
*Celebrating
Graduate
Education*



13TH ANNUAL

**GDBBS
AWARDS
BANQUET**

Recognizing the Achievements of our Students and Faculty

October 12, 2023

Druid Hills Golf Club, 740 Clifton Road, Atlanta, GA, 30307



EMORY

L A N E Y
GRADUATE
S C H O O L

Graduate Division of Biological
and Biomedical Sciences

PROGRAM | 7:00PM – 9:00PM

OPENING GREETINGS

Nicole Gerardo, PhD
GDBBS Director

ENDOWED RESEARCH AWARDS

Graduate Program in Biology Academic and Professional Achievement Award
Margaret and Thomas Lew Graduate Award in Biomedical Sciences in Biochemistry
Margaret and Thomas Lew Publication Award in Biomedical Sciences in Biochemistry
Margaret and Thomas Lew 1st Year Award in Biomedical Sciences in Biochemistry
Ray Dingleline Doctoral Award
William and Catherine Rice Endowed Research Award
Keith Wilkinson Graduate Service Award
John B. Lyon Memorial Scholarship Award

GDBBS AWARDS

Distinguished Alumni Award
Graduate Career Award
Program Scholars of the Year
TATTO Teaching Award
Student Career Teaching Award
Student Leadership Award
Outreach/Community Service Award
Student Mentor Award
Faculty Mentor Award

RECOGNITION OF FELLOWSHIP & SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

CLOSING REMARKS

Nicole Gerardo, PhD
GDBBS Director

EXPRESSIONS OF APPRECIATION FROM THE GDBBS DIRECTOR

On behalf of the Graduate Division of Biological and Biomedical Sciences, I would like to express my sincerest appreciation to all of you who took time out of your schedules to help us celebrate the achievements of students and faculty at this 13th GDBBS Awards Celebration.

As Director, I have the opportunity to see the commitment that our faculty, students and administrators make in order to support our students' development as scientists and as leaders. Indeed, this awards banquet could extend for days if we were to recognize all of them. My gratitude to the many student leaders of the Division Student Advisory Council and each of the programs within the Division for helping build community and for advocating for students. Thank you to the programs' faculty leaders and teachers, especially the Program Directors and Directors of Graduate Studies, who foster excellence in training and who go to extraordinary lengths to support individual students facing challenges.

Congratulations to all of the students for their achievements this year in scholarship, mentoring, teaching and advocacy.

Finally, thank you to the GDBBS team and to all in LGS for what they do.

Sincerely,



Nicole Gerardo
GDBBS Director

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*A special thank you to Dr. T. J. Murphy for his
sponsorship that allows us to use this event space.*

NIH NATIONAL RESEARCH SERVICE AWARD (NRSA T32)

Emily Banks (NS)

Jose Castro (BCDB)

Amber Coats (MMG)

Garrett Cooper (GMB)

Rachel Done (MMG)

Benjamin Dykstra (NS)

Alexander Gulka (GMB)

Lydia Gutema (BCDB)

Taylor Hailstock (BCDB)

Dominick Hellen (GMB)

Grace Jang (NS)

Cheyenne Lee (MMG)

Molly Little (BCDB)

Yonina Loskove (GMB)

Roy Mulpur (GMB)

Grace Neilsen (BCDB)

Rachel Pearson (IMP)

Taylor Pio (NS)

Victoria Placentra (GMB)

Monica Reece (MMG)

Monica Reeves (GMB)

Dormarie Rivera (IMP)

Sara Sagadiev (BCDB)

Arvin Sarkissian (NS)

Debresha Shelton (GMB)

Brianna Silver (GMB)

Hannah Smith (MMG)

Kedamawit Tilahun (GMB)

Camille Trautman (NS)

Viviana Valentin Valentin (NS)

Alexandria White (NS)

NIH RUTH L. KIRSCHSTEIN NATIONAL RESEARCH SERVICE AWARD FELLOWS (NRSA F99)

Alexa Iannitelli (NS)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

Sandra Mendiola (PBEE)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF VETERAN AFFAIRS IPA

Eli Chlan (NS)

GRADUATE DIVISION OF BIOLOGICAL AND BIOMEDICAL SCIENCES

The Graduate Division of Biological and Biomedical Sciences (GDBBS) within the Laney Graduate School (LGS) was established to foster interdisciplinary research. Our goal is for Emory to be known as a destination for receiving the highest quality doctoral training, successfully preparing a diverse student body for a wide range of careers related to biological and biomedical research.

With the support of the LGS, the GDBBS oversees and coordinates the training and mentoring of approximately over 400 graduate students in eight interdisciplinary PhD Programs. There are currently approximately 355 world-renowned researchers amongst our training faculty. Our students continue to do amazing work, contributing to Emory's strengths in biomedical and biological research and developing as scientists and leaders. Students apply for and receive numerous fellowships, publish high quality research, teach in our classrooms, and lead outreach efforts to the Atlanta community. Clearly, GDBBS students and faculty, with the support of the GDBBS staff, are doing great things that make Emory proud.

The overarching mission of the GDBBS is to enable Programs and faculty to provide quality scientific research training and mentoring that will enable our students to do their best work and achieve their own career goals. Because the faculty mentors are in academic departments that stretch across Emory's campus and beyond, accomplishing this goal of top-quality scientific training requires strong partnerships with leaders across the University.

GDBBS AWARD RECIPIENTS

ENDOWMENT RESEARCH AWARDS

GRADUATE PROGRAM IN BIOLOGY ACADEMIC & PROFESSIONAL ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Brandon Berryhill (MMG) — Advisor: Bruce Levin, PhD

MARGARET AND THOMAS LEW GRADUATE CAREER AWARD IN BIOMEDICAL SCIENCES IN BIOCHEMISTRY

Sarah Strassler (BCDB) — Advisor: Graeme Conn, PhD

MARGARET AND THOMAS LEW PUBLICATION AWARD IN BIOMEDICAL SCIENCES IN BIOCHEMISTRY

Emily Legan (BCDB) — Advisor: Renhao Li, PhD

Heidi Ulrichs (BCDB) — Advisor: Shashank Shekhar, PhD

MARGARET AND THOMAS LEW 1st YEAR AWARD IN BIOMEDICAL SCIENCES IN BIOCHEMISTRY

Mohamed Barmada (BCDB) — Advisor: Graeme Conn, PhD

Nasab Ghazal (BCDB) — Advisor: Jennifer Kwong, PhD

Megan Hinrichsen (BCDB) — Advisor: Christine Dunham, PhD

RAY DINGLEDINE DOCTORAL AWARD

Cate Risener (MSP) — Advisor: Cassandra Quave, PhD

WILLIAM AND CATHERINE RICE ENDOWED RESEARCH AWARD

Kelsey Bennion (CB) — Advisor: Mandy Ford, PhD

KEITH WILKINSON GRADUATE SERVICE AWARD

Logan Kavanaugh (MMG) — Advisor: Graeme Conn, PhD

JOHN B. LYON MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP AWARD

Alicia Lane (NS) — Advisor: Victor Faundez, MD, PhD

DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARDS

2020: Wade Powell, PhD (BCDB Graduate, 1997) — Advisor: Daniel Reines, PhD

2021: Sharon Milgram, PhD (BCDB Graduate, 1991) — Advisor: Bryan Noe, PhD

2023: Michael Mina, MD, PhD (PBEE Graduate, 2014) — Advisor: Keith Klugman, PhD

NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION (NSF-GRFP)

Katherine Barnett (PBEE)

Yasmine Bassil (NS)

Lynda Bradley (PBEE)

Aiden Ford (NS)

Katelyn Oliver (NS)

Yemko Pryor (GMB)

Jacoby Robinson (PBEE)

Sarah Strassler (BCDB)

Julia Tanquary (BCDB)

Sophie Yount (MSP)

NIH NATIONAL RESEARCH SERVICE AWARD (NRSA F31)

Brenda Antezana (MMG)

Matthew Armstrong (GMB)

Brianna Bixler (GMB)

Austin Boese (CB)

Christine Bowen (BCDB)

Nicole Bowen (MMG)

Gianna Branella (CB)

Chad Camp (MSP)

Michael Cato (BCDB)

Kathryn Crotty (MSP)

Gabrielle Delima (MMG)

Kristen Easley (BCDB)

Anne Goettemoeller (NS)

Christina Hartigan (IMP)

Elizabeth Heaton (NS)

Lauren Hodkinson (GMB)

Hannah Hrcir (BCDB)

Logan Kavanaugh (MMG)

Michael Kelberman (NS)

Brik Kochoian (NS)

Carly Lancaster (BCDB)

Alicia Lane (NS)

Emily Legan (BCDB)

Kelly Lehman (MMG)

Jenna Lobby (IMP)

Kayla Peelman (NS)

Caitlin Risener (MSP)

Kelsey Robinson (GMB)

Juan Rodriguez (GMB)

Alyssa Roeckner (NS)

Jessica Root (NS)

Juliet Santiago (NS)

Colby Schweibenz (BCDB)

Michelle Sequeira (NS)

Sarah Shapley (NS)

Kelsey Shaw (PBEE)

Maria Sterrett (BCDB)

Sydney Sunna (NS)

Alexa Synder (BCDB)

Douglas Terry (GMB)

German Vargus (MMG)

Meghan Wynne (NS)

Paul Zakutansky (BCDB)

AMERICAN EPILEPSY SOCIETY

Samantha Reed (NS)

ARCS STANDARD SCHOLARS

Anna Cole (CB)

Will McFadden (BCDB)

ASH MINORITY HEMATOLOGY GRADUATE AWARD

Benjamin Babock (CB)

Kristopher Knight (MSP)

THE CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION (CDC) IPA

Poulami Basu Thakur (MMG)

EMORY GRADUATE DIVERSITY FELLOWS (EGDF)

Yemko Pryor (GMB)

HOWARD HUGHES MEDICAL INSTITUTE (HHMI) GILLIAM FELLOWSHIPS FOR ADVANCED STUDY

Kimberly Diaz Perez (GMB)

Yesena Garcia-Sifuentes (NS)

Jarildy Javier (NS)

Leila Pascual (NS)

INITIATIVE TO MAXIMIZE STUDENT DEVELOPMENT FELLOWS (IMSD)

Natalie Correa (IMP)

Tyshawn Ferrell (BCDB)

David Jimenez-Vallejo (PBEE)

Kendall Kananui (GMB)

Megan Martinez (MMG)

Edu Usoro (MSP)

Kory Wells (CB)

Aryanna Wiggins-Gamble (NS)

PROGRAM SCHOLARS OF THE YEAR

Colby Schweibenz (BCDB) — Advisor: Kenneth Moberg, PhD

Lenore Monterroza (CB) — Advisors: Rabindra Tirouvanziam, PhD & Periasamy Selvaraj, PhD

Dominick Hellen (GMB) — Advisor: Saul Karpen, MD, PhD

Cameron Robinson Mattingly (IMP) — Advisor: Jacob Kohlmeier, PhD

Brandon Berryhill (MMG) — Advisor: Bruce Levin, PhD

Sophie Yount (MSP) — Advisor: Shannon Gourley, PhD

Alyssa Roeckner (NS) — Advisor: Jennifer Stevens, PhD

Xorla Ocloo (PBEE) — Advisors: David Civitello, PhD & Gonzalo Vazquez-Prokopec, PhD

GRADUATE CAREER AWARD

Kelsey Bennion (CB) — Advisor: Mandy Ford, PhD

TATTO TEACHING AWARD

Alexander Gulka (GMB) — Advisor: David Gorkin, PhD

STUDENT CAREER TEACHING AWARD

Ashlyn Johnson (NS) — Advisor: Chadwick Hales, MD, PhD

STUDENT LEADERSHIP AWARD

Elijah Ullman (MSP) — Advisor: Stephen Traynelis, PhD

STUDENT MENTOR AWARD

Colby Schweibenz (BCDB) — Advisor: Kenneth Moberg, PhD

FACULTY MENTOR AWARD

Mandy Ford, PhD (IMP)

OUTREACH/COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD

Samantha Lanjewar (GMB) — Advisors: Steven Sloan, MD

FELLOWSHIPS AND RESEARCH AWARDS

(AS OF SEPTEMBER 2022 – AUGUST 2023, EXCLUDING ANY SUMMER AWARDS)

CENTENNIAL SCHOLARS

Carmen Alvarez (PBEE)
Gibson Arias (BCDB)
Vanessa Avalos (CB)
Vanessa Barragan (NS)
Dejah Blake (CB)
Veronica Canarte (CB)
Jose Castro (BCDB)
Robert Chavez (GMB)
Natalie Correa (IMP)
Laurn Cureton (GMB)
Isabel Daher (MMG)
Kimberly Diaz Perez (GMB)
Marissa Duckett (PBEE)
Don Eaford (BCDB)
Christopher Edwards (IMP)
Tyshawn Ferrell (BCDB)
Abigail Galvez (NS)
Yesenia Garcia-Sifuentes (NS)
Lydia Gutema (BCDB)
Melissa Gutierrez (IMP)
Taylor Hailstock (BCDB)
Tiara Hamilton (CB)
Leslie Hassanein (NS)
Kenya Hodge (GMB)
Louis Hopkins (IMP)
Jarildy Javier (NS)
David Jimenez-Vallejo (PBEE)
Shuristeen Joubert (BCDB)
Cheyenne Lee (MMG)
Yessica Lopez Valdez (BCDB)
Natalia Magnusson (NS)
Sarah Mansour (BCDB)
Catherine Martinez (IMP)
Megan Martinez (IMP)
Marcos Monteiro (MMG)
Lenore Monterroza (CB)
Charlott Morel Sanchez (IMP)
Xorla Ocloo (PBEE)
Ayana Paul (MMG)
Yemko Pryor (GMB)
Anayancy Ramos Facio (MMG)
Maxine Robinette (NS)
Jacoby Robinson (PBEE)
Mariana Rocha (NS)
Emilio Rodriguez (MMG)
Naomi Rodriguez Marino (MMG)
Debresha Shelton (GMB)
Nuri Smith (GMB)
Dariana Torres Rivera (BCDB)
Ashley Townsel (CB)
Edu Usoro (MSP)
Viviana Valentin Valentin (NS)
Nahara Vargas (IMP)
Jalaysia Weems (MSP)
Kory Wells (CB)
Aryanna Wiggins-Gamble (GMB)

EMORY UNIVERSITY WOODRUFF FELLOWS

Ysabella Alcaraz (GMB)
Hymavathy Balasubramanian (NS)
Lynda Bradley (PBEE)
Jose Castro (BCDB)
Dorelle Fawwal (NS)
Aiden Ford (NS)
Stephanie Guerra (MMG)
Lydia Gutema (BCDB)
Kenya Hodge (GMB)
Alicia Lane (NS)
Sarah Mansour (BCDB)
Marcos Monteiro (MMG)
Alexander Nazzari (IMP)
Leila Pascual (NS)
Anayancy Ramos Facio (MMG)
Mariana Rocha (NS)
Arvin Sarkissian (NS)
Rachel Sutton (IMP)
Felipe Takaesu (BCDB)

LANEY GRADUATE SCHOOL FELLOWS (LGSF)

Ashley Alexander (PBEE)
Benjamin Babcock (CB)
Mohamed Barmada (MMG)
Lisa Blackmer-Raynolds (NS)
Anna Cole (CB)
Anne Goettemoeller (NS)
Adam Hamilton (NS)
Elizabeth Heaton (NS)
Emily Hill (GMB)
Megan Hinrichsen (BDCB)
Katie Holmes (MMG)
David Jimenez-Vallejo (PBEE)
Joyce Karuiki (MSP)
Nardos Kebede (NS)
Anuradha Korukonda (NS)
Benjamin Lowry (CB)
Ben Lukubye (PBEE)
Catherine Mason (NS)
Jacob Mattingly (BCDB)
Michelle McCauley (PBEE)
Daniel McManus (IMP)
Christina Niavi (IMP)
Jonathan Owen (MMG)
Jordan Owyong (GMB)
Yeongseon Park (PBEE)
Ranjit Pelia (GMB)
Marco Pena Garcia (NS)
Trinity Pruitt (NS)
Vedhika Raghunathan (MMG)
Vishnu Raghuram (MMG)
Caitlin Risener (MSP)
Meher Sethi (MMG)
Taylor Shue (MMG)
Brianna Silver (GMB)
Roy Simamora (NS)
Connor Stewart (PBEE)
Sushma Timalisina (MMG)
Viviana Valentin Valentin (NS)