



SUMMER 2018



Welcome New Assistant Professor, Dr. Melike Caglayan

Dr. Caglayan comes to UF and our department from the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS) and the laboratory of [Dr. Samuel H. Wilson](#). She obtained her Ph.D. from Bogazici University in Istanbul, Turkey, in 2010.

The primary focus of the Caglayan Lab will be the molecular mechanisms of genome integrity and the biological importance of DNA ligation failure by the effects of oxidative stress using purified DNA repair proteins, nuclear and mitochondrial cell extracts, mouse embryonic fibroblast cells and yeast cells. Already, Dr. Caglayan's research efforts while at the NIH has made contributions to a better understanding of innovative and molecular aspects of substrate channeling of repair intermediates during base excision DNA damage repair under oxidative stress cellular conditions.

For more detailed information on Dr. Caglayan's research experience, awards and honors, current publication list and more, [click here](#) to see her CV.

Dr. Caglayan's arrival on campus is today, Monday, July 2!

Here is her office location and contact information:

Office: ARB R3-226A

Office Phone: 352-294-8383

Lab: ARB R3-171

Lab Phone: 352-294-8391

Email: caglayanm@ufl.edu

Please come by and give Dr. Caglayan a big Gator Nation welcome to her new home in The Swamp!



[Dr. Joanna Long Promoted to Professor](#)

Effective July 1, Dr. Joanna Long was promoted to the rank of professor. This promotion is based on the impact and importance of her research, teaching and service.

Dr. Long joined the faculty at the University of Florida in the Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology in 2002. She currently directs the National High Magnetic Field Laboratory user program in NMR and MRI at UF in addition to leading her research lab.

[READ MORE »](#)

GRADUATE PROGRAM IN BIOMEDICAL SCIENCES Summer Research Opportunity

Incoming first year Graduate Program in Biomedical Sciences (GPBMS) students are eligible to receive stipend support to conduct research studies with a GPBMS faculty member during the summer preceding their matriculation into the program. Participation in the summer research program provides students the opportunity to jump start their graduate training and potentially identify a mentor for their doctoral studies. It is also a nice forum for introducing incoming students to our current students, faculty, and staff and the UF/Gainesville community!

Meet our 2018 GPBMS Summer Researchers:



with CRISPR-Cas9 for the first time.

Odalis Cruz

Odalis holds an undergraduate degree from UF in Microbiology and Cell Science.

The great faculty and facilities, the fact that UF is a top research university and that UF has an amazing genetics research program is what attracted Odalis to the UF BMS program.

Odalis is excited about the summer research program because she will have the opportunity, in [Dr. Jörg Bungert's lab](#), to work

Joshua Hull

Joshua holds an undergraduate degree from UF in Biology (CALs) with a minor in Chemistry.

Joshua decided to pursue his graduate degree through the UF BMS program because he has been working with AAV (adeno-associated



wishes to continue to pursue this research at the best institution for this area of focus. He knows that UF is a world-class university with multiple specialists in this field.

He says he is most excited about working on his bioinformatics on the beach in sunny Florida!

Renuk Lakshmanan



Renuk holds an undergraduate degree in Biotechnology and a master's degree in Molecular Biology from India.

After graduating with his master's degree, he began working in [Dr. Mavis Agbandje-McKenna's lab](#) at UF and experienced first-hand the exciting research being performed in this lab and wanted to be a part of it.

Renuk sees the summer research program as great way to find a mentor well in advance and its potential in saving a graduate student a lot of time when their Ph.D. program of study starts in fall. He is very happy to have found the lab where he is planning to pursue his Ph.D. and is excited about it!

Marc McLeod



Marc attended the University of North Florida where he majored in Biology with a concentration in Molecular Biology and Chemistry. The University of Florida's Biomedical Sciences Program attracted his attention based on the flexibility of the degree path and the diverse fields of research that the faculty offered for his career development. Additionally, Marc was impressed by the facilities at the University of Florida that he felt would be key in honing his skills as a PhD student. He is most excited about becoming familiar with the University of Florida and its faculty and further developing my laboratory skills during the summer research work program with [Dr. Mingyi Xie](#), Assistant Professor in the Department of Biochemistry.

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR BMB SUMMER GRADUATES

The following graduate students successfully defended their dissertations this semester and will be graduating this week:

- J. Kennon Smith, Dr. Mavis Agbandje-McKenna's lab
- Jackie Walejko, Dr. Art Edison's lab

We extend our sincere congratulations and best wishes for all of your

future endeavors!



[When Science Meets Sickness: Bridging the Gap Between Research and Treatment](#)

In this article, Dr. Gumz describes a very personal journey through the diagnosis and treatment of cancer in the women in her family - her mom, her sister, and herself.

Dr. Gumz is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Medicine, Division of Nephrology, Hypertension and Renal and Transplantation and joint faculty of the Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology.

[Read this moving article](#) in the May 2018 issue of ASMBS Today.

[READ MORE »](#)

Welcome our New Arrival! Congratulations Nikea and Jerrell!

Mom, Nikea Pittman, is a Pre-Doctoral Fellow in the lab of Dr. Mavis Agbandje-McKenna.



Neri Joy Pittman

March 31, 2018 at 2:36 am • 6 pounds, 13 ounces • 18.25 inches
With Love, Nikea and Jerrell



SAVE THE DATE**2nd ANNUAL
DIVERSITY
GRADUATE**

The UF Black Graduate Student Organization (BGSO) will hold the 2nd Annual Diversity Graduate Research Symposium on October 31st in the Reitz Union with sponsorship from the College of Medicine Biomedical Sciences Diversity Committee, the Graduate School, and the Office of Graduate Minority Programs.

The goal of the day, according to BGSO, is to showcase the outstanding quality and diversity of graduate-level research at UF. The symposium will include both oral and poster presentations by UF graduate students from biological sciences, social sciences, humanities, computer science, engineering, math and physical sciences programs.

More information to come.

**SEMINAR ANNOUNCEMENTS**

CENTER FOR STRUCTURAL BIOLOGY
CENTER FOR EPIGENETICS
SEMINAR SERIES

No sessions until Fall 2018

FACULTY RESEARCH DISCUSSIONS

Wednesdays 4:00pm ARB R3-265

No sessions until Fall 2018

DEPARTMENTAL JOURNAL CLUBS

Structural Biology

Mondays, 3:00pm, ARB R3-265

No sessions until Fall 2018

Biochemistry & Molecular Biology

Tuesdays, 4:00pm, ARB R3-265

No sessions until Fall 2018

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