
Celebrating
~ 30 Years ~
Of
Graduate
Education



9TH ANNUAL

GDBBS
AWARDS
BANQUET

Recognizing the Achievements of our Students and Faculty

April 24, 2019

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



EMORY

LANEY
GRADUATE
SCHOOL

Graduate Division of Biological
and Biomedical Sciences

PROGRAM | 7:00PM – 9:00PM

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 Dingledine Award for Extraordinary Graduate Achievement
William and Catherine Rice Research Award
Keith Wilkinson Division Service Award

GDBBS AWARDS

Distinguished Alumnus Award
Program Scholars of the Year
Graduate Career Award
TATTO Teaching Award
Student Career Teaching Award
Student Leadership Award
Student Mentor Award
Faculty Mentor Award

G.I.V.E. PRESENTATION

Outreach/Community Service Award

RECOGNITION OF FELLOWSHIP & SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

CLOSING REMARKS

Nael A. McCarty, 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 busy schedules to help us celebrate the achievement of students and faculty at this 9th Annual GDBBS Awards Banquet. Here, as we start the celebration of the Division's 30-year history, it is particularly important for us to think about how far we have grown and how many student and faculty careers we have positively impacted.

We should remember the work of so many faculty and students over the past 30 years who have contributed to the success of the GDBBS. With ~360 faculty as program members now, and well over 1,000 graduates, it is impossible to list everyone. However, we should remember the important work of the Division's leaders over these decades, who got us to the strong position we find ourselves in now. This includes the following prior Division Directors: Don Humphrey, PhD, Bob DeHaan, PhD, Bryan Noe, PhD, and Keith Wilkinson, PhD.

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.

I would especially like to thank the GDBBS and LGS staff members—Maureen Thomas, Kathy Smith, Margie Varnado, and Emily Morran—for their 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

EMORY GRADUATE DIVERSITY FELLOWS (EGDF)

Brent Allman (PBEE)

Brenda Antezana (MMG)

Ezana Assefa (GMB)

Desiree De Leon (NS)

Kristie Garza (NS)

Julian Hurtado (MSP)

Cristina Trevino (GMB)

LANEY GRADUATE SCHOOL FELLOWS (LGSF)

Mwangala Akamandisa (CB)

Sarah Anderson (MMG)

Brianna Bixler (GMB)

Kelsie Brooks (MMG)

Gabrielle Delima (MMG)

Devon Eddins (IMP)

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)

Jordan Lewis (PBEE)

Daniel Lustberg (MSP)

Kelly Lynn (BCDB)

Kelsey Maher (BCDB)

Jessica McCaffery (IMP)

Namrataa Mehta (NS)

Elizabeth Minten (BCDB)

Erica Modeste (MSP)

Connor Morozumi (PBEE)

Karla Navarrete (IMP)

Kara Phipps (MMG)

Claire Pillsbury (CB)

Monea Richardson (MSP)

Juan Rodriguez (GMB)

John Rounds (GMB)

Becca Ryan (MSP)

Kathryn Schaber (PBEE)

Michelle Sequeira (NS)

Kayla Stoy (PBEE)

Sarah Takushi (IMP)

German Vargas (BCDB)

Darian Williams (MSP)

Jessie Wozniak (MMG)

Sung Bo Yoon (CB)

Stephanie Zimmer (BCDB)

GRADUATE DIVISION OF BIOLOGICAL AND BIOMEDICAL SCIENCES

~ CELEBRATING 30 YEARS OF GRADUATE EDUCATION ~

In the late 1980's, the Graduate Division of Biological and Biomedical Sciences (GDBBS) within the Laney Graduate School (LGS) was established to foster interdisciplinary research, create high standards for selection of applicants, and give pre-doctoral students a wide selection of faculty mentors, matriculating the first cohort of students in 1989. Since then, all new pre-doctoral graduate students in the biological sciences and biomedical sciences at Emory have been admitted through the GDBBS. Approximately 75 PhD students matriculate into the GDBBS Programs each year. Hence, the GDBBS as a single entity serves ~25% of the doctoral students in the LGS as a whole.

With the support of the LGS, the GDBBS oversees and coordinates the training activities of ~400 graduate students in eight interdisciplinary PhD Programs and with ~360 world-renowned researchers who make outstanding contributions toward mentoring students admitted to these Programs. The number of training faculty in our programs continues to grow, and the strengths of the Division and its eight programs continue to be important for recruitment of outstanding faculty to Emory. More importantly, applications from prospective students continue to climb, with the overall division experiencing an increase this year by 24% over the average of the past five years; applications to some programs grew by over 50%! Our students continue to do amazing work, contributing to Emory's strengths in biomedical and biological research while also earning accolades of their own. For example, Emory students submitting NIH-NRSA applications, mostly from GDBBS programs, propelled us to lead the nation in F31 grants and funding therefrom. 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 the best scientific research training, which will in turn enable our students to do their best work and achieve their own career goals. Because the faculty mentors are based in academic departments that stretch all across Emory's campus, accomplishing this goal of top-quality scientific training requires strong partnerships with leaders of departments at many levels of academic infrastructure across the University. The GDBBS plays a central role in accomplishing this partnership with academic leaders, with the goal of Emory becoming known as the destination institution for the highest quality doctoral training, successfully preparing a diverse student body for a wide range of careers related to biological and biomedical research.

GDBBS AWARD RECIPIENTS

ENDOWMENT RESEARCH AWARDS

GRADUATE PROGRAM IN BIOLOGY ACADEMIC
& PROFESSIONAL ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Marko Bajic (GMB) — Advisor: Roger Deal, PhD

MARGARET AND THOMAS LEW GRADUATE AWARD IN
BIOMEDICAL SCIENCES IN BIOCHEMISTRY

Kelsey Maher (BCDB) — Advisor: Roger Deal, PhD

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

RAYMOND DINGLEDINE AWARD FOR
EXTRAORDINARY GRADUATE ACHIEVEMENT

Suzanne Mays (MSP) — Advisor: Eric Ortlund, PhD

WILLIAM AND CATHERINE RICE RESEARCH AWARD

Fadi Pulous (CB) — Advisor: Brian Petrich, PhD

KEITH WILKINSON DIVISION SERVICE AWARD

Susan Suci (GMB) — Advisor: Tamara Caspary, PhD

DISTINGUISHED ALUMNA AWARD

Valerie Horsley, PhD (BCDB Graduate, 2003) — Advisor: Grace Pavlath, PhD

ARCS FOUNDATION FELLOWS

Elizabeth Littauer (MMG)

Connor Morozumi (PBEE)

Anna Morris (IMP)

Samantha Schwartz (BCDB)

Alyssa Scott (GMB)

EMORY DIVERSIFYING GRADUATE EDUCATION (EDGE)

Morgan Barham (IMP)

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Donna McDermott (PBEE)

Connor Morozumi (PBEE)

EMORY UNIVERSITY WOODRUFF FELLOWS

Erica Akhter (NS)

Rachel Barker (NS)

Rachel Cliburn Branco (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)

Jordan Lewis (PBEE)

Alejandro Lopez (NS)

Sandra Mendiola (PBEE)

Monea Richardson (MSP)

ROBERT WOOD JOHNSON FOUNDATION

Raven Hardy (NS)

NIH NATIONAL RESEARCH SERVICE AWARD (NRSA)

Isaac Bishof (BCDB)
Kelsie Brooks (MMG)
Laura Butkovich (NS)
Daniel Chopyk (IMP)
Ashley Cross (MMG)
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)
Sherod Haynes (NS)
Sarah Hayward (IMP)
Cameron Herting (MSP)
Binta Jalloh (GMB)
Nourine Kamili (IMP)
Thayer King (IMP)
Kara Kittelberger (NS)
Allyson Koyen (CB)
Sonia Laurie (IMP)

Suzanne Mays (MSP)
Miranda McDaniel (MSP)
Annie McPherson (GMB)
Amanda Mener (IMP)
Elizabeth Minten (BCDB)
Amielle Moreno (NS)
Kevin Morris (BCDB)
Brendan O'Flaherty (NS)
Omotola Omotade (BCDB)
Brian Pedro (CB)
Brittany Phillips (GMB)
Stephanie Pollitt (NS)
Madeline Price (IMP)
Phillip Price (NS)
Fadi Pulous (CB)
Michael Quach (BCDB)
Alessandra Richardson (CB)
Chloe Robins (PBEE)
James Ross (CB)
Travis Rotterman (NS)
John Rounds (GMB)
Varun Saravanan (NS)
Samantha Schwartz (BCDB)
Lauren Shapiro (MSP)
Sumeet Sharma (NS)

DISTINGUISHED ALUMNA AWARD



Valerie Horsley, PhD
*Associate Professor of
Molecular, Cellular, and
Developmental Biology and
Dermatology
Yale University*

Valerie Horsley began her scientific training as an undergraduate at Furman University and was awarded her Ph.D. from Emory University with Dr. Grace Pavlath in the GDBBS's Biochemistry, Cell and Developmental Biology (BCDB) Program, in 2003. After completing a Damon Runyon Cancer Research Foundation postdoctoral fellowship in Elaine Fuchs' laboratory at Rockefeller University, Valerie started her independent laboratory at Yale University in the Department of Molecular, Cellular and Developmental Biology. There, Horsley's lab uses the mouse as a genetic model system to study how adult stem cells within epithelial tissues maintain tissue homeostasis, can contribute to wound healing, and can be a factor in cancer formation. She is now an Associate Professor of Molecular, Cellular, and Developmental Biology and Dermatology at Yale, has received a number of awards including the Pew Scholar Award, Presidential Early Career Award for Scientists and Engineers, and the Rosalind Franklin Young Investigator Award. She is also active in her community, notably running for State Senate in Connecticut in 2018.

PROGRAM SCHOLARS OF THE YEAR

Kelsey Maher (BCDB) — Advisor: Roger Deal, PhD

Allyson Koyen (CB) — Advisor: David Sung-Wen Yu, MD, PhD

Hari Somineni (GMB) — Advisors: Subra Kugathasan, MD; Gregory Gibson, PhD

Maria White (IMP) — Advisor: Anice Lowen, PhD

Ashley Cross (MMG) — Advisor: Joanna Goldberg, PhD

Cameron Herting (MSP) — Advisor: Dolores Hambarzumyan, PhD

Arielle Valdez (NS) — Advisor: Gary Bassell, PhD

Connor Morozumi (PBEE) — Advisor: Berry Brosi, PhD

GRADUATE CAREER AWARD

Amanda Mener (IMP) — Advisor: Sean Stowell, MD, PhD

TATTO TEACHING AWARD

Xingwen Loy (PBEE) — Advisor: Berry Brosi, PhD

Matthew Stern (NS/MD-PhD) — Advisor: Robert Gross, MD, PhD

STUDENT CAREER TEACHING AWARD

Elizabeth Kline (NS) — Advisor: Malú Tansey, PhD

STUDENT LEADERSHIP AWARD

Mary Herrick (NS) — Advisor: Malú Tansey, PhD

STUDENT MENTOR AWARD

Erica Harris (PBEE) — Advisor: Nicole Gerardo, PhD

FACULTY MENTOR AWARD

Peter Wenner, PhD (NS)

OUTREACH/COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD

Andrea Pack (NS) — Advisor: Samuel Sober, PhD

Rachel Turn (BCDB) — Advisor: Richard Kahn, PhD

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)

Jordan Lewis (PBEE)

Abraham Moller (MMG)

Jasmine Moody (GMB)

Andrea Pack (NS)

Alyse Steves (GMB)

Kayla Stoy (PBEE)

Alynda Wood (NS)

CF@LANTA RDP RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP

Ashley Cross (MMG)

Camilla Margaroli (IMP)

AMERICAN HEART ASSOCIATION

Kyuwon Cho (MSP)

Julianne Freeman (NS)

James Zhang (NS)

ACTION CYCLE ATLANTA

Elina El-Badry (IMP)

Timothy Hoang (IMP)

Julia McBrien (IMP)

Kristen Morrow (IMP)

NSF GRADUATE RESEARCH OPPORTUNITIES WORLDWIDE

Crystal Grant (GMB)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Kelsey Maher (BCDB)