

October 2023 Newsletter



Faculty Spotlight



Dr. Minjung Kyoung
Analytical Chemist/ Bio-Physicist

Research Interests:

Understanding how cellular pathways are intertwined 4-dimensionally in live cells using light sheet microscopy

Personal Factoid:

I am a big fan of large objects that are yellow

[myUMBC Bio LabWebsite](#)

Student Tip of the Month – “It might seem scary sometimes, but visit your professor’s office hours and ask questions”

Did you know? – UMBC will host an inaugural Science Olympiad Tournament on Sat. Jan. 13th for all Maryland State High Schools where they will compete in a series of scientific challenges

Department News

- Department of Chemistry & Biochemistry faculty awarded over \$13M in new extramural research grants in 2023
- New UMBC student chapter of SPIE (oldest and largest optical society in the world) formed by chem/biochem students
- Prof. Mike Summers named next Editor-in-Chief of the *Journal of Molecular Biology*, beginning January 1st 2024
- Ptaszek group’s research on novel BODIPY compounds capable of ultrafast energy transfer highlighted on cover of *Chemistry A European Journal*
- PhD Student Anthony Casale is awarded a prestigious Army Educational Outreach Program (AEOP) graduate fellowship
- Alumnus Dr. Melissa Lucero (BS. Biochem '17; Ptaszek lab) receives the ACS Nobel Laureate Signature Award

Upcoming Events

Oct. 2nd (12 pm – 1pm; MEYR 256) – Chemistry and Biochemistry Council of Majors Meeting

Oct. 13th (6 pm – 10pm; Erickson Field) – Homecoming Carnival Night

Oct. 14th (Commons Walkway)– Visit ACS Council of Majors Table During Homecoming

Oct. 16th (12 pm – 1pm; MEYR 256) – Chemistry and Biochemistry Council of Majors Meeting

Departmental Seminars

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

Oct 13th: Dr. Chengpeng Chen (UMBC) – 3D-Printed Modular and Scalable Microfluidics to Investigate ECM’s Roles Modulating Cell Metabolome

Oct. 20th: Dr. Jinwei Zhang (NIH) – Recognition and Mimicry of the tRNA Fold

Oct. 27th: Dr. Darrin York (Rutgers) – How Ribozymes Work: Mechanistic Strategies of Natural and Artificially Engineered RNA Enzymes

Important Dates and Deadlines

Oct. 4th – Last Day to Add Independent Study Class

Oct. 4th – Last Day to Add an Internship Class

Oct. 30th – Spring 20224 Class Registration Begins

Nov. 8th – Last Day to Withdraw from a Class

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

Follow ACS on Instagram (@umbcacs)

New Jobs, Internships and REU Listings

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

- [Food Science Internship in the Combat Feeding Division](#)
- [Military Injury Biomechanics Research Internship](#)
- [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