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8TH ANNUAL

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# GDBBS AWARDS BANQUET

Recognizing the Achievements of our Students and Faculty

**April 18, 2018** Druid Hills Golf Club, 740 Clifton Road, Atlanta, GA, 30307

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EMORY

LANEY  
GRADUATE  
SCHOOL

Graduate Division of Biological  
and Biomedical Sciences

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# PROGRAM

## OPENING GREETINGS

**Nael A. McCarty, PhD**

GDBBS Director

## 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  
Raymond Dingleline Award for Extraordinary Graduate Achievement  
William and Catherine Rice Research Award  
Keith D. Wilkinson Award (Coming Soon)

## 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 FELLOWSHIP & SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

## CLOSING REMARKS

**Nael A. McCarty, PhD**

GDBBS Director

## DISTINGUISHED ALUMNUS AWARD



**Khaled Machaca** is Professor of Physiology and Biophysics at Weill Cornell Medicine and has served as Associate Dean for Research at its Qatar campus since 2008. In that capacity he oversees the academic, financial, operational, and compliance aspects of the research department, which currently encompasses 25 active Labs and a staff of more than

200 people. Khaled oversaw the establishment of the administrative and regulatory infrastructure, centralization of core laboratories, and faculty recruitment. He is also the designated institutional official overseeing the animal research program and the director of the imaging core. He leads and serves on multiple institutional, national, and international committees.

The Machaca lab studies intracellular signaling processes under physiological and pathological conditions with a focus on calcium signaling. Their goal is to better define these signaling pathways at the cellular and molecular levels to better understand the underlying biology—potentially identifying therapeutic targets in various disease states. Of particular interest is cell cycle regulation in the context of cancer, hypertension, and immune cell activation. The Machaca Lab's work has been published in leading biomedical journals and garnered continuous extramural funding from NIH and the Qatar National Research Fund. Khaled serves on several editorial boards, reviews widely for scientific journals, and has an extensive track record of training students and postdoctoral fellows.

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## GDBBS AWARD RECIPIENTS

### DISTINGUISHED ALUMNUS

**Khaled Machaca, PhD** (CDB Grad, 1996) — Advisor: Steven L'Hernault, PhD

### ENDOWMENT RESEARCH AWARDS

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

**Emily Hunter** (BCDB) — Advisor: Win Sale

**Kevin Morris** (BCDB) — Advisor: Anita Corbett

**Brenda Calderon** (BCDB) Alum — Advisor: Graeme Conn (2017 Award Winner)

#### WILLIAM AND CATHERINE RICE RESEARCH AWARD

**Valentina Gonzalez-Pecchi** (CB) — Advisor: Haian Fu

#### RAYMOND DINGLEDINE AWARD FOR EXTRAORDINARY GRADUATE ACHIEVEMENT

**Lauren Shapiro** (MSP) — Advisor: Shannon Gourley

#### GRADUATE PROGRAM IN BIOLOGY ACADEMIC & PROFESSIONAL ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

**Kevin Morris** (BCDB) — Advisor: Anita Corbett

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## THE KEITH WILKINSON DIVISION SERVICE AWARD

In recognition of Dr. Keith Wilkinson's contributions to the quality of graduate education and the training experiences of students since the 1980s, the GDBBS has established The Keith Wilkinson Division Service Award. Dr. Wilkinson served as director of GDBBS for almost 14 years, and he was a professor at Emory University School of Medicine as well director of two of our PhD Programs. In his role as division director, Dr. Wilkinson went far beyond the call of duty because he believes in the importance of graduate education. He oversaw the GDBBS's development and expansion into the home of some of the nation's top training programs. In doing so, he put the education and training of our students above everything else while tirelessly advocating for them.

Starting at the GDBBS Awards Banquet in 2019, this annual award will be presented to a GDBBS student, a member of the training faculty, or a GDBBS staff member who exemplifies Dr. Wilkinson's dedication to achieving excellence in graduate education and creating an outstanding environment for graduate research.

We ask you to consider making a gift to the award fund in recognition of the impact that Dr. Wilkinson's service has had on the quality and stature of our training programs and on you personally as a trainee or member of the training community.

Our initial goal is to reach a minimum of \$50,000 to endow this award, and we're approximately halfway there! Help us reach our goal so we can honor Keith in perpetuity. To make a gift, contact Robin Harpak at [rharpak@emory.edu](mailto:rharpak@emory.edu).



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## PROGRAM SCHOLARS OF THE YEAR

**M. Edward Quach** (BCDB) — Advisor: Renhao Li

**Emily Summerbell** (CB) — Advisor: Adam Marcus

**Anna Knight** (GMB) — Advisor: Alicia Smith

**Kevin Sia** (IMP) — Advisor: Jyothi Rengarajan

**Kara Phipps** (MMG) — Advisor: Anice Lowen

**Suzanne Mays** (MSP) — Advisor: Eric Ortlund

**Erica Landis** (NS) — Advisor: Machele Pardue

**Brent Allman** (PBEE) — Advisors: Katia Koelle, Daniel Weissman

## GRADUATE CAREER AWARD

**Kendra Quicke** (MMG) — Advisor: Mehul Suthar

## TATTO TEACHING AWARD

**Nicholas Johnson** (PBEE) — Advisor: Karen Conneely

## CAREER TEACHING AWARD

**Alynda Wood** (NS) — Advisor: Sam Sober

## STUDENT LEADERSHIP AWARD

**Sarah Connolly** (IMP) — Advisor: Eric Hunter

## OUTREACH/COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD

**Archana Venkataraman** (NS) — Advisor: Brian Dias

## STUDENT MENTOR AWARD

**Anna Knight** (GMB) — Advisor: Alicia Smith

## FACULTY MENTOR AWARD

**Nicole Gerardo, PhD** (PBEE)

## WHAT MAKES OUR TRAINING UNIQUE

All of our graduate programs are interdepartmental, centering on broad approaches to modern biological sciences. Applicants apply to and are accepted by a specific program that fits their broad interests, but students are able to work with faculty from many different departments, providing 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 community of faculty who are all invested in the success of each student.

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 or faculty mentors after the first year. This provides the flexibility of an umbrella program, while giving the student the mentoring advantage of program-based admission.

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# FELLOWSHIPS AND RESEARCH AWARDS

## DIVISION SCHOLARS

**Mandakh Bekhbat** (NS)

**Maria Briscione** (NS)

**Kyle Gerber** (MSP)

**Michael Quach** (BCDB)

**Christopher Sinon** (NS)

**Alynda Wood** (NS)

## NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION

**Erica Akhter** (NS)

**Elizabeth Barfield** (NS)

**Desiree De Leon** (NS)

**Crystal Grant** (GMB)

**Elizabeth Hinton** (NS)

**Kim Hoang** (PBEE)

**Alyse Steves** (GMB)

**Andrea Pack** (NS)

**Jasmine Moody** (GMB)

**Jordan Lewis** (PBEE)

**Kayla Stoy** (PBEE)

**Alynda Wood** (NS)

## CF@LANTA RDP RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP

**Ashley Cross** (MMG)

**Camilla Margaroli** (IMP)

## AMERICAN HEART ASSOCIATION

**Jyuwon Cho** (MSP)

**Julianne Freeman** (NS)

## ACTION CYCLE ATLANTA

**Elina El-Badry** (IMP)

**Julia McBrien** (IMP)

**Kristen Morrow** (IMP)



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## NIH NATIONAL RESEARCH SERVICE AWARD (NRSA)

**Isaac Bischof** (BCDB)

**Kelsie Brooks** (MMG)

**Laura Butkovich** (NS)

**Daniel Chopyk** (IMP)

**Alicia Cutler** (BCDB)

**Gordon Dale** (IMP)

**Anthony Downs** (MSP)

**Paul Dunbar** (IMP)

**Amanda Engstrom** (BCDB)

**Sara Fielder** (GMB)

**Lauren Fleischer** (MSP)

**Stephanie Foster** (NS)

**Kyle Gerber** (MSP)

**Alexandra Goodnight** (GMB)

**Robert Haines** (GMB)

**Sarah Hayward** (IMP)

**Cameron Herting** (MSP)

**Binta Jalloh** (GMB)

**Nourine Kamili** (IMP)

**Thayer King** (IMP)

**Kara Kittelberger** (NS)

**Allyson Koyen** (CB)

**Sonia Laurie** (IMP)

**Joshua Lewis** (BCDB)

**Kelly Lynn** (BCDB)

**Suzanne Mays** (MSP)

**Miranda McDaniel** (MSP)

**Annie McPherson** (GMB)

**Amanda Mener** (IMP)

**Amielle Moreno** (NS)

**Kevin Morris** (BCDB)

**Brendan O'Flaherty** (NS)

**Omotola Omotade** (BCDB)

**Brittany Phillips** (GMB)

**Stephanie Pollitt** (NS)

**Phillip Price** (NS)

**Fadi Pulous** (CB)

**Michael Quach** (BCDB)

**Alessandra Richardson** (CB)

**Chloe Robins** (PBEE)

**Travis Rotterman** (NS)

**John Rounds** (GMB)

**Varun Saravanan** (NS)

**Samantha Schwartz** (BCDB)

**Lauren Shapiro** (MSP)

**Sumeet Sharma** (NS)

**Sarah Suci** (GMB)

**Emily Summerbell** (CB)

**Arielle Valdez** (NS)

**Jarred Whitlock** (BCDB)

## ARCS FOUNDATION FELLOWS

**Elizabeth Littauer** (MMG)

**Connor Morozumi** (PBEE)

**Anna Morris** (IMP)

**Samantha Schwartz** (BCDB)

**Alyssa Scott** (GMB)

## CDC FOUNDATION

**Logan Melot** (IMP)

## DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

**Donna McDermott** (PBEE)

**Connor Morozumi** (PBEE)

## EMORY UNIVERSITY WOODRUFF FELLOWS

**Erica Akhter** (NS)

**Rachel Barker** (NS)

**Rachel Cliburn** (NS)

**Kirsten Cottrill** (MSP)

**Emma D'Agostino** (BCDB)

**Ashlyn Johnson** (NS)

**Abraham Moller** (MMG)

**Emily Summerbell** (CB)

**Douglas Terry** (GMB)

**Rachel Turn** (BCDB)

## FULBRIGHT SCHOLAR

**Amanda Vicente** (PBEE)

## INITIATIVE TO MAXIMIZE STUDENT DEVELOPMENT FELLOWS (IMSD)

**Brent Allman** (PBEE)

**Alejandro Lopez** (NS)

**Jordan Lewis** (PBEE)

**Sandra Mendiola** (PBEE)

**Monea Richardson** (MSP)

## ROBERT WOOD JOHNSON FOUNDATION

**Raven Hardy** (NS)

# SUPPORT OUR SCHOLARS

The majority of our faculty are from the School of Medicine, which has experienced incredible growth in the past two decades. The trend in our NIH funding ranks us among the fastest growing medical centers in the United States. Over the past ten years, Emory typically ranked 16th or 17th nationally among medical schools receiving NIH research dollars. Emory has also ranked at or near the top of institutions for students with NIH predoctoral fellowships. Our rapid growth in research funding continues and the graduate division along with it.

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. 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 attracting the best graduate students to Emory University, the graduate division needs to identify additional funding sources for student support.

For those interested in furthering graduate education at Emory, there are several opportunities to make contributions, including:

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

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For more information on these exciting new initiatives please contact:

**Katie Busch**, Assistant Dean of Development and Alumni Relations  
404-727-1521 // [kbusch@emory.edu](mailto:kbusch@emory.edu)

**Robin Harpak**, Director of Development and Alumni Relations  
404-712-9341 // [robin.harpak@emory.edu](mailto:robin.harpak@emory.edu)

## 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 8th 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, Margaret and Thomas Lew, and Tom Macek. 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, Robin Harpak, and Jessica Stephens along with Katie Busch and Mary Moore—for your continued efforts to organize this special occasion.

Sincerely,

### **Nael A. McCarty, PhD**

Marcus Professor of Cystic Fibrosis

PACS Division, Department of Pediatrics, Emory University School of Medicine

Director, Graduate Division of Biological and Biomedical Sciences, Laney Graduate School

Director, Emory+Children's Cystic Fibrosis Center of Excellence