

Molecular Matters

Department of Biochemistry

**September 2021
Department News**



CONGRATULATIONS TO...



Makayla Marlin received an OUR scholarship. OUR Scholars are full-time undergraduate researchers who excel in their program. OUR Scholars are a full academic year, and must meet program requirements, such as presenting at the annual Undergraduate Research Conference or “Celebrate” (when available) events and completing wraparound professional development.

AUGUST B.S. GRADUATES...



Dominique Bennett
Next Stop: Unknown

NEW FACES...



Jaimie Turner recently joined the Biochemistry Department as the new Lead Administrative Assistant to the Department Head of Biochemistry. Please feel free to stop by the main office in BCHM 120 to say hello and introduce yourself.

Jaime has over 17 years of campus experience including 14 years of high-level

administrative experience during her time at Purdue. Her previous positions include Lead Administrative Assistant to the Director of the Birck Nanotechnology Center and Administrative Assistant to the Department Head of Physics. During her free time Jaime likes to camp, hike, garden, read and spend time with her family and two dogs.

GRADUATE STUDENT NEWS...

In August, the Department of Biochemistry welcomed 10 new students to our graduate program.



Bridget Kaiser
University of Wisconsin, WI.



Kai Liu
National Chung-Hsing University,
Taiwan



Lois Luo
Wake Forest University, NC



Grace Meng
Grand Valley State University, MI



Anik Paul
University of Dhaka, Bangladesh



Shomoita Sayed
University of Dhaka, Bangladesh



Kratika Singhal
University of Illinois, Chicago



Kendall Souder
West Liberty St. College, WV



Beinan Yang
Lawrence University, NY



Yuxin Zhuang
Zhejiang University, China
University of South Carolina

UNDERGRADUATE NEWS...

In August the Department of Biochemistry welcomed 27 new undergraduate students.



BIOCHEMISTRY IN THE NEWS...

Majid Kazemian and a team of scientists have discovered a gene that controls the severity of colon cancer. Read the news article [here](#).

SAFETY CORNER...

Proper disposal of broken glass is a question that comes up a lot in the labs. Flasks get dropped during cleaning, beakers are knocked over off a lab counter, accidents happen quite often. According to Purdue's REM Sharps and Infectious Waste Handling and Disposal Guidelines, clean broken glass should be put into a corrugated cardboard box or other strong disposable container. If you are using a box not purchased from the Lily Storeroom, then make sure to tape up all corners and the openings where the flaps meet on the bottom of the box to prevent small pieces from escaping. These boxes should not exceed 20 lbs. worth of broken glass. Mark these boxes as "broken glass" and make sure your lab staff and students know where it is located. Once 20 lb. of clean broken glass has been accumulated, the box should be taped shut on top the way you taped the bottom, with all seams and flaps connections

covered, and prominently labeled “SHARP OBJECTS – GLASS DISCARD.” The box should then be checked for any protruding sharps before handling. After inspection, the box should be transported to the back-dock area and sat next to the dumpster where the Purdue Trash Pickup can see it and will dispose of it safely. Dropping it directly into the dumpster could cause it to blow back on you, or blow back on the garbage men when the dumpster is emptied. Below are the items numbers for the glass disposal boxes the Lily storeroom sells, and a link to the Purdue website REM Sharps and Infectious Waste Handling and Disposal Guidelines page.

Lily stock # 120097A and 120097B

[Sharps and Infectious Waste Handling and Disposal Guidelines \(purdue.edu\)](#)

GRANTS...

Majid Kazemian received \$100,00 NIH administrative supplement to build HIPAA aligned storage and computing solution.

PUBLICATIONS...

Simpson, J. P., J. Olson, **B. Dilkes, C. Chapple**. Identification of the Tyrosine- and Phenylalanine-Derived Soluble Metabolomes of Sorghum. 2021. *Frontiers in Plant Science*. <https://doi.org/10.3389/fpls.2021.714164>

Lee, K. Z., M. A. Mechikoff, A. Kikla, A. Liu, P. Pandolfi, K. Fitzgerald, **F. S. Gimble**, K. V. Solomon. 2021. NgAgo possesses guided DNA nicking activity. *Nucleic Acids Research*. Online ahead of print.

IMPORTANT DATES...

Please join us for the Department of Biochemistry Seminar Series. All seminars will begin at 3:30 pm, in WSLR 116, unless noted virtual. In-person and virtual seminars will be available via zoom.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://purdue-edu.zoom.us/j/94957989438>

Oct. 5 Alice Barkan, virtual, University of Oregon

Oct. 11-12 Fall Break, no classes

Oct. 19 Paul Thomas, St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital

Oct. 26 Vered Tzin, Virtual, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev

ATTENTION BCHM ALUMS...

We would love to hear from you! If you have any alumni news to share or had a

change of address, please let us know! Updates can be sent to bchm-alumni-friends@purdue.edu.