

# Department of Biomedical Sciences Newsletter

**Congratulations to the following faculty that recently underwent RPT review!**

**Promotion to Associate Clinical Professor:**

- Eliza Grlickova-Duzevik, MD/PhD
- Joel Talsma, MS

**Reappointment to Assistant Teaching Professor:**

- Geoffrey McCullen, MD
- Tyler Redway, PhD

**Upcoming dates to remember:**

COM Spring Lighting Talk	4/10/26
OsteoBlast	4/11/26
Hooding	5/15/26
Memorial Day	5/25/26
Dean's Retreat	6/16/26
Classes Begin	6/29/26
Fun Run	8/26/26

**DBMS Faculty meeting dates:**

- March 26, 2026; 11am – 12pm
- April 23, 2026; 11am - 12pm
- May 28, 2026; 11am - 12pm

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

**2026 UNE COM Seminars:**

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

**Shared Governance Meetings:**

**COMFA**

Wednesday, April 1  
11:30 pm -12:30 pm

Wednesday, May 6  
11:30 pm -12:30 pm

Wednesay, June 3  
11:30 am -12:30 pm

**NOTE:** Publication costs for papers which have COM students as authors are eligible to be considered for up to \$250/student by the [SGA's educational enhancement fund](#) (link enabled). These requests are vetted by the finance committee of the SGA and processed by RSAS.

## [New Peer-Reviewed Publications \(from PubMed \(links enabled below\)\)](#)

### [Suppression of haptoglobin and loss of striatal neurons in mice chronically exposed to chlorpyrifos-contaminated drinking water.](#)

Fikse E, Anderson F, Cho S, Landry J, Carloni E, Biggs K, Paul K, Daley T, Chang TY, Kettenbach A, **Havrda MC**.

Toxicol Sci. 2026 Mar 2;209(3):kfag012  
doi: 10.1093/toxsci/kfag012

### [A time-resolved RNA-sequencing dataset of transcriptional responses in PC12 cells to NGF withdrawal and replenishment.](#)

Neufeld P, **Grlickova-Duzevik E, Harrison BJ**.

Data Brief. 2026 Feb 26;65:112639  
doi: 10.1016/j.dib.2026.112639

### [Comprehensive analysis of spinal cord inflammatory factors in HIV Tat-induced neuropathy in mice.](#)

Kohsar A, Wilson-Braun P, Bean EN, Philhower M, **Harrison BJ, Cao L**.

Neuroscience. 2026 Feb 16;595:205-219  
doi: 10.1016/j.neuroscience.2026.01.005

### [Severe traumatic brain injury: non-military patients' essential need for behavioural healthcare.](#)

Tolentino RH, Patel D, Yeung M, **Schuenke MD**, Sholl M, Gugliucci M.

BMJ Case Rep. 2026 Feb 15;19(2):e269121  
doi: 10.1136/bcr-2025-269121

### [Females show enhanced susceptibility to develop nerve injury and constant joint pain compared to males in a mouse model of knee joint pain.](#)

Mueth MG, Greco AD, Vesey T, Sannajust S, Eaton V, Caradonna P, Lizotte T, **Becker KA, Grlickova-Duzevik E, Harrison BJ, King T**.

Neurobiol Pain. 2026 Feb 6;19:100209  
doi: 10.1016/j.ynpai.2026.100209

### [A Scoping Review of Risk Factors of Postpartum Depression among Military Personnel and Spouses.](#)

Biegel C, Poulin H, Silvia S, **McCullen G**.

Mil Med. 2026 Jan 30:usag005  
doi: 10.1093/milmed/usag005

### [Planetary health education in practice: public health, climate change, and transdisciplinary learning at University of New England.](#)

Cariddi A, Baeder C, Cote M, **Ly K**, Hall K.

Front Public Health. 2026 Jan 14;13:1736662  
doi: 10.3389/fpubh.2025.1736662

### [Development, implementation, and evaluation of interprofessional events on climate change in health professions curricula.](#)

**Ly K**, Cariddi A, Cote M, Hall K.

Front Med (Lausanne). 2026 Jan 6;12:1736224  
doi: 10.3389/fmed.2025.1736224

[The nociceptor primary cilium.](#)

Ganter GK, Reveche HC, **Fitzsimons LA**, Khomula EV, Levine JD, **Tucker KL**.  
Brain. 2026 Jan 5:awag004  
doi: 10.1093/brain/awag004

[Ferroptosis is a novel pathogenic mechanism of FXR-related disease via disruption of the NRF2 pathway.](#)

Campbell T, Slone J, Vu J, Liu W, Yang L, Dourson A, **Queme LF**, Jankowski MP, Huang T.  
Cell Death Discov. 2025 Dec 23;11(1):563  
doi: 10.1038/s41420-025-02840-y

[Hsp90 \$\beta\$ -Selective Inhibitors: Probing the Solvent-Accessible Frontier.](#)

D'Amico T, Serwetnyk MA, Dou X, Mersich I, Barlow D, **Houseknecht KL**, Streicher JM, Ali A, Blagg BSJ.  
ChemMedChem. 2025 Dec 15;20(24):e202500657  
doi: 10.1002/cmdc.202500657

[Radiofrequency Ablation of the Medial Branch Nerves for Posterior Element Pain in Chronic Vertebral Compression Fractures: An Anatomical Review and Retrospective Case Series.](#)

Sanghvi CD, Gordon AT, Singh N, **Willard FH**, Ren Y, Wilson MD, Copenhaver D.  
J Pain Res. 2025 Dec 2;18:6463-6475  
doi: 10.2147/JPR.S537937

[Editorial: Insights in neuroenergetics and brain health: 2024-2025.](#)

Schurr A, **Mokler D**, Lee HG, Tasca CI.  
Front Neurosci. 2025 Dec 1;19:1745196  
doi: 10.3389/fnins.2025.1745196

[Autonomic Dysfunction and Failed Back surgery Syndrome: A Systematic Review of Associated Comorbidities.](#)

DeOliveira G, Mugg B, Scott H, Lucey E, **McCullen G**.  
J Am Acad Orthop (JAOAO). 2025 Nov 25; 9(3):  
<http://doi.org/10.70709/lin8gn4yjc>

[Commotio Cordis in Sports.](#)

Beisenova K, Mendola R, **McCullen G**.  
Curr Sports Med Rep. 2025 Oct 1;24(10):339-342  
doi: 10.1249/JSR.0000000000001292

**New Publications (from preprint servers (links enabled in blue below)) – a preprint, a preliminary version of a manuscript that has not completed peer review at a journal.**

[DOCK7 regulates WNT signaling and NMJ clustering in normal and DMD muscle.](#)

English KG, Rorrer SN, Karuppasamy M, **Becker KA**, Crossman DK, Lopez MA, Thalacker-Mercer AE, Alexander MS  
bioRxiv [Preprint]. 2025.12.23.696254;  
doi: <https://doi.org/10.64898/2025.12.23.696254>

[Deletion of \*Dock7\* Exons 3 and 4 Results in Reduced Trabecular Microarchitecture and a Decrease in Mineralization.](#)

Lizotte T, Lajoie C, Porter S, Lang S, Vesper FA, Brooks DJ, Gartner C, Alexander MS, Vary C, Boussein ML, **Becker KA.**

bioRxiv [Preprint]. 2026 Jan 2:2025.12.31.696872.

doi: 10.64898/2025.12.31.696872.

## Regional/National/International Presentations

### Poster Presentations:

**Dr. Ling Cao's student**, Shelley Chen, OMSIII, presented a poster titled "Cannabis Use Across U.S. States and Territories: A Cross-Sectional Analysis of Legalization Type, Duration, and Demographic Trends" at the 2025 Eastern Pain Association' annual conference on December 6<sup>th</sup> in New York City. Shelley Chen won third place at this conference.

## 2025 Statewide Biomedical Science and Engineering Research Symposium September 24 & 25, 2025:

Jacquelyn Ames Ph.D., Post Doctoral Fellow

Bioenergetic Regulation of Signaling in Nociceptors Using Mouse and a Human Sensory Neuron-Derived Cell Line

Mentor: **Derek Molliver**

Tiyasha Banerjee B.S., Graduate Student GSBSE

Moving Towards Determining Catabolic Thresholds in Chondrocyte Integrin Mediated Mechanotransduction

Mentor: **Scott Wood**

Anna Kelly Graduate Student GSBSE

Neuronal Changes Following Tat Induction in Doxycycline-inducible HIV-1 Tat Transgenic Mice

Mentor: **Ling Cao**

Meredith Mitchell M.S., Graduate Student GSBSE

Osteocyte Network Response to Fluid Flow is Enhanced by Irisin

Mentor: **Eben Estell**

Madison Mueth B.S., Graduate Student GSBSE

Modulating pain sensitivity with AAV vectors encoding CELF4 RNA-binding protein

Mentor: **Ben Harrison**

Samuel Reynolds B.S., Graduate Student GSBSE

Whole brain mapping of activity-dependent genetically labeled neurons after corneal stimulation

Mentor: **Ian Meng**

William Sampson, Graduate Student GSBSE  
Oxidative Stress and Stiffness Induced Senescence in Human Articular Chondrocytes  
Mentor: **Scott Wood**

SungJin Shin B.A., COM Student  
Association Between EPG5 Mutations and Diagnoses of Neurodegenerative Disorders: A Secondary Data Analysis Using the All of Us Database  
Mentor: **Ling Cao**

## Faculty Notes

**Drs. Eliza Grlickova-Duzevik** and **Doug Spicer** were quoted in an article discussing their “Food as Medicine” grant/project with COM students. Here is the link to the article: <https://www.une.edu/news/2025/une-medical-students-learn-prescribe-food-medicine-through-culinary-community-immersion>