

BIOCHEMISTRY

MOLECULAR MATTERS

**November 2025
Department News**



CONGRATULATIONS TO...

Kyle Cottrell received a **2025 Showalter Early Career Award** for his proposal titled *“Evaluating the role of PACT in suppression of dsRNA sensing in breast cancer.”* Grants for early career faculty members are the centerpiece of Showalter funding at Purdue. Thirteen faculty members received funding for their projects this year.



Orla Hart was honored at the **HHS Faculty Appreciation Night** by the **HHS Student Council** held November 6. The purpose of this event is to recognize outstanding faculty members across the College of Health and

Human Sciences, and from other colleges, who've had a meaningful impact on undergraduate students through teaching, mentorship, and support. We are pleased to share that **Orla Hart (one of very few recognized outside the college of HHS)** was nominated by HHS undergraduate students and recognized at this event. Thank you for your continued leadership and for supporting an environment where student–faculty engagement can thrive.



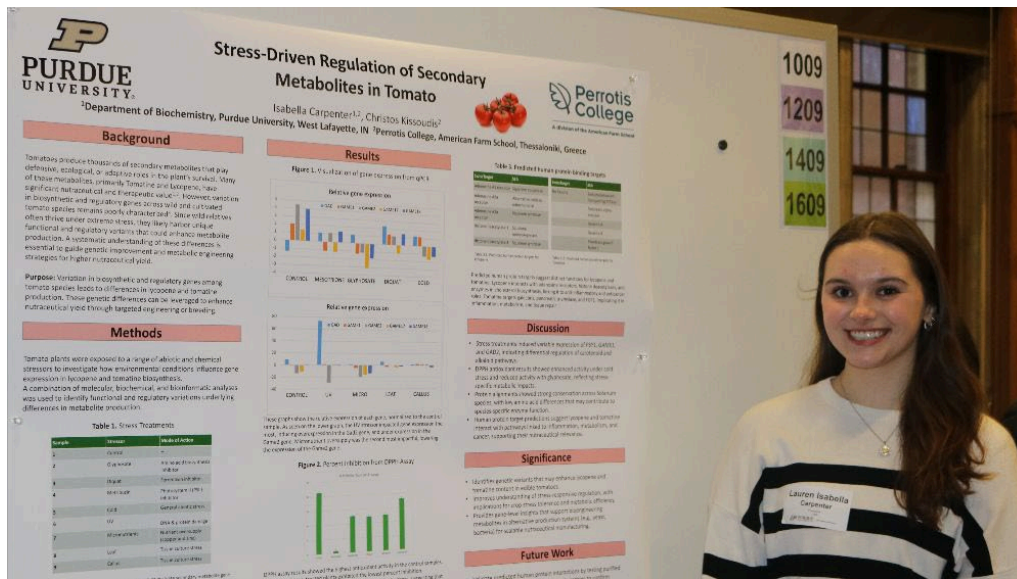
Vikki Weake was selected to receive the **Pfendler Outstanding Undergraduate Counselor** teaching award by the CoA Awards Selection Committee and the Office of Academic Programs. She was recognized at the Celebration of Teaching Excellence held December 2nd.

Matthew Martin and **Laura Hiotaky** won **best poster prizes** in the graduate student category at the **51st Midwest-Southeast Photosynthesis Conference** at Turkey Run State Park. *Pictured left to right, they are number 6 and 7.*

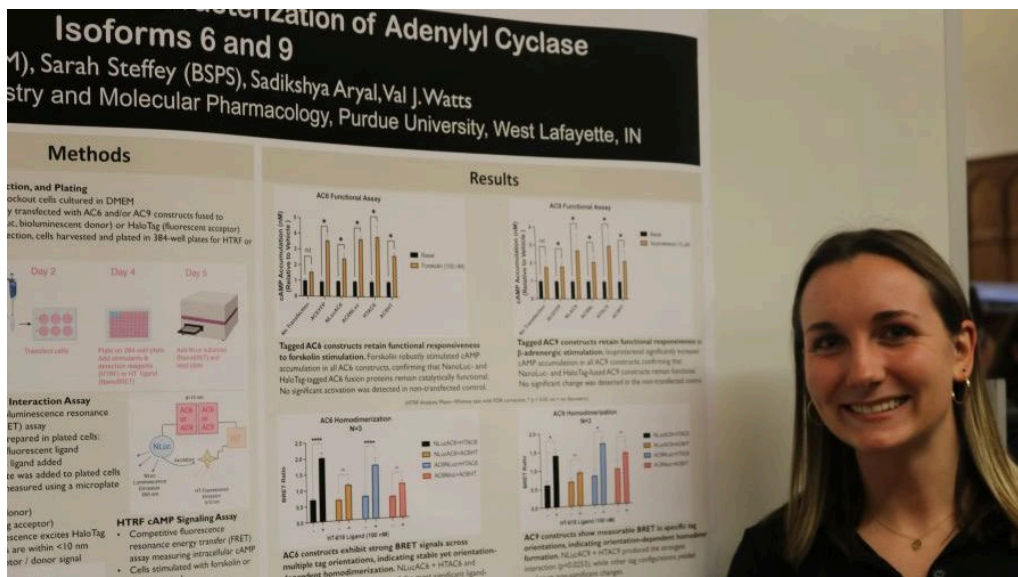


GOING THE EXTRA MILE...

Two Biochemistry undergraduates participated at the **Fall Undergraduate Research Expo** held on November 18, 2025. **Isabella Carpenter** (pictured below) presented a poster titled, *"Stress-Driven Regulation of Secondary Metabolites in Tomato."*



Isabella Mayr (pictured below) presented a poster titled, *"Dimerization & Functional Characterization of Adenylyl Cyclase Isoforms 6 and 9."*



Natalia Dudareva traveled to Salt Lake City, UT, to present an invited seminar on October 2 titled *"The Secret Dialog of Plants: Breaking the Mold"* at the **School of Biological Sciences, University of Utah**.

Natalia was also invited by students to present a seminar at the **Tennessee Plant Research Center** at the **University of Tennessee**. She traveled to Knoxville, TN, where she delivered a talk titled *"Two Steps to a Silent Conversation: Plant Emission and Perception."*

Humaira Gowher organized the **Epigenetics Society 2nd International Conference** held October 15-17 at Simpson Querrey Biomedical Research Center, **Northwestern University, Chicago**. **Mudasir Zahoor** (Gowher lab) attended and presented a poster at the conference. [Linkedin post](#)

Sujith Puthiyaveetil and his lab attended the **51st Midwest-Southeast Photosynthesis Conference at Turkey Run State Park**, October 24-26. Sujith chaired a session at the meeting. **Matthew Martin, Laura Hiotaky, and Lauren Dome** presented posters at the poster session.

GRANTS...

Barbara Golden received **\$1,500** from the **RNA Society** for **Purdue RNA Club** activities in 2025 / 2026 and three, one-year student/postdoc RNA Society memberships.

IMPORTANT DATES...

Please join us for the Department of Biochemistry Seminar Series. All seminars will begin at 3:30 pm, in WSLR 116, unless otherwise noted.

Dec 15 Final Exams Begin

Dec 19 Biochemistry Holiday Celebration and Service Recognition luncheon will be held from Noon - 2pm in the John Purdue Room.

Happy Holidays everyone!

Our spring 2026 seminar series will begin January 27.

ATTENTION BCHM ALUMS...

We would love to hear from you! If you have any alumni news to share or had a change of address, please let us know! Updates can be sent to bchm-alumni-friends@purdue.edu.