

August 1, 2025

Vol. 6 Issue 12

MSB NEWS

Monthly Newsletter



Department of

Molecular and Systems Biology

Geisel School of Medicine at Dartmouth

Let's stay connected...



The world outside seems faded, grey,
A quiet hum, a somber day.
My heart, a heavy, dusty blue,
Wonders what there is to do.

Then in my hand, a round surprise,
A blueberry, warm and dark, it lies.
A tiny globe of purple gleam,
A joyful, summer-flavored dream.

Perhaps these blues, these juicy spheres,
can sweeten doubts and calm my fears.
A little taste, a gentle sigh,
And brighter hues begin to fly.

GEISEL CALENDAR

SUBMIT CONTENT

MSB CALENDAR



KUDOS

Congratulations to Yashi Ahmed for renewal of her NIGMS Outstanding Investigator Award (R35) for her groups work on mechanisms underlying Wnt pathway activation.

Kudos to Lauren Walker for teaching in the Neurobiology: Mechanisms and Advanced Approaches course at the Marine Biological Laboratory in Woods Hole and to IND graduate student Mizuki Tojo who was her teaching assistant.



Betul Koc, Dartmouth '25 undergraduate student researcher in the Yeh lab, received with distinction the Robert N. Leaton Prize for Best Neuroscience Thesis from the Department of Psychological and Brain Sciences for her senior honors thesis entitled “Post-Exposure Bumetanide Treatment Partially Rescues Ethanol-induced Interneuron Migration Abnormalities.” Betul worked in the Yeh Lab since she was a freshman. We shall miss Betul sorely and wish her all the very best going forward.

SCIENCE ADVOCACY



SUMMER ACTIVITIES

MSB labs hosted two exceptional students in the iSURE program and they share their experiences below:

Andrea Vargas – Ahmed Lab



What was your project this summer? I worked on two interconnected projects focused on understanding Wnt/Wg signaling using *Drosophila* as a model. I designed and constructed a plasmid carrying two CRISPR guides to mutate the Mat1 gene and explore its role as a potential regulator of the Wnt signaling pathway. I also performed genetic crosses to analyze how Mat1 influences Wg activity through epistasis experiments, using advanced imaging techniques to visualize changes in target gene expression. These studies are important because they provide insights into mechanisms underlying cancer-related pathways and could contribute to identifying new therapeutic targets.

What did you enjoy the most about your time at Dartmouth?

I enjoyed reconnecting with myself and finally experiencing the lab environment I had wished for since a long time ago. Every single day felt like an adventure, full of discoveries, new questions, and small victories that reminded me why I chose science in the first place. This experience not only strengthened my passion for research but also gave me confidence in my ability to make a difference. Beyond the experiments, what truly made this summer unforgettable were the people I met. I found myself surrounded by brilliant minds and kind hearts who made every day brighter. Their support and enthusiasm enriched my journey and reminded me that science is as much about human connection as it is about knowledge.

What are your plans for the future?

My plans for the future are clear: I will continue my academic journey and pursue a PhD, focusing on drug design and the development of CRISPR-based technologies. These fields fascinate me because they combine innovation, precision, and the potential to change lives. My dream is to contribute to groundbreaking discoveries while applying science responsibly to address real-world problems, especially those affecting my country.

Anais Torres – Orellana Lab



What was your project this summer? Our lab studies the role of tRNAs in disease, especially when they become dysregulated in cells. I focused on three projects: detecting and quantifying a specific tRNA with oncogenic potential in liposarcoma cell lines, combining the inhibition of this molecule (with antisense oligonucleotides, ASOs) with known cancer drugs, and detecting the presence of ASOs in tumor samples.

What did you enjoy the most about your time at Dartmouth? I enjoy spending time at the lab and being part of the community here. Everyone is very friendly and open to share their knowledge, which I really appreciate.

What are your plans for the future? I want to pursue a PhD! Being here has made me realize how much I enjoy learning new things in the lab and putting theory into practice. I am very interested in cancer research and would love to dive deeper on this topic.



In July, Marnie Halpern joined Dionna Kasper, former and current lab members, and colleagues for dinner during the 19th International Zebrafish Conference in Madison, WI.



A picture-perfect place to rest weary feet! From Cheryl's recent trip to Grindelwald, Switzerland - A hike at Gleckstein to glecksteinhütte.

UPDATED GRANT PROPOSAL DEADLINES

Please review the updated [Internal Review & Deadlines](#) on the OSP website. In an email from Dean Madden on June 17, 2025, updated and clarified guidelines regarding proposal deadlines for external grant and contract support was addressed and effective immediately.

Of note:

The existing 2- and 7-business day deadlines remain unchanged. The MSB Admin team requests the required documents for each of these deadlines at 3- and 8-business days.

Most notably, there is a change to the required administrative documents (in final

form) for the 7-business day deadline.

Now required

- Solicitation documents (including prime awardee correspondence about subawards)
- Title / Cover Page (see OSP [institutional information page](#) for standard information)
- Copy of Letter of Intent/Pre-Proposal, if previously submitted to sponsor
- Abstract/Project Summary
- All key personnel entered in Funding Proposal
- Senior Key Personnel documents (e.g. Biosketches, Current & Pending Support, etc.)
- Facilities and Other Resources
- Subaward Proposal Packages
- Budget and Budget Justification
- Letters of Support/Collaboration
- Additional Sponsor-required documents as specified by the funding announcement (e.g., IP agreement, Data Management Plan, Mentoring Plan, Human Subjects Study Record). Other internal requirements such as disclosures in Dartmouth's [Conflict of Interest](#) system and research security training, as applicable.
- Any documents other than final Research/Science attachments due at the 2-business day deadline.

As always, please complete a [Grant Proposal Questionnaire](#) as soon as you know that you plan to submit a proposal.

NIH PUBLIC ACCESS POLICY UPDATE

The NIH has issued a comprehensive update to its Public Access Policy, effective July 1, 2025. The Policy requires all Author Accepted Manuscripts (AAM) accepted after July 1st to be submitted to PubMed Central upon acceptance, with public availability starting on the official publication date with no embargo.

CHANGES TO DARTDM

DartDM will be shut down August 12 by 8am. **No action is needed** as the transition will occur automatically. However, the new address to use is:

[MyAccount.Dartmouth.edu](https://myaccount.dartmouth.edu)

For additional details please read the knowledge base article at the link below.

[ITC-DartDM Moves to MyAccount August 12, 2025](#)

Before 8 am on August 12th, DartDM will be shut down. After 8:00 a.m., log in to MyAccount, our new, streamlined, and secure platform. This migration requires no action.

Review [this Knowledge Base Article](#) for more details.



SAVE THE DATE - 2025 MSB RETREAT

2025 MSB RETREAT

September 30, 2025



Keynote Speaker

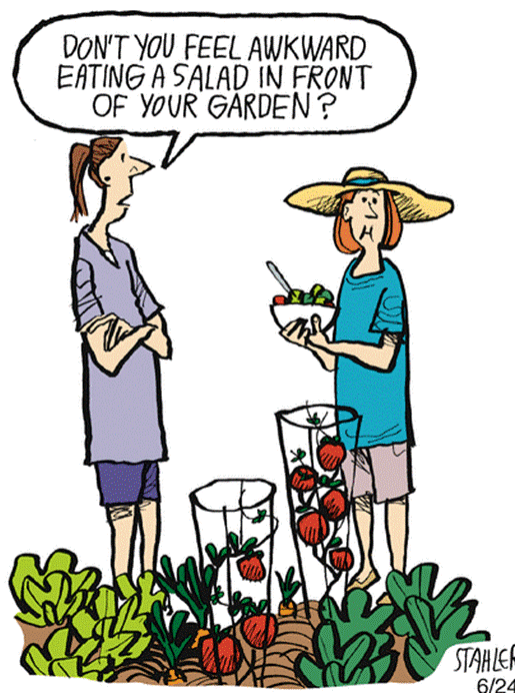
Marian Walhout, PhD
UMass Chan Medical School

RECIPE OF THE MONTH

[Blueberry Polenta Upside-Down Cake](#)



Expertly baked by and photo courtesy of Don Fitzpatrick, Geisel IT



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