

May 2026 Newsletter



Faculty Spotlight



Dr. Deepak Koirala

Associate Professor –
Biochemistry

Research Interests:

Structures and Mechanisms
of Viral Genome Translation
and Replication

Personal Factoid:

I Love Playing Soccer and
Spending Time with my
Family

[myUMBC Bio](#)

[Lab Webpage](#)

Student Tip of the Month – “Solve Textbook Questions Before Finals and Exams, Even if They Are Only Optional, it Will Help a Lot”

Did you know? – That the American Chemistry Council’s Plastic Resin Producers Have Set a Goal of 100% of All Plastic Packaging is Re-used, Recycled or Recovered by the Year 2040?

Department News

- Congratulations to our 2026 Graduating Senior and Faculty Excellence Undergraduate Awardees: Suzi Agyako-Wiredu, Gabriel Kengni, Severin Elbich, Megan Nguyen, Tyler Sadtler, Thomas Foulkes, Keven Schwanebeck and Stephen Shaner
- Congratulations to Haotian Wu (Kyoung Lab), Recipient of the Merck Graduate Fellowship for Data Science in the Life Sciences
- Congratulations to Dr. Kayry Segarra (LaCourse Lab) the newest PhD graduate from the Department
- Congratulations Dr. Allison Tracy, Recipient of the 2026 College of Natural and Mathematical Sciences (CNMS) Excellence in Teaching Award
- Dr. Joseph Bennett Named Molecular Sciences Software Institute (MoSSI) Faculty Fellow for 2026 – 2027 to Advance Computational Curriculum in Molecular Sciences

Upcoming Events

May 8 (Chemistry Courtyard; 1:00 pm – 2:45 pm) – Chemistry & Biochemistry Student Awards and Recognition Celebration

May 8 (3:00 – 5:00 pm; UC Ballroom) – CNMS Awards and Recognition Day

May 11 (5:00 - 8:00 pm; Skylight Room) – ACS Chem Club Annual Club Banquet

May 13 (all day; Chemistry Tutorial Center) – Chemistry & Biochemistry Study Day; Come Join Your Chemistry and Biochemistry Classmates to Study Together for Finals with Snacks

May 20 (10:00 am; Events Center) – Graduate Commencement

May 21 (3:00 pm; Events Center) – Undergraduate Commencement for CNMS and COEIT

Departmental Seminars

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

No Departmental Seminars are Scheduled for May 2026

Important Dates and Deadlines

May 12 – Last Day to Withdraw from all Courses

May 12 – Last Day of Classes

May 13 – Study Day

May 14 - 20 – Finals Week

May 21 – Undergraduate Commencement

Follow the Department at

<https://chemistry.umbc.edu>

To get on the ACS Chem/Biochem Club mailing list, email ACS_Chapter@umbc.edu

New Jobs, Internships and REU Listings

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

- [Seed School of Maryland – Secondary Science Teacher](#)
- [WES Pharma Inc – Chemist](#)
- [Johns Hopkins Applied Physics Lab – Synthetic Chemist](#)
- [Chem Pacific Corp – Organic Chemist \(Baltimore Office\)](#)
- [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