

Caitlin Bell, MD

Assistant Professor, Medicine-Cardiology
Anschutz School of Medicine



“I believe that patients should receive compassionate, personalized, and multi-disciplinary care. I strive for excellence in communication, educating my patients about recommendations and different options for their heart health.”

She will be providing valuable insight into life after the undergraduate experience and offer words of encouragement to those concluding their degrees in Biochemistry.

patient populations, the development of new therapies for cancer-mediated cardiovascular disease, and improved care for cancer patients and survivors. She has 17 published papers to date, not including the paper stemming from her participation in Dr. Cech's lab as an undergraduate. Dr. Bell's primary clinical interests include care of cancer patients with cardiac disease, care of cancer patients with cardiovascular complications of their treatment, and cardiovascular care and health of cancer survivors.

Dr. Bell has received the following recognitions:

- Young Author Achievement Award, JACC: Cardio-Oncology (2024)
- Emerging Scientist Award for Women, Finalist, American Heart Association (ATVB) (2023)
- Gerald Reaven Award for Excellence in Basic Science Research, Stanford Cardiology (2022)

Dr. Bell's research interests primarily focus on investigating the interaction of cardiovascular disease and cancer, specifically examining shared mechanisms and crosstalk that worsen both diseases. Discovering these interactions and mechanisms allows for improved disease screening of high-risk

She also holds the following professional memberships:

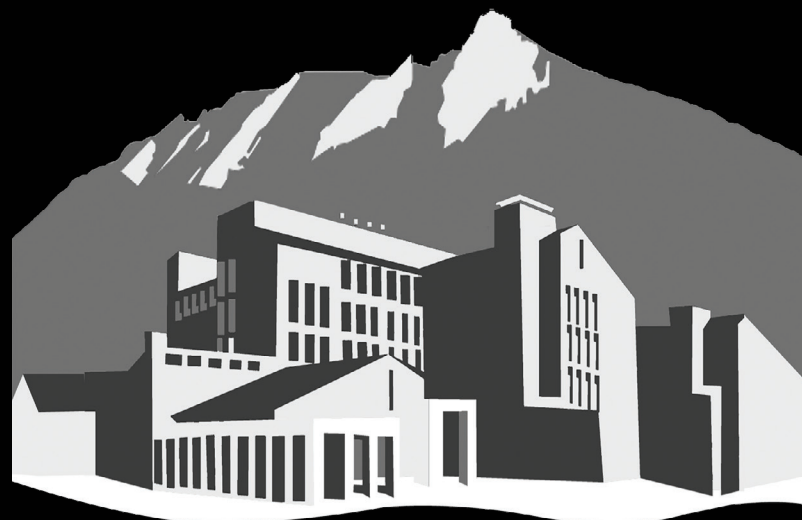
- American Heart Association
- American College of Cardiology
- Alpha Omega Alpha, Member
- International Cardio-Oncology Society



Scan for
more information
about Dr. Bell



Biochemistry
UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO BOULDER



CLASS OF 2026

GRADUATE RECOGNITION CEREMONY

MAY 1, 2026

CEREMONY

Procession

Welcome

Dr. Kristen Roy

Director of Biochemistry Teaching Labs

Remarks

Dr. James Goodrich

Chair, Department of Biochemistry

Graduation Address

Dr. Caitlin Bell, M.D.

Assistant Professor of Medicine

University of Colorado Anschutz



Hooding and Presentation of Advanced Degree Candidates

Photographs taken by the department photographer
may be downloaded free of charge at this link after
June 15, 2026.

Undergraduate Student Honors & Awards

Presentation of Bachelor's Degree Candidates

Closing Remarks

Reception

BACHELOR OF ARTS

Rylie Archuleta	Paul Meaney ^{WD}
Bria Baack ^{WD}	Atlas Montague
Alyssa Belle Garcia Balajonda	Campbell Moore
Kaeden Batz ^{WD}	Kana Nagasawa
Mary Grace Bauer	Treyce Nagy
Sophie Blanc	Roshni Nandi
Jenna Camblin	John Ames Newman ^{WD}
Michael Carpenter	Jeelena Ngan
Natalie Chanonto	Shane Nguyen
Eliya Chen ^{WD}	Dilnavoz Ortikova
Sarah Dodge	Hannah Osterhouse
Kolya Dols ^{WD}	Seongmin Park
Maile Dougherty ^{WD}	Anna Pruneski
Sophia Eakes	Camdyn Rakow
Seamus Ennis	Tessa Raines ^{WD}
Noah Fierro	Ebert Rascon-Perez
Isaac Frierman	Lorenzo Reyes
Morgan Fritzler	Emily Rothrock
McKenzie Gallagher ^{WD}	Andrew Sanders
Malena Garcia	Kuo-Hsien Shih ^{WD}
Liora Goldstein ^{WD}	Erina Shrestha
Ember Green	Callejune Silver
Erin Haley	Jiezhou Sim
Axel Hartzog	Charles Singh
Nicholas Inboden	Rhea Skariah
Mariam Jabara	Patrick Smart
Welton James ^{WD}	Sidney Steele
Makena Jarvis	Annika Stephan ^{WD, VE}
Dharma Johnson	Thomas Stille ^{WD}
PiperJo Jones ^{VE}	Jeffrey Stinemetze
Victoria Kiss ^{WD}	Emerson Tacha
Ian Kitchen ^{WD}	Teven Taing
Camille Koller	Katherine Thurlow
Faith Koudawo	Madison Vaag
Madeline Kugler ^{WD}	Minh Vo
Zachary LaPointe	Ryan Whittaker
Portia Larson	Isaac Wilber
Sean Lui	Matthew White
India Malkan	Julia Wolfe
Sajan Malla	Tvishi Yendamuri ^{VE}
Elizabeth Mead ^{WD}	

MASTER OF SCIENCE

Keagan Hesse

Amanda Hoffman

Drew O'Brien

DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY

Joy Armendariz, PhD

Advisor: Adelita Mendoza

Lysosomal Expansion Compartments Mediate Zinc and Copper Homeostasis in Caenorhabditis elegans

Amy Conte, PhD

Advisor: Aaron Whiteley

Mechanisms of bacterial immunity against RNA and DNA phages

Brianna Fernandez, PhD

Advisor: Sabrina Spencer

Single-cell heterogeneity along the cell-cycle arrest continuum

Danielle Guillen, PhD

Advisor: Vignesh Kasinath

Structural and Biochemical Basis of the Activity of Epigenetic Enzymes on Chromatin

Nathaniel Hamel, PhD

Advisor: Karolin Luger

Histones From the Deep: Characterization of Asgardian Histones Reveals Novel Archaeal Histone Behavior

Kristyn Hayashi, PhD

Advisor: Natalie Ahn

Variable Thresholds for Phosphorylation Targets of the ERK Signaling Pathway

Christopher Ryland III, PhD

Advisor: Sabrina Spencer

Therapeutic Modulation of GCN2 in Cancer

Ryan Messer, PhD

Advisor: Karolin Luger

Discovering the role of NMNAT1 in PARP1-directed DNA repair

Michael Nagel, PhD

Advisor: Dylan Taatjes

Regulatory Roles of the TATA-box Binding Protein N-terminal Domain in Pol II Transcription and Reinitiation.

Dominique Ramirez, PhD

Advisor: Loren Hough

Coiled-coil domains can facilitate the liquid-liquid phase separation of proteins.

Shea Siwik, PhD

Advisor: Robert Batey

Developing fluorescent RNA biosensors to image the metabolome in live mammalian cells.

Lottie Rae Steward, PhD

Advisor: Michael Stowell

Structural and Molecular Mechanisms Governing Protein Regulation at Biological Membranes

Sashi Weerawarana, PhD

Advisor: Karolin Luger

Investigating genome organization in mitochondria, bacteria, and viruses

WD: With Distinction honors are awarded by the College of Arts and Sciences to students who have completed a minimum of 30 credit hours at the University of Colorado with a cumulative GPA of 3.75 or higher.

VE: Jacob Van Ek Scholars Award. The College of Arts & Sciences is honoring twenty-six faculty/staff-nominated students to recognize superior academic achievement and distinguished service to the University of Colorado Boulder and the community at large.

LATIN HONORS in Biochemistry

Undergraduate students receiving Latin Honors must complete significant research in collaboration with a faculty member, write a thesis and complete an oral defense.

Kaeden Batz SUMMA CUM LAUDE Advisor: Joseph Falke

Quantitative Analysis of Disease-Linked Ras Mutants at the PI3Kgamma Ras Binding Domain Using Microscale Thermophoresis

Sarah Dodge MAGNA CUM LAUDE Advisor: Xuedong Liu

Cell-in-Cell Entrapment Alters Breast Cancer Cell Behavior

Kolya Dols SUMMA CUM LAUDE Advisor: Amy Palmer

Investigating Zinc's Effects on ERK Activation and Expression in Breast Cancer

Liora Goldstein SUMMA CUM LAUDE Advisor: Karolin Luger
Insight into TRIM28's Interactions with Chromatin Using Nucleosomal and Subnucleosomal Substrates

Axel Hartzog CUM LAUDE Advisor: Dylan Taatjes

High specificity CDK7 and CDK9 inhibitors improve understanding of kinase roles in transcription

Welton James MAGNA CUM LAUDE Advisor: Adelita Mendoza

The Effects of Cholesterol on Lysosomal Remodeling and Morphological Changes

Dharma Johnson⁺ MAGNA CUM LAUDE Advisor: Margaret Tolbert

Comparing Contact and Immersion Freezing in Heterogeneous Ice Nucleation by Silver Halides

PiperJo Jones MAGNA CUM LAUDE Advisor: Aaron Whiteley

Exploring the potential of defense systems to protect Pseudomonas putida from phage infection

Victoria Kiss^{*} SUMMA CUM LAUDE Advisor: Michael Stowell

Structural Determination and Binding Characterization of Native Acetylcholine Receptor-OSK1 Complex

Ian Kitchen SUMMA CUM LAUDE Advisor: Robert Batey

An In Vivo Examination of Two Sequence Motifs of the Bacillus subtilis pbuE Adenine-Responsive Riboswitch

Madeline Kugler SUMMA CUM LAUDE Advisor: Deborah Wuttke

Identifying the Thermodynamic Basis for DNA and RNA Binding of the Estrogen Receptor Alpha

Portia Larson CUM LAUDE Advisor: Amy Palmer

Zinc Homeostasis in Breast Cancer

India Malkan MAGNA CUM LAUDE Advisor: Robert Batey

Investigating Adenine-Responsive Gene Regulation: A Genetic Screen of the B. subtilis pbuE Riboswitch Expression Platform

* Indicates student completed thesis in the Department of Molecular Cellular & Developmental Biology

+ Indicates student completed thesis in the Department of Chemistry

LATIN HONORS IN Biochemistry continued

Elizabeth Mead SUMMA CUM LAUDE Advisor: Joseph Falke

Binding Affinities of Disease-Linked Ras Mutants to the PI3Kγ Ras Binding Domain: Quantification via Microscale Thermophoresis

Roshni Nandi⁺ MAGNA CUM LAUDE Advisor: Maciej Walczak

Site-Selective Arylation for Methionine Modification

Camdyn Rakow MAGNA CUM LAUDE Advisor: Adelita Mendoza

Starvation of Caenorhabditis elegans Induces a Novel Form of Lysosomal Remodeling

Kuo-Hsein Shih MAGNA CUM LAUDE Advisor: Joseph Falke

Elucidating the Binding Affinity of Disease-linked Ras Mutants to the Ras Binding Domain of PI3K Gamma Using Microscale Thermophoresis

Callejune Silver MAGNA CUM LAUDE Advisor: Adelita Mendoza

Lysosomal Morphological Remodeling in Caenorhabditis elegans L1 Larvae is Zinc Dependent

Patrick Smart MAGNA CUM LAUDE Advisor: Dylan Taatjes

Effects of CDK8 Inhibition on c-Fos Levels in SH-Sy5y Human Neuroblastoma Cells

Annika Stephan SUMMA CUM LAUDE Advisor: Amy Palmer

Quantification of Metallothionein and its Impact on Triple Negative Breast Cancer Apoptosis

Thomas Stilley SUMMA CUM LAUDE Advisor: Karolin Luger

Automated Method for Identifying Next-Generation PARP1 Inhibitors; Mutagenesis and Characterization of NMNAT1

Tvishi Yendamuri SUMMA CUM LAUDE Advisor: Kristi Anseth

Deterministic Programming of Intestinal Organoid Morphogenesis via PEG-in-Matrigel Photopatterning

UNDERGRADUATE AWARDS & HONORS

American Institute of Chemists Award

Awarded in recognition of a demonstrated record of leadership ability, character, scholastic achievement, and advancement potential in the chemical professions.

Madeline Kugler

Outstanding Biochemistry Graduate

Awarded in recognition of exceptional scholarly achievement, research accomplishments and community engagement.

Annika Stephan