha Arun
Yilin Feng
Emma Ibanez*
Jay Sonalkar

Dr. Collin Kieffer
Dr. Rutilio Fratti
Dr. Justin Rhodes
Dr. Supriya Prasanth

Highest Distinction for Excellence in Research

Archit Bajaj
Anisha Bhole
Katelyn Boetel
Rebecca Hess
Ioanna Karras
Matthew Kim
Isaiah Lasisi
Ki Lim
Zhengde Liu
Michael McHenry
Madeleine Meehan
Hanifa Mohammed
Amber Nagaraja
Lydia Ng
Tiffany Nguyen
Olivia Rodriguez
Royal Shrestha
Faisal Zaidi
Andrew Zhang

Dr. Rutilio Fratti
Dr. Hee Jung Chung
Dr. Makoto Inoue
Dr. Isaac Cann
Dr. H. Rex Gaskins
Dr. Anna Sokac
Dr. Isaac Cann
Dr. Erik Nelson
Dr. Huanyu Qiao
Dr. Hee Jung Chung
Dr. Marni Boppert
Dr. Martha Gillette
Dr. William Brierher
Dr. Martha Gillette
Dr. Erik Nelson
Dr. Steven Blanke
Dr. Huanyu Qiao
Dr. Steven Blanke
Dr. Huimin Zhao

Distinction for Excellence in Research

Jared Butts*
Erica Joo
Mohammed Kadiri*
Mingyi Ma*
Thomas Maher*
Kyle O'Berry
Faaiza Saif*
Amelia Steinlein

Dr. Patrick Sweeney
Dr. Satish Nair
Dr. Erik Nelson
Dr. Xinzhu Yu
Dr. Martin Burke
Dr. Patrick Sweeney
Dr. Huanyu Qiao
Dr. Rachel Whitaker

*Denotes Fall 2022 graduate

School of MCB 2022 Undergraduate Research Symposium Awards

School of MCB Director's Award for Exceptional Research Presentation

Hunter Carrell
Emma Ibanez*

Dr. Paul Hergenrother
Dr. Justin Rhodes

School of MCB Outstanding Research Presentation Award

Neha Ramachandran

Dr. Milan Bagchi

Research Presentation Honorable Mention Award

Madeleine Meehan
Anastasiya Sushkova

Dr. Marni Boppart
Dr. Anna Kukekova

BEST Scholars 2022-2023

Julia Ciura
Luke Crimmins
Molly Dasilva
Hannah Martinez
Hannah McGee
Iman Mohajir

Ahmed Nadeem
Toheeb Ojelade
Jaahnvi Patel
Shivam Patel
Suhani Peramanu
Abigail Perryman

Berkowitz Research Fellowship

Matthew Babik

Dr. Nien-Pei Tsai

Dawn M. Carlson MD, MPH Research Fellowship for Women in Science

Jessica Rose

Dr. Catherine Christian-Hinman

Kristin L. Grampp Summer Research Fellowship

Mark Yaroslavsky

Dr. Mary Schuler

Jenner Family Research Fellowship

Shivang Bhaskar
Rujuta Chikodikar
William Dai
Emily Wang
Ruoyang (Gloria) Wang

Dr. Kannanganattu Prasanth
Dr. Huanyu Qiao
Dr. Daniel Llano
Dr. Mary Schuler
Dr. Douglas Mitchell

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

Brendan Rattin

Dr. Jie Chen

Spudich Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowship

Asta Simonovic

Dr. Beth Stadtmueller

School of MCB Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowship

Nafay Abdul
Miriam Akhnoukh
Santhosh Anu Mathew
Madison Ardagh
Oyinkansola Ashiru
Zayn Beg
Joe Clark
Bryan Duong
Emmi Frieden
Manas Gajjala
Laurel Hart
Shashank Hirani
Ritika Jawale
Anshita Jayanth
Samuel Jeon
Joseph Jung
Sasha Kakkassery
Hannah Kim
Kurt Andrew Leano
Brandon Li
Jacob May
Meghan McCann
Leela Mouli
Andrew Nisipeanu
Godwin Olaleye
Sofia Perry
Ishita Purwar
Emma Pyszka
Adrianna Ramos
Prithika Ravi
Manasi Reddy
Joel Ryan
Yiyang (John) Shen
Tweende Sinemani
Liz Soellner
Danyi Wang
Elaine Wei
Lily Wenger
Cici Xiong

Dr. Kai Zhang
Dr. Asma Hatoum-Aslan
Dr. Lin-Feng Chen
Dr. Hong Jin
Dr. Douglas Mitchell
Dr. Kai Zhang
Dr. Steven Blanke
Dr. Erik Nelson
Dr. Asma Hatoum-Aslan
Dr. Howard Gritton
Dr. Benjamin Auerbach
Dr. Andrei Kuzminov
Dr. Lin-Feng Chen
Dr. Kevin Van Bortle
Dr. Kannanganattu Prasanth
Dr. Hee Jung Chung
Dr. Huanyu Qiao
Dr. Erik Nelson
Dr. Kai Zhang
Dr. Daniel Llano
Dr. Huanyu Qiao
Dr. Kai Zhang
Dr. Kevin Van Bortle
Dr. Martha Gillette
Dr. Supriya Prasanth
Dr. David Shapiro
Dr. Auinash Kalsotra
Dr. Patrick Sweeney
Dr. Huimin Zhao
Dr. Justin Rhodes
Dr. Marni Boppart
Dr. Nu-Chu Liang
Dr. Weiping Zhang
Dr. Martin Burke
Dr. Benjamin Auerbach
Dr. Kai Zhang
Dr. David Shapiro
Dr. Jefferson Chan
Dr. Nicholas Wu

School of MCB Graduate Awards & Honors

School of MCB Graduate Research Retreat Awards

Oral Presentation

1st place: Jacob Beal	Dr. Milan Bagchi
2nd place: Kritika Mehta	Dr. Kai Zhang
3rd place: Tongyu Liu	Dr. Christopher Brooke

Poster Presentation

1st place (tie): Shweta Shree Matt Sinclair	Dr. Stephen Sligar Dr. Emad Tajkhorshid
2nd place: Robbie Ingram	Dr. Catherine Christian-Hinman

John G. and Evelyn Hartman Heiligenstein Outstanding Teaching Assistant in Molecular & Cellular Biology

Anjana Asokakumar

Julie and David Mead Graduate Fellowship

Simon Lizarazo Chaparro	Dr. Nien-Pei Tsai
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School of MCB Outstanding Teaching Assistant in Molecular & Cellular Biology

Steven Hobbs
Gang Xiao

Teaching Assistants Ranked as Excellent by Students

Arit Banerjee
Tori Boyle
Siddhartha Chakraborty
Yanheng Chen
Cathryn Cutia
Sneha Das
Anasuya Das Gupta
Angela Dean
Madhura Dutttagupta
Amanda Erlandson
Mireille Farjo
Deborah Frederick
Matthew Georgiou
Purnam Ghosh
Kevin Gill
Rafael Gonzalez Ricon
Lindsey Grady
Eman Hamed
Sangyun Joung
Wei-Chun Kao
Hyelan Lee
Xiaodan Lin

Qiuyan Ma
Tejas Mahadevan Padmanabhan
Anna Mankovich
Jeffrey Marciniak-Haynosch
Snigdha Amit Mathure
Justin Miller
Aatiqa Nawaz
Teak Jung Oh
Yuwei Pan
Alexander Polidore
Jack Przybyla
Megan Ringling
Ami Seeger
Tauseef Shah
Xiangning Song
Chu Yun Teo
Elizabeth Thayer
Yuhan Wang
Jisheng Wu
Shukun Yang
Chi Zhang

Biochemistry Undergraduate Awards & Honors

Highest Distinction for Excellence in Research

Uma Agarwal	Dr. Kai Zhang
Nathan Carmichael	Dr. Andrew Leakey
Samantha Carr	Dr. David Shapiro
Hunter Carrell	Dr. Paul Hergenrother
Andrea Dayal	Dr. Makoto Inoue
Benjamin Fliman	Dr. Jeffrey Moore
Nathan Gron	Dr. Kai Zhang
Kanika Leang	Dr. Nathan Schroeder
Jeongmin Lee	Dr. Auinash Kalsotra
Isaiah Lopez	Dr. Wilfred van der Donk
Andrew Lutsky	Dr. Emad Tajkhorshid
Tomer Markovich	Dr. Wilfred van der Donk
Yufei Tian	Dr. Xinzhu Yu
Albano Toska	Dr. Lin-Feng Chen
Zhuoran Zhong	Dr. Jefferson Chan

High Distinction for Excellence in Research

Natalie Bizon	Dr. Prabhakara Reddi
Allison Kim	Dr. Susan Martinis
Ann Steephen	Dr. Prabhakara Reddi
Tyler Tang	Dr. Stephen Sligar

Distinction for Excellence in Research

Brandon Shurdhi	Dr. Claudio Grosman
Anastasiya Sushkova	Dr. Anna Kukekova
Haichao Wang	Dr. Benjamin Auerbach

William T. and Lynn Jackson Senior Merit Award for Outstanding Thesis

Uma Agarwal	Dr. Kai Zhang
Natalie Bizon	Dr. Prabhakara Reddi
Nathan Carmichael	Dr. Andrew Leakey
Samantha Carr	Dr. David Shapiro
Hunter Carrell	Dr. Paul Hergenrother
Andrea Dayal	Dr. Makoto Inoue
Nathan Gron	Dr. Kai Zhang
Kanika Leang	Dr. Nathan Schroeder
Jeongmin Lee	Dr. Auinash Kalsotra
Andrew Lutsky	Dr. Emad Tajkhorshid
Tomer Markovich	Dr. Wilfred van der Donk
Tyler Tang	Dr. Stephen Sligar

Yufei Tian
 Albano Toska
 Zhuoran Zhong

Dr. Xinzhu Yu
 Dr. Lin-Feng Chen
 Dr. Jefferson Chan

William T. and Lynn Jackson Senior Best Thesis

Isaiah Lopez

Dr. Wilfred van der Donk

Outstanding Student Award

Hunter Carrell

Dr. Paul Hergenrother

Michael Glaser Undergraduate Service Award to the Biochemistry Department

Hunter Carrell

Dr. Paul Hergenrother

H. Edward Conrad Summer Research Scholarship

Garrett Barksdale

Dr. Wilfred van der Donk

Biochemistry Summer Research Scholarship

Logan Talmage

Dr. Nicholas Wu

Padbury Family Scholarship in Biochemistry

Andrew Diep

Dr. Sharon Donovan

Biochemistry Graduate Student Awards & Honors

Biochemistry Trust of Urbana for Excellence in Graduate Studies

Dr. Imran Rahman

Dr. Wilfred van der Donk

Anne A. Johnson Work Award for Excellence in Graduate Studies

Dr. Chayanid (Ing) Ongpipattanakul

Dr. Satish Nair

Colin A. Wraight Memorial Award in Biochemistry for Outstanding Paper

Dr. Page Daniels

Dr. Wilfred van der Donk

Herbert E. Carter Graduate Fellowship

Yanheng Chen

Dr. Lin-Feng Chen

Charles F. Kade Graduate Fellowship

Kritika Mehta

Dr. Kai Zhang

Westcott Bioscience Fellowship

Andrea Hernandez Garcia

Dr. Satish Nair

Dr. Michael A. Recny Graduate Fellowship in Biochemistry

Heather Liu

Dr. Beth Stadtmueller

Govindjee and Rajni Govindjee Award for Excellence in Biological Research

Adrika Raybarman

Dr. Raven Huang

Robert L. Switzer Award for Teaching

Kaylee Kuzelka

Dr. Satish Nair

Kritika Mehta

Dr. Kai Zhang

Rebecca Schneider

Dr. Beth Stadtmueller

Cell & Developmental Biology Undergraduate Awards & Honors

Undergraduate Research Achievement Award

Matthew Kim	Dr. Anna Sokac
Hanifa Mohammed	Dr. Martha Gillette
Amber Nagaraja	Dr. William Briehar
Lydia Ng	Dr. Martha Gillette

Undergraduate Outstanding Research Achievement

Jay Sonalkar	Dr. Supriya Prasanth
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Roderick MacLeod Award for Academic Excellence

Jay Sonalkar	Dr. Supriya Prasanth
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Tom and Cynthia Cycyota Research Scholarship

Aneek Mirza	Dr. Supriya Prasanth
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Cell & Developmental Biology Graduate Student Awards & Honors

Tom and Cynthia Cycyota Research Scholarship

Aatiqa Nawaz	Dr. Stephanie Ceman
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Graduate Student Platform Presentation Award

Allison Boss-Kennedy	Dr. Jie Chen
Pradeep Kumar	Dr. Andrew Belmont
Minxue Liu	Dr. Kannanganattu Prasanth
Tejas Mahadevan	Dr. Anna Sokac
Miles Norsworthy	Dr. Martha Gillette

Microbiology Undergraduate Awards & Honors

Professor Alice Carlene Helm Microbiology Scholarship - Summer Research

Neeha Kakuturu
Jacob Sowizral

Dr. Christopher Brooke
Dr. Brenda Wilson

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

Kavishka Fernando
Ivilyn Tan
Olivia Wynn

Dr. Andrei Kuzminov
Dr. Steven Blanke
Dr. James Slauch

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

Neha Arun
Amelia Steinlein
Faisal Zaidi

Dr. Collin Kieffer
Dr. Rachel Whitaker
Dr. Steven Blanke

Microbiology Graduate Student Awards

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

Sneha Das

Chester W. and Nadine C. Houston Endowment Fellowship – Excellence

Stephanie Puentes
Caroline Vermilya

Dr. Paola Mera
Dr. Thomas Kehl-Fie

Mr. Chinoree T. and Mrs. Kimiyo Enta Fellowship – Excellence

Megan Ringling

Dr. Steven Blanke

Mr. Chinoree T. and Mrs. Kimiyo Enta Fellowship – Accomplishment

Molly Crowder

Dr. Steven Blanke

Professor Marie Chow Fellowship – Accomplishment

Tongyu Liu

Dr. Christopher Brooke

Molecular & Integrative Physiology Undergraduate Awards & Honors

Howard S. Ducoff Award for Outstanding Senior Thesis

Archit Bajaj

Dr. Hee Jung Chung

C. Ladd Prosser Outstanding Achievement Award

Haichao Wang

Dr. Benjamin Auerbach

Molecular & Integrative Physiology Graduate Student Awards & Honors

2023 Outstanding Thesis Award

Xiyu Ge

Dr. Lori Raetzman

2023 James E. Heath Award for Excellence in Teaching in Physiology

Anjana Asokakumar

2023 Ann Nardulli Graduate Student Travel Award

Anasuya Das Gupta
Amber Wang

Dr. Erik Nelson
Dr. Erik Nelson

This program contains an unofficial list of award recipients for December 2022, May 2023 and August 2023. 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.



Congratulations!
on your achievements



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Cellular Biology