

September 2023 Newsletter



Faculty Spotlight



Dr. Aaron T. Smith
Bio-Inorganic Chemist

Research Interests:
Determining the structures and functions of metallo-proteins involved in health and human disease

Personal Factoid:
Loves all kinds of music and played in an orchestra for two decades

[myUMBC Bio](#)
[LabWebsite](#)

Upcoming Events

Aug. 29th (3 pm – 5pm; Events Center) – UMBC Convocation

Sept. 8th (3 pm – 5pm; Chemistry Building Courtyard and Tutorial Center) – Chemistry & Biochemistry Department Undergraduate Open House: All undergraduates welcome

Sept. 29th (1 pm – 6pm; Webex) – Chem & Biochem Virtual Graduate School Open House – Learn about graduate programs in the Dept.

Departmental Seminars

Seminars are held on Fridays at 12:00 in MEYR 120

Sept 8th: Dr. Peter Espenshade (JHU) – Targeting Lipid Metabolism in Pancreatic Cancer

Sept. 15th: Dr. Andrew Lowell (Va. Tech) – Complex Natural Products Synthesis

Sept. 22nd: Dr. Andrew Rappe (U Penn) – Theory Driven Discovery of Functional Materials

Sept. 29th: Dr. Xiaobo Zhong (U Conn) – Monitoring Drug Metabolism and Toxicity

Important Dates and Deadlines

Aug. 30th - 1st Day of Classes

Sept. 4th – Labor Day (University Closed)

Sept. 6th – Last Day to Waitlist for Classes

Sept. 15th – Last Day to Apply for Fall Graduation

Follow the Department on Twitter (@UMBCChemistry) or at <https://chemistry.umbc.edu>

Follow ACS on Instagram (@umbcacs)

Student Tip of the Month – “Get to know your instructors from the 1st day of class and keep interacting with them”

Did you know? – The Department offers a bachelor’s degree in Chemical Education for those interested in teaching K-12

Department News

- Koirala lab awarded \$1.8M grant from NIH to understand the role cap-independent genome translation plays in viral replication
- Bennett lab awarded \$750k grant from DTRA to design and optimize novel multiferroic microsensor materials
- Dr. Seneviratne named to Associate Advisory Board of the Journal of Mass Spectrometry
- Dr. Lisa Kelly promoted to the rank of Full Professor
- Drs. Sarah Bass and Marie Van Staveren promoted to the rank of Senior Lecturer
- PhD Students Alex Parades and Naba Das win poster awards at 73rd annual American Crystallographic Association Meeting

New Jobs, Internships and REU Listings

For an extended listing of recent job postings and internships; [click here](#)

- [FDA Pharmaceutical Analysis Fellowship](#)
- [Counterterrorism and Forensic Science Research Unit](#)
- [Oak Ridge Institute of Science and Education Internships](#)
- [Undergraduate and Graduate Programs at the FDA](#)
- [Searchable database of 650+ Summer Research Programs](#)

Join the Chem/BioChem Jobs group – email bmoravec@umbc.edu to receive regular job/internship updates & postings

Resources

- Need Help with Chemistry Courses? – In addition to reaching out to your instructor, did you know about:
 - Chemistry Tutorial Center (Sign up to meet w/ a tutor; MEYR 145)
 - UMBC Tutoring Center (Walk-ins welcome; Library 1st Floor)
 - Peer assisted study sessions w/ SI Pass (Academic Success Center)
- Interested in Undergraduate Research?
 - Visit the department’s website to see faculty’s research programs
 - Email/Call faculty with appealing research – can be taken for credit or just experience
- Interested in Pre-Professional Programs (pre-med, pre-dental, etc.) – Don’t miss out on advising
- Need help with your resume or interviewing advice? – Reach out to the UMBC Career Center