Mission:
Through discovery, education and service, the BMS faculty strive to be leaders in their areas of scholarship. Using interdisciplinary approaches, BMS faculty perform hypothesis-driven investigations to reveal mechanisms that underlie biological processes and human disease and collaborate with clinical researchers to facilitate the development of novel diagnostics, therapies and preventive measures. BMS faculty are also engaged in medical and graduate education by developing, delivering and assessing curricula, and conduct educational scholarship.

Rebecca Fisher, PhD, and Frederic Zenhausern, PhD, MBA
Interim Co-Chairs
Basic Medical Sciences

Department of Basic Medical Sciences
Highlights 2019

Publications – High profile publications by the BMS faculty in 2019 include the following:


- Buetow KH, Meador LR, Menon H, Lu YK, Brill J, Cui H, Roe DJ, DiCaudo DJ, Hastings KT. High GILT Expression and an Active and Intact MHC Class II Antigen Presentation Pathway are Associated with Improved Survival in Melanoma. *Journal of Immunology*, 2019, 203(10):2577-2587.


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6-2-2020
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Publications Continued:


*Co-first authors


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Department of Basic Medical Sciences
Highlights 2019

Publications Continued:


Grants:

- Rebecca Fisher, PhD, Interim Co-Chair and Professor, is part of an international team of scientists that were awarded a grant from the Agencia Nacional de Promoción Científica y Tecnológica to study the functional anatomy of mammal species that are endemic to South America. The team includes investigators from Argentina, Greece and the United States.

- Amelia Gallitano, MD, PhD, Professor, was awarded a R01 Renewal from the National Institutes of Health to further her research on “Environmental regulation of cortical gene expression and circuit function.”

- Jian Gu, PhD, Associate Professor, and Frederic Zenhausern, PhD, MBA, Interim Co-Chair and Endowed Professor, were awarded a NASA TRISH grant for their research on “Human-centered design augmentation of the vertical flow paper-based health monitoring platform.” The goal of the project is to develop an automated vertical flow platform for rapid medical countermeasure for astronauts during deep-space exploration.

- Karen Hastings, MD, PhD, Associate Professor, was awarded a R25 grant from the NIH/National Cancer Institute for the project “Ignite-Engage-Sustain: a comprehensive approach to motivate, involve, educate and mentor Native American students and their communities in cancer prevention, treatment and research.”

- Kenro Kusumi, PhD, Professor, and colleagues were awarded an NSF-IES Collaborative Research grant for their research on “Testing evolutionary pseudocoherence along the Baja California Peninsula through integration of geologic and genomic data.”

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Grants Continued:

- **Shalini Sharma, PhD**, Associate Professor, was awarded a RO1 grant from the National Institutes of Health for her research on “Mechanisms of splice site selection in health and disease.”

- **Frederic Zenhausern, PhD, MBA**, Interim Co-Chair and Endowed Professor, was granted the continuation of existing NASA and NIAID grants.

Patents:

- **Peter Jurutka, PhD**, Professor, and colleagues were awarded six new US patents for novel drug compounds with the potential to combat cancer and dementia, and one patent for a gene-expression based biomarker system for diagnosis of irritable bowel syndrome.

- **Jerome Lacombe, PhD**, Assistant Professor:
  


- **Frederic Zenhausern, PhD, MBA**, Interim Co-Chair and Endowed Professor:


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Presentations:

- **Rebecca Fisher, PhD**, Interim Co-Chair and Professor, was an invited speaker at the 2019 Experimental Biology Meeting (Orlando, FL). Her talk, “Collaborating with clinicians to create a customized anatomy curriculum,” described best practices for designing courses for medical students.

- **Amelia Gallitano, MD, PhD**, Professor, was an invited speaker at the 2019 Translational Psychiatry Meeting (Park City, UT), the College of Medicine – Phoenix MD/PhD Program First Annual Retreat (Pima County, AZ); Psychiatry Grand Rounds, Banner – University Medical Center Phoenix; and Psychiatry Grand Rounds, Department of Psychiatry, University of Arizona College of Medicine – Tucson.

- **Taben Hale, PhD**, Associate Professor was an invited speaker at Harvard University, University of Missouri and American Heart Association Scientific Sessions.

- **Suwon Kim, PhD**, Associate Professor, was an invited speaker at the 39th Annual Advance Conference of the Research Staff Organization, City of Hope UCLA conference center at Lake Arrowhead (Los Angeles, CA); the 6th Annual Metastatic Breast Cancer Conference (Scottsdale, AZ); and the Biodesign Center for Immunotherapy, Vaccines and Virotherapy (Tempe, AZ).

- **Won Hee Lee, PhD**, Assistant Professor, was an invited speaker at the Society for Research on Nicotine & Tobacco (San Francisco, CA); the Department of Internal Medicine Science in the Desert Special Seminar and Pulmonary Lab Retreat (Phoenix, AZ); and the Statewide Symposium in Regenerative Medicine (Scottsdale, AZ).

- **Shalini Sharma, PhD**, Associate Professor, was an invited speaker at the University of Arizona College of Medicine – Tucson; West Virginia University (Morgantown VA); and the Biodesign Institute at Arizona State University (Tempe AZ).


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Promotions:

- **Rebecca Fisher, PhD**, was promoted to **Professor**, becoming the first female faculty member to achieve this rank in the Department of Basic Medical Sciences.

- **Shalini Sharma, PhD**, was promoted to **Associate Professor with Tenure**.

Awards:

- **Evan Garofalo, PhD**, Assistant Professor, and co-authors were awarded the prestigious Cozzarelli Prize by the National Academy of Science for their manuscript, "Bioarchaeology of Neolithic Çatalhöyük reveals fundamental transitions in health, mobility and lifestyle in early farmers," published in the *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*.

- **Taben Hale, PhD**, Associate Professor, was awarded a Women Achievers of Arizona (Public Service) honor by the *Arizona Capitol Times*.

- Postdoc, **Chen-wei Liu**, received a two-year American Heart Association Postdoctoral Fellowship (mentor: **Won Hee Lee**, PhD, Assistant Professor).

- **Frederic Zenhausern, PhD, MBA**, Interim Co-Chair and Endowed Professor, was honored as *Arizona Business Magazine*'s Healthcare Leaders of 2019 and received the Governor's Innovation Award, COM, Arizona Technology Council.

Other Achievements:

- **Amelia Gallitano, MD, PhD**, Professor, organized and moderated the National Leaders of Women in Medicine and Science Symposium, University of Arizona College of Medicine – Phoenix.

- A news report by **Jian Gu, PhD**, Associate Professor, "Blood-collection device makes radiation testing quick and easy," was posted October 21, 2019, by the Arizona Bioindustry Association (Phoenix, AZ).

- **Taben Hale, PhD**, Associate Professor, was selected to participate in the American Heart Association Leaders Academy.

- **Jerome Lacombe, PhD**, Assistant Professor, was session chair for the symposium "Biosimetry for assessing radiation injury" at the annual meeting of the Radiation Research Society.