

October 2025 Department News



CONGRATULATIONS TO...



Mr. & Mrs. Gregor!

Justin Gregor (Briggs' lab) and Sarah Stanhope (Weake lab) said "I do!" on September 25th at Bavaria Downs in Chaska, MN.

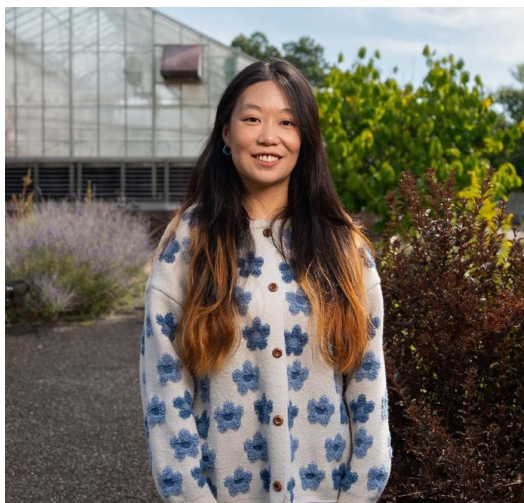
Justin and Sarah met when they joined the Biochemistry Department as doctoral students in the fall of 2020. They both plan to graduate in December.

They've survived a pandemic and graduate school together – we wish them a lifetime of happiness!

BIOCHEMISTRY IN THE NEWS...

Meet Jiaxin Long (Ogas Lab) — College of Agriculture Postdoctoral Scholar Feature.

“During my undergraduate education, I realized I was more interested in basic research,” she says. “I did some research that was chromatin-related and really liked it as a research topic. So when I applied to grad school, I wanted to focus on chromatin and epigenetics. That’s how I ended up here at Purdue.” Read more about her research journey [here](#).



Check out our [Faculty Lab Spotlight videos](#), featuring new highlights from the labs of Kyle Cottrell, Mark Hall, and Vikki Weake.

Trick or Treat?

Ben Carter got into the Halloween spirit this year while teaching his class—and even brought treats for his students!



GOING THE EXTRA MILE...



Sydney Beechboard (Mesecar lab) presented "*Design and evaluation of next-gen inhibitors of coronavirus 3CL protease and variants*" at the **Purdue Institute for Drug Discovery 10th Annual Symposium** on September 15th.

Kyle Cottrell gave a talk at the **FASEB RNA Processing in Cancer: From Bench to Bedside** conference (Sacramento, CA, October 5-8).

Mark Hall, Emily Danzeisen, and Michelle Lihon, attended the **Microbiology Society's Candida and Candidiasis Conference** (Berlin, Germany, October 6-10).

* **Michelle** presented "*Regulation of Candida albicans cell wall homeostasis by Cdc14 phosphatase*".

* **Emily** presented a poster titled "*Coupling auxin-inducible protein degradation with animal infection models as a tool for antifungal target discovery*".



Mark Hall traveled to the National Institutes of Health from October 10-11 to serve on the Pathogenic Eukaryotes (PTHE) study section.

Lisa Mydy, Assistant professor, and **Joe Roman**, Mesecar lab, biomolecular structure staff scientist) attended the 2025 Midwest Enzyme Chemistry Conference in Milwaukee, WI on Sept. 27. Lisa gave a talk titled "Plant natural product biosynthesis: let it RiPP with BURP domain proteins!" Both served as poster judges.

Sujith Puthiyaveetil recently gave a science talk at his alma mater, Sir Syed College, Kerala, India. He also gave a talk at the Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore, India and spoke at two career fairs in Kerala, India.

GRANTS...

W. Andy Tao received **\$295,931** from **Tymora Analytical Operations, LLC** for his proposal titled "*Validation and clinical development of plasma EV protein biomarkers for minimally invasive detection of Alzheimer's disease.*" Project Period: Sep 20, 2024 – May 31, 2026

Natalia Dudareva received **\$155,000** from **Binational Agricultural Research & Development Fund** for her proposal titled "*Deciphering VOC-mediated long-distance signaling in orange carrot.*" Project Period: Oct 1, 2025 – Sep 30, 2028

RECENT PUBLICATIONS...

Huang X-Q, Lee JH, Dudareva N. (2025). *Biosynthesis, emission, and regulation of plant phenylpropanoid and benzenoid volatiles. Plant Physiology*, 199(2), kia407. <https://doi.org/10.1093/plphys/kiaf407>

Stanhope SC, Singhal K, Morato NM, Feng Y, Meng G, Marlin MN, Kotanko CC, Jarrett MM, Mesecar AD, Cooks RG, & Weake VM. (2025). *Drosophila Ahcy is a redox sensor that modulates gene expression to protect against light stress-induced retinal degeneration. PNAS*, 122(38), e2511388122. <https://doi.org/10.1073/pnas.2511388122>

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.

Nov 11 & 12 Cancelled: Axelrod Lecture Series: Dr. Keji Zhao, PhD, NIH Distinguished Investigator | University of Utah School of Medicine, Biochemistry

Nov 18 **Dr. Mike Axtell**, Penn State University, Biology / Sternberg Chair, Plant Biology

Dec 2 **Dr. Vikki Weake**, Purdue University, Biochemistry

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.

*Copyright © 2020 *Purdue Biochemistry*, All rights reserved.*

Our mailing address is:

175 S University St., West Lafayette, In.47907

Want to change how you receive these emails?

You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#).

