Message From the Chair

Dear Friends and Alumni,

I sincerely hope that you and your families are staying well during these unprecedented times. Back in January, we pledged to stay in touch with you more frequently and share our activities with you. Below we highlight some of our good news resulting from the hard work of our BioMolecular Sciences students, faculty, and staff. With the July 1st addition of Dr. Jing Li, a computational medicinal chemist, the department now numbers 19 full time faculty.

Our students come to Oxford from around the state and world, enhance our diversity, inspire us to think in new ways about our research and teaching, and make us proud with their award recognitions (see below). In fact, enabled by donations from alumni like you, at orientation this August the BioMolecular Science Student Advocates will for the first time present a Student Excellence Award in accordance with their mission of leadership and public service. The collective achievements of our graduate program were recognized this summer by the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy (AACP) Graduate Education Special Interest Group with their inaugural Achievement Award!

Last year, we had five masters and five PhD students graduate and begin new jobs. Currently, we have 30 students enrolled and have accepted 16 new students for the fall. Unfortunately six of these students may need to delay their admission due to COVID-19-related travel restrictions.

In research, our faculty have earned nearly $3 million this FY so far. We are especially excited that we have a new NIH GlyCORE: Glycoscience Center of Research Excellence under the leadership of Drs. Sharp and Ross. Our new discoveries were communicated in 51 publications and 141 scientific presentations this past year. Please follow us on twitter (@OleMissBMS) to keep up with our announcements between our newsletters. I hope you enjoy the articles we highlighted here. Please stay safe, and Hotty Toddy!

Sincerely,
SUPPORT
BIOMOLECULAR SCIENCES

CLICK HERE FOR MORE DETAILS

BMS Student Advocates Achievements and Plans
We are excited to announce the 2020-2021 BioMolecular Sciences Student Advocates (BSA) officers!

- President - Shukria Akbar, Pharmacognosy
- Vice President - Tomayo Berida, Medicinal Chemistry
- Secretary - Mehjabeen Hossain, Pharmacology
- Treasurer - Maggie Craze, Environmental Toxicology
- Journal Club Chair - Mohammed Salahuddin, Pharmacology
- Skills Workshop Chair - Ben Sawyer, Medicinal Chemistry
- Student Events Chair - Amelia Clayshulte, Environmental Toxicology

BSA
2019/2020 Year in Review

- Professional Skills Workshops: 11
- Outreach Event: 1
- Journal Club Meetings: 7
- Distinguished Lecturer: 1
Faculty Achievement

Glycoscience Research Center Established at School of Pharmacy

OXFORD, Miss. – The University of Mississippi has received a $10.5 million Centers of Biomedical Research Excellence Phase I grant from the National Institutes of Health to establish a new center dedicated to glycoscience, funded for the first year at $2,107,042.

The Glycoscience Center of Research Excellence, known as GlyCORE, will study how carbohydrates and carbohydrate-containing molecules affect human health.

Read More: "Glycoscience Research Center Established at School of Pharmacy"

Pharmacy Faculty Selected to AACP House of Delegates
OXFORD, Miss. – University of Mississippi School of Pharmacy faculty members David Colby and Noa Valcarcel were selected to represent the school in the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy House of Delegates.

The AACP House of Delegates is the association’s democratic policy-setting body. Representatives debate and approve statements of educational policy, approve changes to the bylaws and the strategic plan, act to accept new institutional members and establish dues for all categories of membership.

Read More: "Pharmacy Faculty Selected to AACP House of Delegates"

BioMolecular Sciences Chair Receives AACP Graduate Education Award

OXFORD, Miss. – Kristie Willett, chair of the Department of BioMolecular Sciences at the University of Mississippi School of Pharmacy, has been named the inaugural recipient of the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy Graduate Education Special Interest Group Achievement Award.

The honoree must exemplify teaching excellence and commitment, inspirational leadership, and be a valued mentor, which are many of the qualities Willett portrays.

Read More: "BioMolecular Sciences Chair Receives AACP Graduate Education Award"

Pharmacy Professor Awarded Grant to Study Neuroregeneration

OXFORD, Miss. – Vitor H. Pomin, a professor in the University of Mississippi School of Pharmacy, has received a grant from the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke to investigate the...
molecular details and potential active compounds in the process of neuroregeneration.

Pomin, assistant professor of pharmacognosy, will seek to better understand the biochemical mechanisms that limit the ability of the nervous system to recover after damage.

Read More: "Pharmacy Professor Awarded Grant to Study Neuroregeneration"

Pharmacy School Honors Faculty with Teaching, Research Awards

OXFORD, Miss. — Dr. Noa Valcarcel and Dr. Jason Paris were recognized for their excellence in commitment to teaching and research during the virtual Faculty and Research Scientist Advancement.

“We are fortunate to have a team of faculty and research scientists that goes above and beyond,” said David D. Allen, dean of the School of Pharmacy. “It’s always a privilege for me to celebrate the work they do for our students, school and the profession with these awards.”

Read More: "Pharmacy School Honors Faculty with Teaching, Research Awards"

Pharmacy Faculty Named Distinguished Teaching Scholar

OXFORD, Miss. — BMS faculty member David Colby has been named as Distinguished Teaching Scholar for a three-year term.

The honor recognizes professors who have proven to be exceptional teachers and colleagues, and who promote effective teaching and learning.

Read More: "Pharmacy Faculty Named Distinguished Teaching Scholars"
Medical Graduate Training Program Selects UM Scholars

JACKSON, Miss. – BMS graduate student, Cellas Hayes, was among eight doctoral students selected as members of the second cohort of the Robert Smith, M.D. Graduate Scholars Program as part of the Jackson Heart Study Graduate Training and Education Center at the University of Mississippi Medical Center.

Read More: "Medical Graduate Training Program Selects UM Scholars"

Graduate Students Find Impacts of Freshwater in Mississippi's Oysters

University of Mississippi Students Investigate Oyster Population in Mississippi Gulf
OXFORD, Miss. – As Ann Fairly Barnett pulled an oyster dredge up through the shoreline waters of the Mississippi Sound, she was dreading what she was about to find. “Not a single living oyster,” said the University of Mississippi master’s student in environmental toxicology.

The Jackson native, along with UM environmental toxicology graduate student James Gledhill, had chartered a small fishing boat to visit several native oyster reefs in the sound to check the water quality and the health of the reefs.

Read More: "Graduate Students Find Impacts of Freshwater in Mississippi’s Oysters"

Graduate Students Awarded Grants to Fund Further Research

OXFORD, Miss. – Three BMS graduate students, Maali Alshammari, Salahuddin Mohammed and Cellas Hayes, each received a $1,000 competitive research grant funded by the university’s Graduate School and Office of Research and Sponsored Programs. The funds will be used for projects conducted over the next year or two.

Read More: "Graduate Students Awarded Grants to Fund Further Research"

Welcome Dr. Jing Li!

Our department is proud to welcome Dr. Jing Li as a new assistant professor of medicinal chemistry! Dr. Li is a computational biologist and chemist and and comes to us from the University of Chicago. Dr. Li will...
be teaching Intro to Computer-Aided Drug Design to graduate students this coming fall semester.