

Welcome to the Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biophysics

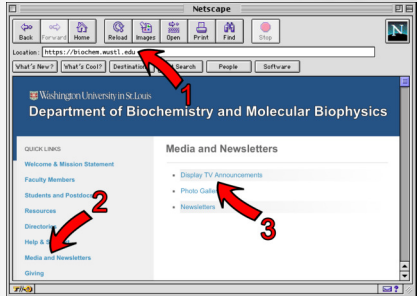


Washington University in St. Louis
School of Medicine

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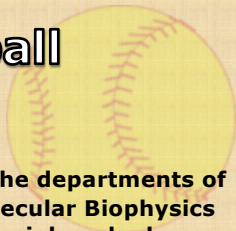
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- 1) Go to **biochem.wustl.edu**
- 2) Click **Media and Newsletters**
- 3) Click **Display TV Announcements**





BMB and CB&P Softball



August 31st, 2022 – The departments of Biochemistry and Molecular Biophysics and Cell Biology & Physiology had lunch and played a softball game together.

The final score was BMB 17, CB&P 14!

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October Publication



Garrett M. Ginell & **Alex S. Holehouse**

An Introduction to the Stickers-and-Spacers Framework as Applied to Biomolecular Condensates

Methods Mol Biol. 2023;2563:95-116. doi: 10.1007/978-1-0716-2663-4_4. (2022)

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Congratulations to Dr. Greenberg

July 1st, 2022 – **Michael Greenberg, PhD**, Associate Professor of Biochemistry and Molecular Biophysics along with Kory J. Lavine, MD PhD, Associate Professor of Medicine and Nathaniel D. Huebsch, PhD, Assistant Professor of Biomedical Engineering have received a new three-year grant award from American Heart Association for their research entitled "***Human heart-on-a-chip to study the immune system in cardiac disease pathogenesis and repair***".



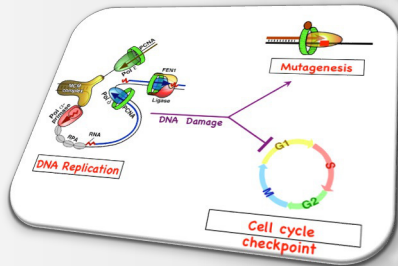
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Spotlight on Research

The **Burgers Lab** studies DNA replication and DNA damage response in eukaryotic cells. Using yeast as a model organism, the lab integrates the biochemical analysis of DNA-protein interactions in purified model systems with the genetic analysis of targeted yeast mutants. Specific areas of interest are lagging strand DNA replication and Okazaki fragment maturation, damage induced mutagenesis, and DNA damage cell cycle checkpoints.

Right: DNA replication fork and Okazaki fragment maturation



See more research:
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Congratulations to Dr. Holehouse



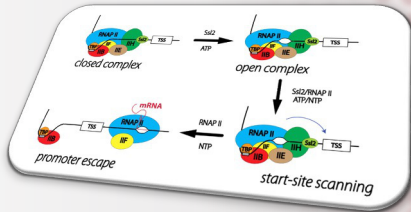
Oct 1st 2022 - **Alex Holehouse**, assistant professor of biochemistry and molecular biology has received more than \$450,000 in funding from the National Science Foundation (NSF) to lead a five-year project titled ***"Molecular engineering to understand desiccation protection and water responsiveness."*** The project is part of a larger grant called "Life without water: protecting macromolecules, cells, and organisms during desiccation and rehydration across kingdoms of life." This grant establishes the Water and Life Interface Institute led by Carnegie Science. The new initiative includes collaborators from at least nine research institutions nationwide.

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Spotlight on Research

The **Galburt Lab** strives to understand the physical mechanisms of transcription initiation and other important DNA-protein interactions. More specifically, we use a variety of single-molecule and ensemble biophysical techniques including both optical and magnetic tweezers and fluorescent microscopy to investigate how the assembly of initiation complexes on gene promoters leads to DNA unwinding and transcription. Our work is currently focused on the mechanisms of basal transcription initiation in Eukaryotes and on factor-regulated transcription in *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*.



See more research:
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August Publication



Nicolás S. González-Foutel, Juliana Glavina, Wade M. Borchers, Matías Safranchik, Susana Barrera-Vilarmau, Amin Sagar, Alejandro Estaña, Amelie Barozet, Nicolás A. Garrone, Gregorio Fernandez-Ballester, Clara Blanes-Mira, Ignacio E. Sánchez, Gonzalo de Prat-Gay, Juan Cortés, Pau Bernadó, Rohit V. Pappu, **Alex S. Holehouse**, Gary W. Daughdrill, & Lucía B. Chemes

Conformational buffering underlies functional selection in intrinsically disordered protein regions

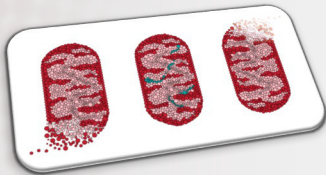
Nat Struct Mol Biol. 2022 Aug;29(8):781-790. doi: 10.1038/s41594-022-00811-w. (2022)

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Spotlight on Research



The **Niemi Lab** investigates how mitochondria are built, regulated, and maintained across physiological contexts. We blend biochemistry, systems biology, and physiology to understand mechanisms of mitochondrial regulation and how they influence metabolism and organellar function. Using insights gained from our molecular studies, we aim to understand how mitochondrial dysfunction contributes to mammalian pathophysiology, with the long-term goal of translating our discoveries into new therapeutic options to restore mitochondrial function in human disease.

See more research:
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"How many biophysicists can you name?"


Gordon Research Conference
June 28th - July 2nd, 1976

Congratulations to Dr. Garcia

August 16th, 2022 – **Benjamin Garcia, PhD**, Raymond H. Wittcoff Distinguished Professor and Head of Biochemistry and Molecular Biophysics, along with Elizabeth Bhoj, MD, PhD, Assistant Professor of Pediatrics, University of Pennsylvania of Medicine and Children's Hospital of Philadelphia received a five year grant from the National Institutes of Health for their research entitled ***"Quantitative mass spectrometry for comprehending epigenetic mechanisms in a new underlying neurological developmental disorder"***.



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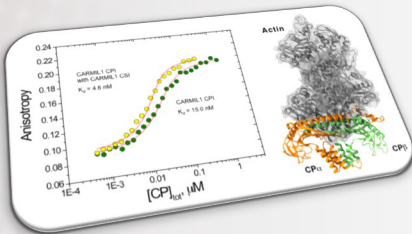
BMBSupport.wustl.edu/backups



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Spotlight on Research



The **Cooper Lab** is interested in how the actin filaments in cells assemble and how that assembly controls cell shape and movement. One focus is an actin-binding protein called "capping protein," which caps one end of the actin filament. Capping protein is in turn regulated by intrinsically disordered regions of the CARMIL family of proteins, which exhibit positive linkage in their binding interactions.

See more research:
biochem.wustl.edu/spotlight

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Are you paid **monthly?**


Please remember that your **time report is
due by the 5th of each month.**

Congratulations to Dr. Galburt



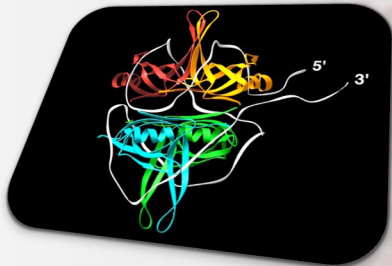
March 2nd, 2022 – **Eric Galburt, PhD**, Associate Professor in Biochemistry and Molecular Biophysics, received a new five-year MIRA grant award from National Institute of General Medical Sciences for his research entitled ***"Molecular Mechanisms of Transcription Initiation and DNA Repair"***.

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Spotlight on Research

Research in the **Lohman Lab** focuses on obtaining a molecular understanding of the mechanisms of protein-nucleic acid interactions involved in DNA metabolism, in particular, DNA motor proteins (helicases/translocases) and single stranded DNA binding proteins. Thermodynamic, kinetic, structural and single molecule approaches are used to probe these interactions at the molecular level.



See more research:
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Contact any of the following for help

Jessica Kennedy – Title IX Director, jwkennedy@wustl.edu, 314-935-3118

Jessica Kuchta-Miller – Staff/Postdoc/Graduate Student Ombuds, 314-379-8110

Karen O'Malley – Medical Student Ombuds, 314-660-2089

Jim Fehr – Faculty Ombuds, 314-660-2089

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Congratulations to Dr. Holehouse

Oct 1st 2022 – **Alex Holehouse**, assistant professor of biochemistry and molecular has received \$380,000 in funding from the Human Frontiers Science Program (HFSP) to lead a three-year project titled ***"Molecular determinants of evolutionary conservation in disordered protein regions"***. This project will integrate computational and experimental approaches to uncover who intrinsically disordered protein regions evolve. The proposal involves co-investigators Dr. Hyun Kate Lee (University of Toronto, CA) and Dr. Dolf Weijers (Wageningen University, NL).



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**Congratulations to Anna Damato for being selected as the
2022 Ceil M. DeGutis Prize Fellow**



Anna Damato is a fifth-year PhD candidate in Neuroscience in the Department of Biology. Anna was nominated for this award by her thesis mentor, Dr. Erik Herzog, in whose lab she is connecting the bench to the bedside by investigating mechanisms of glioblastoma brain tumor circadian rhythms and how they impact the efficacy of chemotherapy. Anna uses real-time bioluminescence reporters of circadian gene expression to analyze the effects of timed treatment, with the goal of maximizing anti-tumor effects and minimizing side effects of chemotherapy in treating an otherwise dismal disease.

Visit biochem.wustl.edu/news to read more!

Congratulations

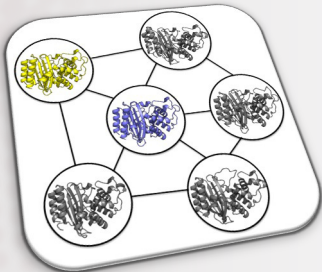


April 22nd, 2022 – **Andrea Soranno, PhD**, Assistant Professor of Biochemistry and Molecular Biophysics along with **Kathleen Hall, PhD**, Professor of Biochemistry and Molecular Biophysics and **Alex Holehouse, PhD**, Assistant Professor of Biochemistry and Molecular Biophysics have received a new five-year grant from National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases for their research entitled "***A multipronged investigation of SARS-CoV-2 genome packaging***"

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Spotlight on Research




The **Bowman Lab** seeks to understand the distribution of different structures a protein adopts and how this ensemble determines a proteins function. Examples of ongoing research projects include 1) understanding how mutations in the enzyme beta-lactamase change its specificity without changing the protein's crystal structure, 2) designing allosteric drugs, and 3) developing algorithms for quickly building models of the different structures a protein adopts.

See more research:

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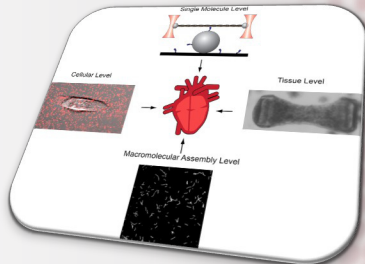
Holiday Schedule

Holiday	Day Observed	Date Observed at WashU
Independence Day	Monday	July 4 th , 2022
Labor Day	Monday	September 5 th , 2022
Thanksgiving Day	Thursday	November 24th, 2022
Day after Thanksgiving	Friday	November 25th, 2022
Christmas Eve	Friday	December 23 rd , 2022
Christmas Day	Monday	December 26 th , 2022



Spotlight on Research

The **Greenberg Lab** focuses on how cytoskeletal motors function in both health and disease. Currently, the lab is studying mutations that cause familial cardiomyopathies, the leading cause of sudden cardiac death in people under 30 years old. The lab uses an array of biochemical, biophysical, and cell biological techniques to decipher how these mutations affect heart contraction from the level of single molecules to the level of engineered tissues. Insights into the disease pathogenesis will guide efforts to develop novel therapies.



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a forum for new data, new ideas
and works in progress

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EVERY FRIDAY, starting at 4PM.**



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Don't Forget!



Please keep your lab locked if no one is in there when you leave.

Don't forget your keys!

Please remember to take OFF your gloves when leaving the lab.

