DISSECTATION DEFENSE

Join us in celebrating our most recent PhD's:

- **Deeptiman Chatterjee** "Characterization of Epithelial Dysplasia at Single-cell Resolution in the *Drosophila* Ovarian Model", Mentor: Wu-Min Deng, Defended 12/2/21
- **Patricia Snarksi** "Macrophage IGF-1 reduces atherosclerosis and promotes a stable plaque phenotype", Mentor: Patrick Delafontaine, Defended 12/8/21
- **Alison Smithier** "Characterization and Distribution of Lassa Virus in the Natural Host Reservoir", Mentor: Robert Garry, Defended 12/13/21
- **Nini Zhou** "The Conserved Effects of ESCRT on Mammalian Retrotransposition", Mentor: Jeffrey Han, defended 12/20/21.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Biomedical Sciences Graduate Program is proud to announce Dr. **Weiwei Xu** will soon join the office staff as the Academic and Career Advisor. She received her Ph.D. in Biomedical Sciences at Tulane University in December 2018. After graduation, Dr. Xu served as a postdoctoral scholar at the Helmholtz Center Munich in Germany. While at Helmholtz, Dr. Xu received additional training from their Center in Advanced Mentoring. This advanced training allowed Dr. Xu to assist other scientists in their personal and career development. In addition to providing direct supervision of two Ph.D. students and two technicians, she also provided mentoring and coaching to more than 30 Ph.D. and master students at the Helmholtz Center Munich. In her new role with BMS, Dr. Xu will provide guidance, consultation, and expertise related to academic and career advising for students working toward their doctorate and master level degrees.

- The School of Medicine will start the semester without the week delay announced by President Fitts. For most 1st and 2nd year PhD students, this means a start date for classes on January 18, 2022. Some course directors may start a little earlier or later. Look for an email from the course director for more information. PhD students in their 3rd year and beyond should contact their thesis mentor about when they should resume their laboratory research work.
- **Save the Date**: BMS Retreat is March 24-25, more details to come!
- **Professionalism Concerns**: The website to report professionalism concerns for faculty, staff or fellow students is below. This link is also available in the current student tab of the BMS website. [https://medicine.tulane.edu/student-affairs/professionalism-environment-learning-program](https://medicine.tulane.edu/student-affairs/professionalism-environment-learning-program)
- **The Counseling Center** is open to all BMS students. They offer same-day appointments via telephone 504-314-2277, but students will need to call early in the day (before 9:00 am) if they want a same-day session. Right now, most sessions are via zoom.
  Counseling Center email: counseling@tulane.edu
  Counseling Center website: [campushealth.tulane.edu/counseling](http://campushealth.tulane.edu/counseling)
- **The Office of International Students and Scholars** has re-established Downtown Office hours every Wednesday from 1-4 pm, Tidewater Building, Room 1225 (Career Services Office).
RECENT PUBLICATIONS


STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

Rida Iftikhar
December 2021 PhD Graduate
Fulbright Scholar
Mentor: Dr. Suzana Savkovic

Hometown: Sargodha, Pakistan
Undergrad: Foundation University Medical College, Islamabad
Hobbies: Reading Urdu Literature
Favorite Hangout Spot: Margalla Road, Islamabad
Research Interest: Colon cancer pathobiology

What made you choose Tulane?
- Tulane was sort of chosen for me by Fulbright program but my initial interview with Dr Suzana Savkovic prior to arriving is US assured me that this is the right decision. Additionally BMS program mailed me the information which gave me a virtual tour of the University and alleviated a lot of my fears regarding moving to an entirely different continent.

What are your future goals and research interests?
- My goal is to work in hybrid (clinical and research) program in Pakistan. This unique experience has equipped me with necessary skills for facilitating the basic science research specially pertaining to Cancer biology. I hope to collaborate with organizations such as Crohn’s and Colitis foundation to further the goal of highlighting the importance of research in Pakistan.