

Division of Life Sciences Spring 2023



Undergraduate facilitators from the General Biology Practice Groups.

Image credit: Christy Beal, Assistant Teaching Professor, Biological Sciences

Letter from the Dean:

Happy New Year, and welcome back!

I hope everyone had a nice holiday break. We can't wait to share some exciting Division updates from last year. A few notable updates include: Ping Xie, Associate Professor in Cell Biology and Neuroscience (CBN), receiving the Grossman Innovation Prize; graduate student Leela Biswas in the Schindler Lab, winning the 2022 American Medical Association (AMA) Research Challenge; and a feature on Biological Sciences alum Ali Bhatti and his mission to make STEM education more accessible. On the staff side, Divisional Director of Administration Anabell Williams was promoted to interim Vice Dean of Administration for the School of Arts and Sciences, and Molecular Biosciences graduate program administrator Carolyn Ambrose is retiring after forty years at Rutgers. We are excited to see what this semester will bring!

Lori R. Covey
Dean of Life Sciences



Departmental Highlights



Division of Life Sciences Administration

Congratulations to Divisional Director of Administration Anabell Williams, who was promoted to Interim Vice Dean of Administration for the School of Arts and Sciences starting in January 2023.



Biological Sciences

General Biology Practice Groups help undergraduate students achieve academic success by providing the scaffolding that they need to become active and reflective learners in the General Biology course and beyond.

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Cell Biology and Neuroscience

Ping Xie was awarded the 2022 Grossman Innovation Prize for her research aimed at the early detection of lymphoma and other blood cancers. Her research could save lives through early diagnosis of devastating illnesses.

[Read More](#)



Genetics

Graduate student Leela Biswas was awarded the 2022 American Medical Association (AMA) Research Challenge for her research in Karen Schindler's lab examining the potential genetic biomarkers of infertility.



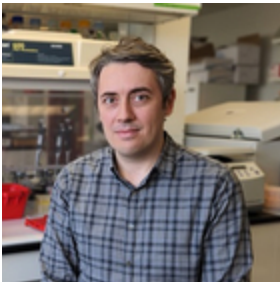
Health Professionals Office (HPO)

The HPO team helped hundreds of students over the past year through advising and, for our students applying to medical and dental school, provided application support in the form of portfolio reviews, mock interviews, and compilation of letter packets. The HPO team is excited that the RWJBH Volunteer Intensive Program and the Rutgers Alumni Shadowing/Mentoring program are back!



Kinesiology and Health

Sara Campbell's research on cardiovascular disease, exercise, and gut microbiome was featured in *Reviews in Cardiovascular Medicine* with cover art.



Molecular Biology and Biochemistry

Kevin Monahan was appointed as the Duncan and Nancy MacMillian Faculty Development Chair in the Life Sciences by the Rutgers University Board of Governors.

[Read more](#)



Office for Diversity and Academic Success in the Sciences (ODASIS)

Spurred by his personal experiences, ODASIS alum Kevin Carolina's mission is to increase the number of underrepresented minority men in the medical field.

[Read more](#)

Additional Highlights

Biological Sciences

Biological Sciences is excited to welcome Senior Program Coordinator Linda Johnson. Linda comes to us from the Rutgers Department of Biomedical Engineering, where she was the Undergraduate Program Administrator.

Cell Biology and Neuroscience

Meet Nydia Chang, a graduate student in Brian Daniels' lab, and learn about her current research project for her National Institutes of Health (NIH) Predoctoral Fellowship and how she got interested in science.

[Read more](#)

Genetics

Tetsuya Nakamura received the SAS Distinguished Contributions to Undergraduate Education Award for his "positive energy, his meticulous preparation, his genuine interest in student success and intellectual growth, and his keen desire to foster a connection between students and course content."

[Read more](#)

Kinesiology and Health

Steven Malin finds that night owls are at higher risk for Type 2 Diabetes and heart disease: lack of quality sleep changes their physiology and increases disease risk.

[Read more](#)

ODASIS

Catch up with ODASIS in their latest newsletter to find out about their students and the impact of ODASIS on their professional and personal lives.

[Read more](#)



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