

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 that took time out of your busy schedules to help us celebrate the achievement of students and faculty at this 7th Annual GDBBS Awards Banquet.

To all faculty, students, and staff: thank you for your continual efforts to make the GDBBS among the most successful programs in modern biological and biomedical research and a true model for interdisciplinary training.

The GDBBS Staff and I would like to give special thanks to Dean Lisa Tedesco and the James T. Laney Graduate School for continuing to provide the resources for the funding of this event.

This event would not be as special if we did not have the financial contributions of our alumni, including Bill and Cathy Rice, Paul Orser, and Margaret and Thomas Lew. Thank you for your efforts and for taking the time to come and celebrate with us. We are particularly happy to have more alumni with us for this year's event.

I would especially like to thank the GDBBS and LGS staff members, Monica Taylor and Robin Harpak, along with Mary Moore and Katie Busch, for your continued efforts to organize this special occasion.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Nael McCarty'.

Nael A. McCarty, PhD
Marcus Professor of Cystic Fibrosis
Department of Pediatrics
Director, GDBBS
Web: [<http://www.biomed.emory.edu>]

7th Annual GDBBS Awards Banquet

Recognizing the Achievements of our Students and Faculty



DRUID HILLS GOLF CLUB

740 CLIFTON ROAD

ATLANTA, GA 30307

SEPTEMBER 22, 2016



EMORY

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

**Graduate Division
of Biological and
Biomedical Sciences**

PROGRAM

RECEPTION & COCKTAIL HOUR

OPENING GREETINGS

Lisa Tedesco, Ph.D.

*Vice Provost for Academic Affairs – Graduate Studies
Dean of the James T. Laney School of Graduate Studies*

DINNER IS SERVED

ENDOWED RESEARCH AWARDS

*Graduate Program in Biology Academic and Professional
Achievement Award*

*Margaret and Thomas Lew Graduate Award in Biomedical
Sciences In Biochemistry*

William and Catherine Rice Research Award

GDBBS AWARDS

Distinguished Alumnus Award

Program Scholars of the Year

Graduate Career Award

Student Teaching Award

Career Teaching Award

Student Leadership Award

Outreach/Community Service Award

Student Mentor Award

Faculty Mentor Award

RECOGNITION OF FELLOWSHIPS & SCHOLARSHIPS RECIPIENTS

Closing Remarks

Nael A. McCarty, Ph.D.

A Tribute to Dr. Marion Sewer (1972-2016) GDBBS 2013 Distinguished Alumnus

Dr. Marion Sewer, a national and international leader in the field of steroid hormone biosynthesis, passed away on January 28th, 2016 at the age of 43. Dr. Sewer grew up in Saint John, U.S. Virgin Islands. She graduated from Spelman College with a B.S. in biochemistry in 1993 and then went on to earn a PhD in pharmacology at Emory University under the mentorship of Dr. Edward Morgan. Dr. Sewer trained as a post-doctoral fellow at Vanderbilt University in the laboratory of Dr. Michael Waterman. Dr. Sewer began her career as a faculty member at Georgia Institute of Technology and moved to the University of California San Diego in 2009 where she rose to the rank of full professor.



Dr. Sewer's work was at the leading edge of her field. Notably, she made the seminal finding that nuclear receptors are targets for sphingolipids. Her lab identified distinct sphingolipid and phospholipid species as endogenous ligands for the nuclear receptor steroidogenic factor 1, thereby revealing a novel role for nuclear phospholipids and sphingolipids in the control of gene transcription.

Dr. Sewer had a tremendous commitment to service within the scientific community. Among her many important roles, she served on several NIH and NSF study sections, including membership on the Molecular and Cellular Endocrinology IRG. In addition, Dr. Sewer has chaired symposia at prestigious national and international meetings, served on the editorial boards of *Endocrinology* and *Steroids* and was secretary/treasurer of the Drug Metabolism Division of ASPET. Improving diversity in science was a passion of Dr. Sewer's and she worked tirelessly toward this mission as a member of the Mentoring Committee of Women in Endocrinology and a member of the Minority Affairs Committees of both the Endocrine Society and ASBMB.

**In loving memory of Charlene Wang 1987-2015
MMG 2015 Program Scholar of the Year**

Charlene Wang passed away suddenly on December 21, 2015 in San Francisco, CA. She was a loving daughter, sister, and friend.



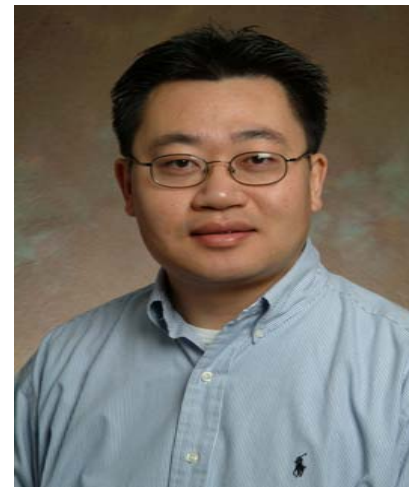
Charlene was born on November 8, 1987. She received her undergraduate degree from UCSD in Biology and Archaeological Anthropology. She was passionate about helping others which led her to dedicate her academic and professional career to science and research. She went on to do HIV research at the NIH in Washington DC and then study for her PhD at Emory University in the Microbiology and Molecular Genetics Program. She was most recently completing her research at UCSF and her life dream was to cure illness and save lives. Charlene was under the mentorship of Guido Silvestri here at Emory and with Satish Pillai at UCSF

In her free time, Charlene loved listening to music, discovering new food, photography, and traveling the world. She always knew the greatest restaurants and took pride in being a travel advisor to her family and friends. Her grand sense of adventure brought her to many corners of the world including: Italy, France, Belgium, China, Indonesia, Thailand, and Cambodia.

Charlene was smart, caring, thoughtful, and dependable -- someone her family and friends could always count on to go out of her way to help those in need. She was greatly loved and respected by everyone who knew her and she will be missed dearly.

Distinguished Alumnus Award

Jing Chen, Ph.D., is Professor of Hematology/Medical Oncology, Director, Division of Basic and Translational Sciences, and Associate Director of Research, Division of Hematology at Winship Cancer Institute, Emory University School of Medicine. He received his Ph.D training in Dr. Haiyan Fu's laboratory (1997-2001) in Biochemistry, Cell and Development Biology Program of GDBBS at Emory University, and was trained as a HHMI Postdoctoral Fellow in Dr. Gary Gilliland's laboratory at Harvard Medical School before joining Winship Cancer Institute in 2004. Dr. Chen is interested in the signaling basis of pathogenesis and disease development of human cancers. His current research focus is to further the molecular understand-



ing of cancer metabolism and identify key metabolic enzymes as novel anti-cancer targets. Dr. Chen has published many seminal papers in top journals including Cancer Cell, Molecular Cell, Nature Cell Biology, Nature Chemistry, Nature Communications, Science Signaling, PNAS, JCI and Blood etc. Dr. Chen received many prestigious awards including American Cancer Society (ACS) Scholar Award, Leukemia and Lymphoma Society (LLS) Scholar Award, Georgia Cancer Coalition (GCC) Distinguished Cancer Scholar Award, and Winship 5K Scholar Award.



Program Scholars of the Year

BCDB

Paul Donlin-Asp

Advisor: Gary Bassell, Ph.D.

CB

Katelyn Ponder

Advisor: Larry Boise, Ph.D.

GMB

Michael Christopher

Advisor: David Katz, Ph.D.

IMP

Ryan Martinez

Advisor: Brian Evavold, Ph.D.

MMG

Lalita Priyamvada

Advisor: Jens Wrammert, Ph.D.

&

Kendra Quicke

Advisor: Mehul Suthar, Ph.D.

MSP

Scott Cordova

Advisor: Hyunsuk Shim, Ph.D.

NS

Lukas Hoffman

Advisor: Sam Sober, Ph.D.

PBEE

Carolyn Ayers

Advisor: Berry Brosi, Ph.D.

Interdisciplinary Programs Training for Success

What Makes Our Training Unique

All of our graduate programs are interdepartmental and are centered on broad approaches to modern biological sciences. We are not department-based and not an umbrella program.

Applicants apply to and are accepted by a specific program that fits their broad interests. Students work with faculty from many different departments, which provides a truly interdisciplinary training experience.

This system offers a well-defined course of study, a smaller cohort of entering students in each program, and a manageable-sized community of faculty who are all invested in the success of the individual student. You will know your professors and they will know you as soon as you arrive.

Most students graduate from the program to which they are admitted, but for those whose research interests change, the GDBBS provides great flexibility by allowing the student to change programs after the first year, or work with another GDBBS faculty member in a different program. This provides the flexibility of an umbrella program, while giving the student the better mentoring of program-based admissions.

In addition to research opportunities within the basic science departments, students also have unique training opportunities unavailable anywhere else. For example, you may choose to work with faculty from:

- ◆ *The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention*
- ◆ *The Yerkes National Primate Research Center*
- ◆ *Emory Vaccine Center*
- ◆ *Emory Center for Neurological Diseases*
- ◆ *Emory Center for Aids Research*
- ◆ *Atlanta Clinical and Translational Science Institute*
- ◆ *Winship Cancer Institute*
- ◆ *Emory College of Arts and Sciences*
- ◆ *Rollins School of Public Health Rollins School of Public Health*

GDBBS' Unique Training Structure

The Graduate Division of Biological and Biomedical Sciences (GDBBS) offers a unique training structure for their students. All of our graduate programs are inter-departmental and are centered on broad approaches to modern biological sciences. Current programs are:

Biochemistry, Cell and Developmental Biology

Cancer Biology

Genetics and Molecular Biology

Immunology and Molecular Pathogenesis

Microbiology and Molecular Genetics

Molecular and Systems Pharmacology

Neuroscience

Population Biology, Ecology and Evolution



Graduate Career Award

Marc Schureck, Ph.D., BCDB

Advisor: Christine Dunham, PhD

Student Teaching Award

Arielle Valdez, NS, MD/PhD

Advisor: Gary Bassell, Ph.D.

Career Teaching Award

Alicia Cutler, BCDB

Advisors: Grace Pavlath, Ph.D. & Anita Corbett, Ph.D.

Student Leadership Award

George Inglis, GMB

Advisor: Andrew Escayg, PhD

Outreach/Community Service Award

Christopher Lewis, IMP, MD/PhD

Advisor: Jacques Galipeau, M.D.

Student Mentor Award

Michelle Giddens, NS

Advisor: Randy Hall, Ph.D.

Faculty Mentor Award

Adam Marcus, Ph.D.

BCDB & CB Programs

Fellowships and Research Awards

American Heart Association Award



Kyuwon Cho (MSP)
Julianne Freeman (NS)
Qize Jiang (NS)
James Zhang (NS)

ARCS Foundation Fellows



Emily Crispell (MMG)*
Paul Donlin-Asp (BCDB)
Elizabeth Littauer (MMG)
Alynda Wood (NS)
***25th Anniversary Awardee**

Emory University Woodruff Fellows



Erica Akhter (NS)
Kristen Brown (MSP)
Rachel Cliburn (NS)
Emma D'Agostino (BCDB)
Abraham Moller (MMG)
Emily Summerbell (CB)
Douglas Terry (GMB)
Rachel Turn (BCDB)

Support Our Scholars

The majority of our faculty are part of the School of Medicine, which has experienced incredible growth in the past two decades. Trends in NIH funding rank us among the fastest growing medical centers in the United States. Nationally, over the past ten years Emory typically has ranked 16th or 17th among medical schools that receive NIH research dollars. Emory has also ranked at or near the top of institutions for students with NIH predoctoral fellowships. Emory continues its rapid growth in research funding and the Graduate Division continues to grow as well. The Graduate Division provides unique opportunities for students who may choose to work with researchers from the American Cancer Society, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Rollins School of Public Health, Yerkes National Primate Research Center, and Winship Cancer Institute. We are committed to providing superior doctoral training to the best and brightest students in science. An important part of this effort is ensuring that the Division has adequate funds to meet the goals of enhanced student support, academic priorities, and innovative programs. In order to continue to attract the best graduate students to Emory University the Graduate Division needs to identify additional funding sources for student support. Several opportunities exist for those who would like to make a contribution toward graduate education. These include:

- ◇ Endowed Honor Graduate Fellowship
- ◇ Endowed Graduate Fellowship
- ◇ Graduate Teaching Fellowship
- ◇ Career Development Program
- ◇ Graduate Division Travel Award
- ◇ Graduate Division Targeted Research Award
- ◇ Lectureship

For more information on these exciting new initiatives please contact Katie Busch, Director of Development for Graduate Programs, at 404-727-1521 or orkbusch@emory.edu.

Additional Awards & Fellowships

Action Cycling Atlanta

Kelsie Brooks (IMP)

Fulbright Scholar Program

Valentina Gonzalez-Pecchi (CB)

Amanda Vincente (PBEE)

Graduate Program in Biology Academic and Professional Achievement Award

Elizabeth Ann Amadei (BME)

Howard Hughes Medical Institute

Jessica Eliason (GMB)

Initiative to Maximize Student Development (IMSD) Fellows

Brent Allman (PBEE)

Yasmin Marrero (NS)

Carolina Montanez (MSP)

Luis Munoz (IMP)

Juan Rodriguez (GMB)

Roxana Rodriguez (MMG)

Margaret and Thomas Lew Graduate Award in Biomedical Sciences in Biochemistry

Laura Newman (BCDB)

Jarred Whitlock (BCDB)

Robert Wood Johnson Foundation

Raven Hardy (NS)

UNCF/MERCK Science Initiative

Jason Conage-Pough (CB)

William and Catherine Rice Research Award

Jessica Konen (CB)

Emory Graduate Diversity Fellows



Brent Allman (PBEE)

Desiree De Leon (NS)

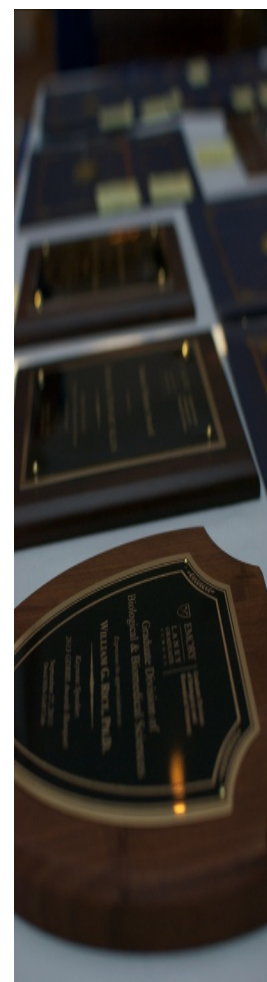
Kristie Garza (NS)

Alessandra Salgueiro (CB)

Eduardo Sanabria (MSP)

Cristina Trevino (GMB)

Laney Graduate School Fellows



Mwangala Akamandisa (CB)

Sarah Anderson (MMG)

Kelsie Brooks (MMG)

Ana Enriquez (MMG)

Sara Fielder (GMB)

Skylar Fisher (BCDB)

Lauren Fleischer (MSP)

Meaghan Griffin (CB)

Robert Haines (GMB)

Pamela Sara Head (GMB)

Carlie Hoffman (NS)

Madelyn Houser (IMP)

Binta Jalloh (GMB)

Michelle Johnson (NS)

Kelly Lynn (BCDB)

Kelsey Maher (BCDB)

Jessica McCaffery (IMP)

Namrataa Mehta (NS)

Elizabeth Minten (BCDB)

Connor Morozumi (PBEE)

Kara Phipps (MMG)

Juan Rodriguez (GMB)

John Rounds (GMB)

Kathryn Schaber (PBEE)

Sarah Takushi (IMP)

Darian Williams (MSP)

Jessie Wozniak (MMG)

Stephanie Zimmer (BCDB)

NIH NRSA



Daniel Barron (BCDB)
Joshua Bell (GMB)
Isaac Bishof (BCDB)
Kelsie Brooks (MMG)
Laura Butkovich (MMG)
Lauren Byrd-Leotis (MMG)
Daniel Chopyk (IMP)
Alicia Cutler (BCDB)
Paul Dunbar (IMP)
Amy Dunn (NS)
Paul Evans (NS)
Joshua Francis (BCDB)
Jodi Godfrey (NS)
Lukas Hoffmann (NS)
Thayer King (IMP)
Kara Kittelberger (NS)
Jessica Konen (CB)
Sonia Laurie (IMP)
Joshua Lewis (BCDB)
Suzanne Mays (MSP)
Annie McPherson (GMB)
Amanda Mener (IMP)
Amielle Moreno (IMP)
Kevin Morris (BCDB)
Filomene Morrison (NS)
Arthur Morrissette (NS)
Laura Newman (BCDB)
Alexandra O'Sullivan (GMB)
Omotade Omotola (BCDB)
Brittany Phillips (GMB)
Michael Quach (BCDB)
Chloe Robins (PBEE)
Travis Rotterman (NS)
John Rounds (GMB)
Alessandra Salgueiro (CB)
Lauren Shapiro (MSP)
Kelly Shaw (GMB)
Iris Spiegel (NS)
Emily Summerbell (CB)
Andrew Swanson (NS)
Kristen Thomas (NS)
Erica Torres (GMB)
Emily Welkum (BCDB)
Jarred Whitlock (BCDB)
Scott Wilkinson (CB)
Elizabeth Zoeller (CB)

Fellowships and Research Awards, *Continued*



NSF Fellows

Erica Akhter (NS)
Elizabeth Barfield (NS)
Desiree De Leon (NS)
Travis Dynes (PBEE)
Erica Harris (PBEE)
Elizabeth Hinton (NS)
Kim Hoang (PBEE)
Michael McKinnon (NS)
Jasmine Moody (GMB)
Alyse Steves (GMB)
Alynda Wood (NS)

