

# November 2023 Newsletter



## Faculty Spotlight



**Dr. Marcin Ptaszek**  
Physical Organic Chemist

**Research Interests:**  
Developing photonic organic materials for bioimaging and solar energy conversion

**Personal Factoid:**  
I like hiking, Rubik's cubes and all sorts of card games

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

## Upcoming Events

**Nov. 1<sup>st</sup> (11:30 pm – 1pm; UC Ballroom)** – UMBC Majors Fair

**Nov. 13<sup>th</sup> (12 pm – 1pm; MEYR 256)** – Chemistry and Biochemistry Council of Majors Meeting

**Nov. 16<sup>th</sup> (12 pm – 1pm; Virtual)** – NIH “All of Us Research” Program Info Session

**Nov. 27<sup>th</sup> (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*

**Nov 3:** Dr. Carol Manhart (Temple) – DNA Spellchecking and the Mechanisms and Dynamics of the MutL Endonuclease

**Nov. 10:** Dr. Chengpeng Chen (UMBC) – 3D-Printed Modular and Scalable Microfluidics to Investigate ECM's Roles Modulating Cell Metabolome

**Nov. 17:** Dr. Ian Blair (U. Penn) – Mass Spectrometry-based Quantitative Proteomics to Inform Cardiovascular Therapeutic Development

## Important Dates and Deadlines

**Nov. 8<sup>th</sup>** – Last Day to Withdraw from a Class

**Nov. 23<sup>rd</sup> & 24<sup>th</sup>** – Thanksgiving Break

**Dec. 12<sup>th</sup>** – Last Day to Withdraw from all Classes

\* - Time to start applications for graduate school, professional schools and Internships

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

Follow ACS on Instagram (@umbcacs)

**Student Tip of the Month** – “Don't wait until the third exam to go speak with your professor about how to improve your grade”

**Did you know?** – The mean salary of Maryland chemists and biochemists (\$123,430/yr) is higher than in any other U.S. state according to 2022 data from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

## Department News

- Undergraduate students Sean Cooper and G. Amalthea Trobare win prestigious NASA fellowships
- Congratulations Drs. Monia Kabandana (Chen lab) and Connor Riahin (Rosenzweig lab) our most recent PhD graduates
- Drs. Tara Carpenter and Sarah Bass Awarded a Learning Analytics Mini-grant for Innovations in Chem 101
- Prof. Daniel-Onuta group receives funding from NSF Center for Development of Atomically Precise Semiconductor Materials
- An group's work on glucosomes featured on the cover of *ACS BIO & MED CHEM*
- Prof. Brian Cullum named 2024 Optica (formerly Optical Society of America) Fellow
- Alumnus Dr. Danielle Schmitt (Ph.D. '17; An lab) receives “NIH Director's New Innovator Award”

## New Jobs, Internships and REU Listings

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

- [FDA Fellowship on Detecting Food Adulterants](#)
- [DoD ELISA Researcher Bachelor's Level Position](#)
- [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](mailto: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 1<sup>st</sup> 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