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**To:** [biochem\\_universe](#)  
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University of Colorado Boulder Department of Biochemistry

## Biochemistry Graduate Newsletter

FRIDAY May 12, 2023



Join our [Slack Workspace](#) for more frequent updates.



Got suggestions? Drop them into the [FLC suggestion box](#).



Consult our [Google Calendar](#) to see what's happening.

This newsletter is unofficial and run by graduate students. We hope it comes in handy!

Since we're only able to include the publications, achievements, and new departmental colleagues we know about, these lists may be incomplete. Please [send us a tip](#) if you have an event, opportunity, or piece of news you'd like to see featured in our next newsletter.

We are looking for new additions to the newsletter team. If you have any interest in science communication or want experience writing HTML, reach out to Rosie Garriss ([rosanna.garris@colorado.edu](mailto:rosanna.garris@colorado.edu)).

### News & Announcements

The [Molecular Biophysics](#) and [Signaling & Cellular Regulation](#) training programs are accepting applications for traineeships. Contact Eric Rohlinger ([eric.rohlinger@colorado.edu](mailto:eric.rohlinger@colorado.edu)) for information.

*Feel free to use the newsletter as a virtual version of the JSCBB bulletin boards. If you have any information you'd like to share with the department, please [let us know](#).*

### Upcoming Events

#### Research Discussions

[Signaling & Cellular Regulation](#)

The 16th annual SCR Symposium will take place on Friday, May 19, 2023, 8:45am-3:30pm in Butcher Auditorium, JSCBB A115. This is organized by trainees in the SCR program, and will feature talks by Julia Zeitlinger (Stowers Institute), Neville Sanjana (NYU/NY Genome), and CU grad students and postdocs.

### Electron Microscopy Users Supergroup

The EM Users meeting is open to all who are interested. Presentation topics include methods and current EM research going on in the CU Boulder EM community.

Usually takes place the last Wednesday of the month at noon.

Email Alli Schier ([Allison.Schier@colorado.edu](mailto:Allison.Schier@colorado.edu)) to be added to the email list.

### Biochemistry Seminars

It's that time of year again for our Biochem Grad Student Summer Seminar Series! The series will run from May 31st through August 2nd and will take place on most Wednesdays at 3:30pm in JSCBB A108. Each weekly seminar will have space for two 20 to 25-minute talks with questions afterwards. We encourage all grad students to [sign up](#)! This is a great opportunity to get in your yearly talk, prepare for future presentations, and get feedback on your research. All students, faculty, post-docs, etc. are welcome to attend these talks.

## Publications and Achievements

### Publications

Shelby Lennon, Aleksandra Wierzba, Shea Siwik

[\*"Targeting riboswitches with beta-axial-substituted cobalamins"\*](#) ACS Chem. Biol.

Shelby Lennon, a 5th year grad student in the Batey lab, along with others recently published an article in ACS Chemical Biology. Congrats!

Emily Kibby, Amy Conte, Toni Nagy, Jose Vargas, Lindsay Whalen

[\*"Bacterial NLR-related proteins protect against phage"\*](#) Cell.

The Aaron Whiteley Lab recently published a paper in *Cell* on bacterial NLR-related proteins and how they protect against phage! Congrats!

### Accomplishments

The Department of Biochemistry was awarded the Departmental Achievement award for its use of shared equipment and resources. This

award was presented at the 26th annual Campus Sustainability Awards event. A huge thank you to Annette Erbse, Theresa Nahreini, and Emily Proksch for all their hard work managing our shared resources in the Department!

Claire Armstrong and Humza Ashraf from the Spencer Lab are both starting jobs at Bioloomics in Boulder, founded by a former Biochem PhD student from the Liu lab, Doug Chapnik. Congrats Claire and Humza!

## Science Buffs

From space missions to minuscule microbes, Science Buffs is a graduate student-run STEM blog covering research at the University of Colorado Boulder and beyond. We are committed to making science more accessible to the general public and helping students and postdocs grow as writers. Learn more about us and getting involved at <https://sciencebuffs.org/>.

## Updates from P2P

P2P is looking for graduate students interested in mentoring the incoming class of biochemistry and IQ biology (biochemistry focus) graduate students. If you can commit for the entire 2023-2024 academic year and are willing to talk with your mentee for a few hours a month or as they need, please, [fill out this form](#).

P2P is also hosting an in-person Biochemistry Alumni Networking Event on Thursday, June 22nd from 5:30-7:30 pm! The event will be catered and hosted by BioMed Realty with the official location to be sent out by email soon. Please, join us and connect with Department of Biochemistry alumni who currently hold positions at companies in the area. [RSVP here](#) so that BioMed Realty can appropriately order food and drinks for the event.

## Outreach and Teaching Opportunities

### Updates from the Center for Teaching and Learning

If you are TAing a class in the fall, would like to earn a teaching certificate, or are simply interested in improving your teaching skills, the Center for Teaching and Learning (CTL) is here to help! Please don't hesitate to reach out to the departmental CTL Lead, Briana Aboulache ([Briana.Aboulache@colorado.edu](mailto:Briana.Aboulache@colorado.edu)) for resources and information to help you achieve your teaching goals.

If you are interested in receiving teaching announcements throughout the year, please fill out this [form](#) to receive periodic teaching-related emails. You can check

out the CTL certificates [here](#), track your certificate [progress](#), and find all upcoming CTL workshops/events [here](#).

## Updates from SCOPE

S.C.O.P.E. is very excited for our current Spring Event at Timberline PK-8 school during this month of May! We want to extend a huge thank you to all the volunteers that have offered their time so far as we could not do this without you! We had a great start using our revamped curriculum with exposing the students to Chemistry by making slime, and had explosive fun making elephant toothpaste, last Monday!

We would like to invite you all to gather with S.C.O.P.E. at our Volunteer Appreciation Party on May 26th. It will be held on JSCBB B115 at 4-5:30pm, food will be provided and other surprises as well! ALL ARE WELCOME!

If you are interested in volunteering with us in the future, please stop by our [website](#) to learn more and sign up to stay in the loop about all things S.C.O.P.E.!

Here are our amazing Spring volunteers:





*If you have an outreach opportunity you're excited about, please [let us know](#) so we can share it in the next newsletter.*

## Department Spotlight

*This is the section where we brag about something cool one of our fellow biochemists is doing outside of their research. Each month, we draw the name of one of our departmental colleagues at random to feature.*





This month we're featuring James Pratt!

Hello! My name is James Pratt, I'm a fourth year in the Parker lab studying how tau interacts with protein and nucleic acid cofactors to form aggregates associated with neurodegenerative diseases. When I'm not concentrating Alzheimer's Disease in an Eppendorf tube, I like playing video games, reading books, and playing Dungeons and Dragons. Essentially, I've picked up every nerdy grad student stereotype and really leaned in. I'm also involved in the graduate student DEI group as the Peer Mentorship coordinator, where I help make sure the DEI group is supporting first year students alongside the P2P committee. I've become a bit of a coffee snob since starting grad school, so if you're looking to get me anything nice I'm constantly looking for new beans to try.

## Resources and Involvement Opportunities

### **Consolidated list of resources from the Office of Financial Aid**

This comprehensive [list of crisis resources](#) provides free tools for dealing with wellness, health, financial hardship, and other challenges.

## Incident Reporting Resources

Follow this [link for resources and support](#) in reporting concerns or incidents that you are aware of.

## Center for Teaching and Learning (formally GTP)

To learn about CTL, visit their [website](#) or contact the department CTL lead [Chelsea Toner](#).

## Counseling & Psychiatric Services (CAPS)

[CAPS](#) offers confidential, on-campus mental health and psychiatric services for a variety of concerns such as academics, anxiety, body image, depression, relationships, substance use and more. CAPS is available for in person and telehealth (virtual) appointments from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. All services will be held virtually through telehealth.

Services offered include counseling, psychiatry, workshops, process therapy groups, skill-based therapy groups, informal consultations, suicide prevention, eating concerns, ADHD treatment, addressing substance use, canine-assisted therapy, and virtual reality therapy.

## oSTEM (Out in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math)

To learn more about oSTEM, visit their [website](#) or attend their [weekly meetings](#) on Mondays at 6:00 pm.

## Buff Pantry

CU Boulder students can pick up food from Buff Pantry on a weekly basis. Visit their [website](#) for details.



### United Campus Workers

To join or get more involved in UCW, visit their [website](#).



### CU Café

To learn more or get involved in CU Café, visit their [website](#).



### Women in Science and Engineering (WiSE)

To join or get more involved with WiSE, visit their [website](#) or contact [Katelyn Long](#).