November 2026 Newsletter

Faculty Spotlight



Dr. Suliman Ayad
Assistant Teaching Professor – Organic Chemistry

Research Interests:
Mechanism-centric Organic Chemistry and Effective Science Communication

Personal Factoid:
I Collect Hobbies to Justify my Tool Collecting Addiction

myUMBC Bio Webpage

Student Tip of the Month – "Make sure you are planning ahead for summer internships and jobs and don't wait until the week before the deadline of graduation to start the applications"

Did you know? – That UMBC produces the largest number of B.S. biochemistry graduates per year of any public MD university?

Department News

- Heath Cho (high school researcher in Daniel Lab) wins 2nd place at ACS Project SEED poster competition for ACS of Washington D.C.
- Congratulations and Thank You to our 2026-2027 Undergraduate Advisory Board Members: Riley Gonzales, Naomi Nance, Aidan Chambers, Eric Schreiter-Zavala, Maria Brown, John van Wie and Jaden Soriano
- UMBC Hosting its 4th annual Science Olympiad Invitational on January 16th, with 23 different events, come join the fun and volunteer to help run an event and welcome the participants
- Prof. Aaron Smith's lab identifies potential new target to overcome antibiotic resistant infections
- Dr. Tiffany Gierasch publishes multi-institutional collaborative work on promoting student's sense of belonging in organic chemistry courses

Upcoming Events

Nov. 7 (9:00 am – 4 pm; Engineering Atrium) – Dept. of Chemistry & Biochemistry Undergraduate Research Symposium

Nov. 10 (4:30 pm – 6:30 pm; Skylight Room) – Intern Success Conference – Learn How to Land and Internship and Make the Most of It.

Nov. 16 (12:00 pm – 1:00 pm; MEYR 256 – ACS Chemistry/Biochemistry Club Meeting

Nov. 16 (12:00 – 1:00 pm; Virtual) – CNMS Career Pathways – Connect with Professionals and Alumni as They Discuss Career Paths and Share Tips

Nov. 30 (12:00 pm – 1:00 pm; MEYR 256 – ACS Chemistry/Biochemistry Club Meeting

Departmental Seminars

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

Nov. 13: Dr. John Clarke (U. Washington) – Unearthing Pharmacokinetic Risks of Botanical Natural Product-drug Interactions

Nov. 20: Dr. Marie-Christine Daniel (UMBC) – From Cancer Therapeutics to Photonics: The Power of Gold Nanostructures

New Jobs, Internships and REU Listings

For an extended listing of recent job postings and internships; click here

- Defense Health Agency – Interdisciplinary Physical Scientist
- Thermo Fisher – Protein Analytical Scientist
- Cepham Life Sciences – Laboratory Technician Biosciences
- 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

Important Dates and Deadlines

Nov. 02 – Last Day to Withdraw from a Course

Nov. 02 – Last Day to Change to S/U Grade Option

Nov. 25 - 27 – Thanksgiving Break

*** - Time to Start Applications for Graduate School, Professional School and Summer Internships**

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

Follow the Department at https://chemistry.umbc.edu

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