

# Department of Biomedical Sciences Newsletter

## Congratulations to Megan Tomasch and Dr. Chris Straub (her mentor)!

Megan Tomasch, a PhD Candidate in the UNE COM laboratory of Dr. Chris Straub, was recently awarded an Honorable Mention for the Best Lightning Talk Award (Graduate Student Category) for her presentation entitled "*The role of cholinergic interneurons in chronic pain-induced impairments to cognitive flexibility.*" Her presentation was part of the Northeast Regional IDeA Conference (August 16-18, 2021).

## Faculty meeting dates:

- October 26, 2021; 3:00-4:30; Zoom and in-person
- November 23, 2021; 3:00-4:30; Zoom and in-person
- December meeting will be canceled due to holidays

*Feel free to send any agenda items for discussion at our faculty meeting to Angela Morse.*

## 2021 UNE COM Seminars:

All seminars hosted by the department will be posted here: <https://sites.une.edu/biomedicalsciences/seminar-series/>

## Upcoming Events:

Sunday, October 10; 12:45pm

### UNE COM White Coat Ceremony

Merrill Auditorium

Friday, October 29; 1-5pm

### UNE COM Fall Research and Scholarship Forum

Innovation Hall

## Fall 2021 Shared Governance:

### UFA

Wednesday, October 20

Via Zoom, 12-2pm

Wednesday, November 17

Via Zoom, 12-2pm

Wednesday, December 15

Via Zoom, 12-2pm

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### COMFA

Wednesday, October 27

St. Francis and via Zoom, 12-1pm

Thursday, November 18

St. Francis and via Zoom, 12-1pm

Wednesday, December 22

St. Francis and via Zoom, 12-1pm

## CALL FOR SEMINAR SPEAKERS:

Please consider being a speaker, or inviting one, to present a research seminar to the UNE community in-person or through Zoom. Our students are still required to fulfill their seminar attendance requirement.

## [Faculty / Student / Staff Highlights:](#)

### [New Publications \(from PubMed \(links in blue are enabled\)\)](#)

[In vivo microdialysis shows differential effects of prenatal protein malnutrition and stress on norepinephrine, dopamine, and serotonin levels in rat orbital frontal cortex.](#)

Church NT\*, Weissner W, Galler JR, Amaral AC, Rosene DL, McGaughy JA, Rushmore RJ, Larrabee E, **Mokler DJ**.

Behav Neurosci. 2021 Oct;135(5):629-641.

doi:10.1037/bne0000479

\* COM graduate and Morgane Fellow

[Late adolescence mortality in mice with brain-specific deletion of the volume-regulated anion channel subunit LRRC8A.](#)

Wilson CS, Dohare P, Orbeta S, Nalwalk JW, Huang Y, **Ferland RJ**, Sah R, Scimemi A, Mongin AA.

FASEB J. 2021 Oct;35(10):e21869.

doi: 10.1096/fj.202002745R

[Teaching Biochemistry to Students of Dentistry, Medicine, and Pharmacy: 8<sup>th</sup> International Conference of the Association of Biochemistry Educators \(ABE\) Virtual Conference, May 3-7, 2021.](#)

Simmons JM, Franklin DS, Dahlman KB, Symes K, Viselli SM, Diaz-Cruz ES, Fong SFT, **Spicer DB**.

Med Sci Educ. 2021 Sep 20:1-4.

doi: 10.1007/s40670-021-01402-y

[Targeted Ablation of Primary Cilia in Differentiated Dopaminergic Neurons Reduces Striatal Dopamine and Responsiveness to Metabolic Stress.](#)

Mustafa R, Rawas C, Mannal N, Kreiner G, Spittau B, Kamińska K, Yilmaz R, Pötschke C, Kirsch J, Liss B, **Tucker KL**, Parlato R.

Antioxidants (Basel). 2021 Aug 13;10(8):1284.

doi: 10.3390/antiox10081284

[Polystyrene and Polyethylene Microplastics Decrease Cell Viability and Dysregulate Inflammatory and Oxidative Stress Markers of MDCK and L929 Cells In Vitro.](#)

Palaniappan S, Sadacharan CM, **Rostama B**.

Expo Health. 2021 Jul 25:1-11.

doi: 10.1007/s12403-021-00419-3

[Voluntary exercise blocks ongoing pain and diminishes bone remodeling while sparing protective mechanical pain in a rat model of advanced osteoarthritis pain.](#)

Townsend K, Imbert I, Eaton V, Stevenson GW, **King T**.

Pain. 2021 Jun 28. Online ahead of print.

doi: 10.1097/j.pain.0000000000002392

## Regional/National/International Presentations or Abstracts

Presentation at the World Microbe Forum (ASM-FEMS annual meeting) - June 2021:

Deborah Barlow, Bahman Rostama, Evangeline Green, Paul Berkner, **Meghan May**  
"Whole Campus Wastewater Surveillance for SARS-CoV-2 Predicts Case Positivity"

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Presentation at the American Diabetes Association Annual Meeting - June 2021:

**Meghan May**, Megan Beauchemin, Calvin Vary, Celeste Bouchard, **Karen L. Houseknecht**  
"Exploring mechanisms of insulin resistance in mental illness: Antipsychotic drugs alter metabolic, inflammatory and non-alcoholic fatty liver disease (NAFLD) associated human and mouse proteomes in the absence of weight gain"

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United States Organization for Mycoplasma Symposium on Emerging Pathogens - June 2021:

"Virulence Influencers - The Microbiome and Co-Pathogens" - Session Convener was **Meghan May**

## Other News:

**Dr. Meghan May** was featured in the following publications:

"It changed the game. Here's how to guard against the delta variant." (Portland Press Herald)

[https://newspaper.pressherald.com/infinity/article\\_popover\\_share.aspx?guid=6d7004aa-9054-4b52-a3b3-f008e14c4aa9](https://newspaper.pressherald.com/infinity/article_popover_share.aspx?guid=6d7004aa-9054-4b52-a3b3-f008e14c4aa9)

"12 Things You Need to Clean After Returning from the Outside World" (Reader's Digest)

<https://www.rd.com/list/things-you-need-to-clean-after-returning-from-outside/>

## Faculty Development:

Asynchronous opportunities for faculty development now exist on the UNE COM Faculty and Professional Staff Development SharePoint Site:

<https://une1.sharepoint.com/teams/COM/AcademicAffairs/Office/FSDev/SitePages/Home.aspx>