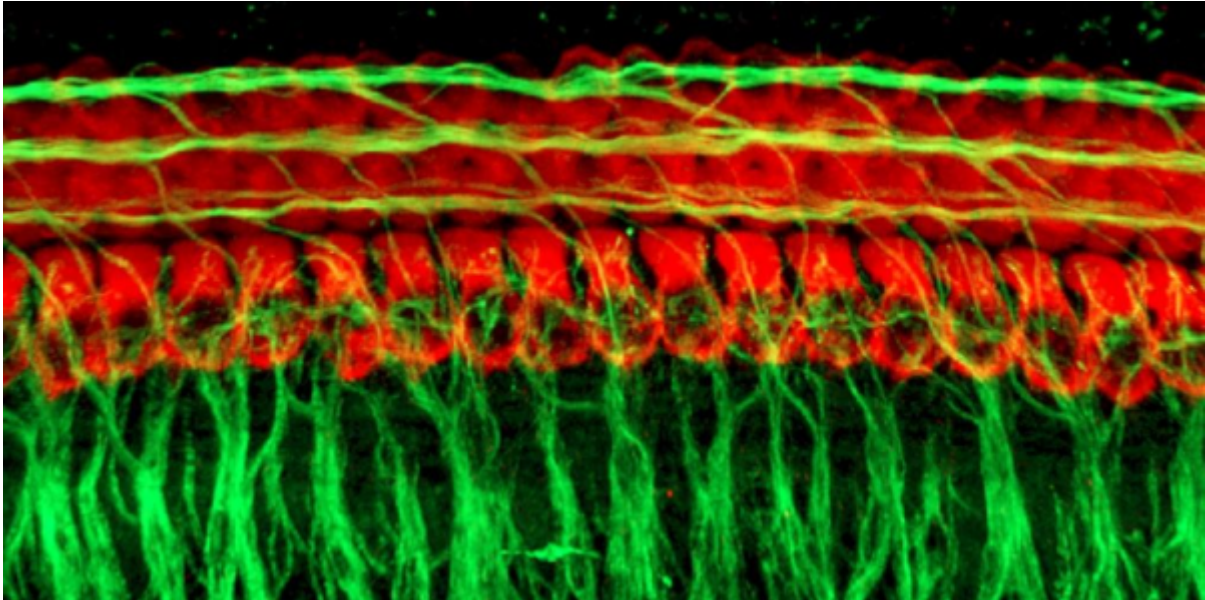


## **Division of Life Sciences Fall 2022**



*This image of a mouse cochlea shows the axon projections of the spiral ganglion neurons (green) and their targets, the hair cells (red). Image credit: Jihyun Kim, W.M. Keck Center for Collaborative Neuroscience*

### **Letter from the Dean:**

Welcome back, DLS colleagues! We are thrilled to be on campus experiencing the dynamic energy created by our collective in-person connections. In this newsletter, we have included updates on new accomplishments and developments within our Division, highlighting the broad achievements of our outstanding faculty, students, and staff. Two notable ones include the conferral of the prestigious Rita Allen Foundation Scholar award, with a special designation as the Milton E. Cassel Scholar, to Kevin Monahan, an Assistant Professor in the Department of Molecular Biology and Biochemistry (MBB), and the awarding of a Goldwater Scholarship to Sohaib Hassan, a senior majoring in Genetics. We are also delighted to welcome the following new faculty members to the Division: Yang Lyu (MBB), Santiago Cuesta (Cell Biology and Neuroscience), Erik Hummer [Kinesiology and Health (DKH)], Morgan Murray (DKH), Nadyne Venturin-Trindade (DKH), and Tara Cominski (Biological Sciences). We are excited at the prospect of their contributing a wealth of new ideas and excellence to the teaching and scholarship missions of DLS.

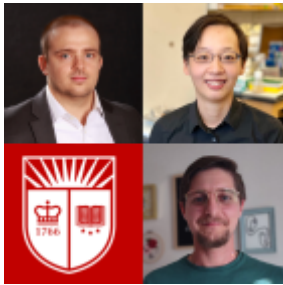
Have a wonderful Fall semester and we will check in again in Spring 2023!

Lori R. Covey  
Dean of Life Sciences



## Departmental Highlights

---



### Division of Life Sciences Administration

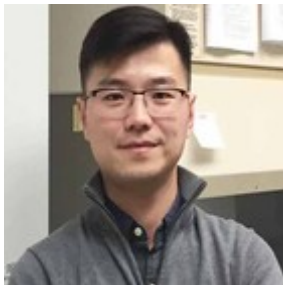
DLS is excited to welcome three new faculty members: [Yang Lyu](#), Molecular Biology, and Biochemistry; [Santiago Cuesta](#), Cell Biology and Biochemistry; and [Erik Hummer](#), Kinesiology and Health.



### Biological Sciences

DLS capped off its Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowship (SURF) program with a poster session. Thirty-seven outstanding SURF fellows presented the research they conducted over the summer.

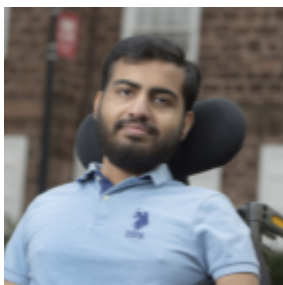
[Read More](#)



### Cell Biology and Neuroscience

Peng Jiang and his team of researchers identified a pivotal mechanism that could be a therapeutic target for Alzheimer's disease which afflicts millions and has no known cure.

[Read More](#)



### Genetics

Genetics major Sohaib Hassan was named a Goldwater Scholar, the most prestigious national undergraduate scholarship in the sciences, engineering, and mathematics. Having struggled with muscular dystrophy all his life, Hassan hopes to use bioinformatics to help others.

[Read More](#)



### Kinesiology and Health

Sara Campbell hosted a 4-H STEM Ambassador training, which works with educating NJ middle and high school students with hands-on activities. Now in its 14th year, the program supports first-generation college students in the pursuit of STEM careers.

[Read More](#)

### Molecular Biology and Biochemistry



Annika Barber received the Scialog: Microbiome, Neurology and Disease Collaborative Award. This competitive award recognizes highly innovative proposals with the potential to transform their fields of research.



### **Office for Diversity and Academic Success in the Sciences (ODASIS)**

ODASIS celebrated another successful year of partnering with Johnson & Johnson (J&J) and the New Brunswick Public School District to run the J&J Saturday Scholars program, which offers SAT preparation for high school juniors. Students scored well, showing the impact of support programs.

## **Additional Highlights**

---

### **DLS Administration**

DLS is excited to welcome new staff to the division: Isandra Alvarez and Enrique Ortiz (DLS Business Office); Crystal James and Marilyn Teutle (ODASIS); and Christine Centrone (Health Professions Office).

### **Biological Sciences**

Biological Sciences is excited to welcome Tara Cominski as an Assistant Teaching Professor. She comes to us with extensive teaching experience from St. Elizabeth University where she was an Associate Professor of Biology.

### **Cell Biology and Neuroscience**

Graduate student Diego Prado de Maio, working in the Covey Lab, received the Victor Stollar Award, to understand how manipulating the stability of the RNA coding for CD40L can affect the development of an autoimmune response.

### **Genetics**

A Rutgers study including Jinchuan Xing provides insight on the genetic cause of female infertility, allowing patients and clinicians to make better-informed decisions regarding reproductive choices and fertility treatment plans.

[Read more](#)

**Kinesiology and Health** Lisa Rossman-Murphy and Steven Malin head up a working group for the New Jersey Healthy Kids Initiative, which partners with local communities to promote lifestyles centered around physical activity and nutritional literacy.

**Molecular Biology and Biochemistry** Graduate student Yanira Gonzalez-Rodriguez, in the Bunting Lab, was selected as a Scientist Mentoring and Diversity Program for Biotechnology Scholar. This program, which pairs students with industry mentors, is organized by the International Center for Professional Development, which primarily benefits ethnically diverse and underrepresented groups.



## Connect with us!



You are receiving this email because one of your affiliations currently on file with Rutgers connects you to this school or unit. If you no longer have an affiliation with this Rutgers school or unit, you can unsubscribe from this mailing list [here](#).

School of Arts and Sciences | Rutgers University–New Brunswick, 77 Hamilton Street, New Brunswick, NJ 08901

Rutgers University Foundation, 335 George Street, Fourth Floor, New Brunswick, NJ 08901

Copyright © 2022 Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey, an equal opportunity, affirmative action institution. All rights reserved.