

September Edition

Sept 3rd, 2021

Volume 3, Issue 1

COVID-19

[HUB AT HOPKINS](#)

[JHU COVID RESOURCE CENTER](#)

[JHM COVID-19 INTERNAL RESOURCE PANEL](#)

[MARYLAND DEPT OF HEALTH](#)

[CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL](#)

Johns Hopkins has moved to Phase 3 of reopening efforts, resuming medium-risk activities but still relying on distancing and mask-wearing in addition to providing online alternatives to in-person activities.

Universal masking was reinstated July 30 due to a rise in cases associated with the delta variant; all personnel must wear masks in JHM facilities and outdoors when within six feet of others, regardless of vaccination status, unless alone in an office with the door closed.

Meetings and gatherings should be virtual whenever possible. Indoor events were revised in August to not exceed 25 people and outdoor events should not exceed 50 people. Food and drink should be individually wrapped in a “grab-and-go” fashion.

Depending on the state of COVID-19 cases in Maryland, Hopkins may review these guidelines later in the fall semester or in the spring, which will allow our planners to revisit scheduling the Physiology retreat!

If you experience COVID-19 symptoms, call the Johns Hopkins COVID-19 Call Center at **443-287-8500** for evaluation and guidance.

Announcements

Congratulations to three new recent graduates from the Physiology department who defended their thesis this summer:

- Dr. Anna Moyer from the Reeves lab and Human Genetics program
- Dr. Cat McCann of the Lutsenko lab and CMP program
- Dr. James Osei-Owusu of the Qiu lab also from the CMP program who defended his thesis yesterday!

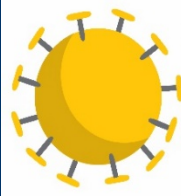
Upcoming Events

Sept 10: Annual Responsible Conduct of Research Training
11:45am-1:15pm

Sept 24: Department Research Seminar at Noon
Rajini Rao, Ph.D.
Professor of Physiology

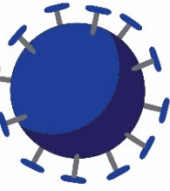
Sept 29: Guest Speaker Physiology Seminar at Noon
Speaker: Muthu Periasamy, PhD
Department of Internal Medicine
University of Central Florida
“Uncoupling of SERCA by Sarcolipin regulates muscle thermogenesis and energy metabolism”

Physiology Newsletter



Three new CMP students welcomed amid COVID-19 pandemic... again

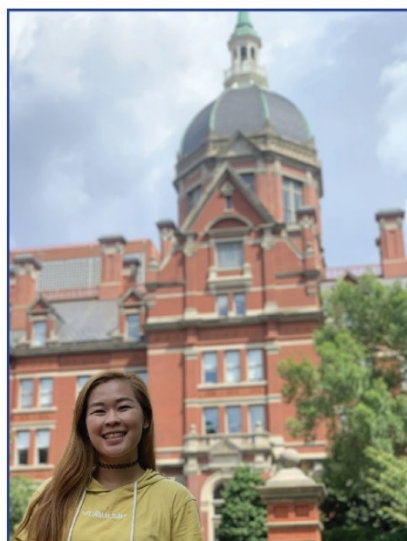
2021's cohort of women: Luoluo Chen, Katie Sullivan, and Manuella Ribas Andrade introduce themselves



Luouo Chen

1st Year CMP Graduate Student

Hi, I'm Luoluo and a first year CMP student. I been living in Maryland since middle school, but I actually grew up in Minnesota. I went to a small liberal art college called McDaniel College, which is only about an hour from here. During my undergraduate years, I worked in a genetics/developmental lab working on zebrafish blood development.



Photos courtesy of Luoluo Chen



Manuella Ribas Andrade

1st Year CMP Graduate Student

Hello! I'm Manuella Ribas Andrade, originally from Curitiba, Brazil but I have spent the last few years in Florida - so this year will probably be the first time I see snow! I graduated from Florida State University with my Bachelors of Science in Exercise Physiology in 2020 and my M.S in Exercise Physiology in 2021. I have neurovascular and neurological research foundation from my experience at the Mayo Clinic and the La Favor Lab at Florida State. My previous research project focused on the molecular mechanisms that regulate neurovascular dysfunction resulting from microgravity and cosmic radiation targeting sexual function. Other than science, I love watching sports events, going to different coffee shops and trying new restaurants in the city!



Photo courtesy of Manuella Ribas Andrade

Katie Sullivan

1st Year CMP Graduate Student



I'm Katie, and I grew up in Champaign, Illinois where I lived for most of my life and got my B.S. in Biochemistry from the University of Illinois. There I worked in Dr. Rutilio Fratti's lab studying the regulation of calcium and pH homeostasis through protein-lipid interactions in yeast vacuole fusion. After graduating, I moved to Chicago where I

worked in Dr. Philip Connell's lab investigating the non-canonical NF-kB pathway as a target for cancer therapy. During the start of the pandemic, I adopted my cat, Lucy, who's now almost two-years-old. I enjoy swimming, playing tennis, and hiking. Moving to Baltimore was really exciting, especially since living in Illinois, there were very



Photos courtesy of Katie Sullivan

little places to go hiking (and usually the closest to my hometown was a couple hours away).

iBiology: a great, free resource with courses and seminars for trainees

Zhaozhu Qiu, PhD

Faculty

How great it is to listen to the leading scientists in biology without traveling to conferences and attending seminars?! iBiology (www.ibiology.org), started from a lab at UCSF, is such a wonderful solution. The site holds a growing collection of free videos by scientists about research and topics related to science. There are research talks on nearly every topic in modern biology and a course on Microscopes and Imaging Analysis.

In 'Famous Discoveries' and 'Interviews', you can find out the stories behind many major breakthroughs, and can get a sense of the personalities, opinions, and perspectives of these scientists.

iBiology is also innovating professional development of graduate students and postdocs through a series of courses that address experimental planning, design, and communication. "Designing Effective Scientific Presentations" by Dr. Susan McConnell at Stanford University gives very helpful advice on preparing and presenting



Photos courtesy of iBiology.org

an effective scientific talk. It is a must-see video for everyone who wants to improve their next talk.

Click [here](#) to watch the "Designing Effective Scientific Presentations" course Dr. Qiu recommends!

Host: Dr. Wong
Location: Mountcastle Auditorium

Welcome!

Incoming CMP Students

Please give a warm welcome to first-year Cellular and Molecular Physiology students **Katie Sullivan**, **Manuella Andrade**, and **Luoluo Chen**, who will be joining us in this fall semester to begin their graduate student journeys in Physiology.

Contact Us

Newsletter Team

[Kelly Summers](#)
[Erica Avery](#)
[Monish Makena](#)
[Professor Rajini Rao](#)

Physiology Department

[Physiology Twitter @JHMIPhysiology](#)
[Physiology Slack Channel](#)
[Physiology Website](#)

They came, they researched, they defended

Graduate student sendoffs

Cat McCann will move on to postdoc at Wesleyan University in CT, continues being fan of copper

“I’m grateful to have been able to spend the last 7 years here and have such good relationships with people in the department. Being in one place so long (and so often lol) really makes it feel like home, and I’ll miss the familiar halls and quirks—but most of all, I’ll miss the community here and all the people who make it such a welcoming, supportive place.

As for next steps, I’m taking a postdoc position at Wesleyan University in CT in the lab of Dr. Tere Padilla-Benavides. I’m going to continue working on the regulation of copper homeostasis because of course I am lol!”

-Dr. Cat McCann, PhD



Cat McCann (left) reacts to the sidewalk chalk drawing of copper in a cell at Physiology Fun Day. -Photo courtesy of Svetlana Lutsenko

“I greatly appreciate all the work Cat has done over the years helping young/new members of the lab to learn the ropes. The high school student Masha Osipova, whom Cat mentored for almost two years, is now a senior at the University of Maryland majoring in Cell Biology and Molecular Genetics! Working with Cat had certainly influenced Masha’s interest in science. In Wesleyan, where Cat is heading for the postdoctoral training, there will be further opportunities not only continue the research in our favorite (best of all) copper but also train young students and thus shape a new generation of scientists. We all wish Cat a great success at this new stage of their life.”

-Dr. Svetlana Lutsenko, PhD

Awards and Accomplishments

Nathan Zaidman, postdoc in the Pluznick Lab, was awarded a Pathway to Independence Award (K99/R00) from the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases (NIDDK).

Publications

Blogs and Media

Recent graduate of the Reeves lab, Anna Moyer of the Human Genetics program, had a personal essay published in *Science Working Life* last month entitled [“Why I stopped hiding my chronic illness from my colleagues.”](#)

Anna Moyer was also featured in a [July HUB article](#), “Recipe for Independence” about the “Accessible Chef” blog she keeps which is home to over 300 recipes accessible to those with intellectual disabilities. Today the site receives over 75,000 visits monthly. Wow!

Manuscripts

A new paper from the Anderson lab, [CaMKII oxidation is a critical performance/disease trade-off acquired at the dawn of vertebrate evolution](#), was recently published in Nature Communications. Based on their investigations of CaMKII, they report that increased sensitivity to reactive oxygen species in diseases and aging is likely a trade-off for beneficial traits that fueled the early evolutionary success of vertebrates.

The newsletter needs YOU!

Interested in submitting a clip to the newsletter? Have a knack for writing? Got an idea you want to share? Any news you think we should highlight? Looking to beef up your CV? Or just have an announcement you want included? We’re looking for *your* contributions to the newsletter! Contact the newsletter team so you can be featured.