

2021 Graduate Recognition

College of Biological Sciences Graduate Programs &
University of Minnesota Medical School Basic Sciences Graduate Programs

Celebrating our graduates from fall 2019 through spring 2021.



UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

REMARKS

Valery Forbes

Dean, College of Biological Sciences
Professor, Department of Ecology, Evolution and Behavior

Jakub Tolar

Dean, Medical School
Vice President for Clinical Affairs
Distinguished McKnight Professor, Department of Pediatrics

CONFERRAL OF DEGREES

The Honorable Ken Powell

University of Minnesota Board of Regents

[Watch the video of remarks and conferral of degrees.](#)

ABOUT THIS PROGRAM. *Every effort is made to ensure the accuracy of this program. Please note that the student's transcript, rather than the commencement program, serves as the student's official record.*

COLLEGE OF BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES

DEGREE CANDIDATES

MASTER'S DEGREES

BIOCHEMISTRY, MOLECULAR BIOLOGY AND BIOPHYSICS

Jinhua Wang

Advisors: Aaron Goldstrohm and Zigang Dong

ECOLOGY, EVOLUTION AND BEHAVIOR

Hongyu Li

Advisor: Mark Bee

MICROBIAL ENGINEERING

Nathan Hoekstra

Advisor: Mikael Elias

Kevin Ramrattan

Advisor: Sebastian Behrens

Aaron Pauleon

Advisor: Sebastian Behrens

Abigail Sarne

Advisor: Kathryn Fixen

Marissa Quijano

Advisor: Brett Barney

Lambros Tassoulas

Advisor: Larry Wackett

Nisha Vishwanathan

Advisor: Satoshi Ishii

MOLECULAR, CELLULAR, DEVELOPMENTAL BIOLOGY AND GENETICS

Anirudh Gautam Mannava

Advisor: Melissa Gardner

Jeffrey Barcus

Advisor: Laura Gammill

Michael Waltman

Advisor: Lihsia Chen

MOLECULAR, CELLULAR, DEVELOPMENTAL BIOLOGY AND GENETICS – GENETIC COUNSELING

Samera Al-Najjar

Advisor: Ian MacFarlane

Carolyn Kalscheur

Advisor: Krista Redlinger-Grosse

Carly Allen-Tice

Advisor: Heather Zierhut

Rachel (Simon) Keppers

Advisor: Bonnie LeRoy

Grace Bronken

Advisor: Heather Zierhut

Greg Marsh

Advisor: Ian MacFarlane

Nicole Cronin

Advisor: Heather Zierhut

Jimena Prado

Advisor: Bonnie LeRoy

Alexis Dammann

Advisor: Ian MacFarlane

Amelia Richardson

Advisor: Krista Redlinger-Grosse

Kahlen Darr

Advisor: Bonnie LeRoy

Jessica Ruedy

Advisor: Heather Zierhut

Amanda de Leon

Advisor: Bonnie LeRoy

Mrunmayee Shete

Advisor: Heather Zierhut

Jennine Deckert

Advisor: Krista Redlinger-Grosse

Jenna Soukup

Advisor: Heather Zierhut

Maribeth Golm

Advisor: Krista Redlinger-Grosse

Seth Stafki

Advisor: Ian MacFarlane

DeVon Hunter-Schlichting

Advisor: Heather Zierhut

Bridget Winchester

Advisor: Heather Zierhut

PLANT AND MICROBIAL BIOLOGY

Kristin Grandt

Advisor: Neil Olszewski

DOCTORAL DEGREES

BIOCHEMISTRY, MOLECULAR BIOLOGY AND BIOPHYSICS

Eric Aird

Advisor: Wendy Gordon

David Nedrud

Advisor: Daniel Schmidt

Willow Coyote Maestas

Advisors: Daniel Schmidt and Chad Myers

D'anna Nelson

Advisor: James Ervasti

Elizabeth Fay

Advisor: Ryan Langlois

Lev Ostrer

Advisor: Arkady Khodursky

Szu Hsu

Advisor: Michael Smanski

Lien Phung

Advisor: David Thomas

Adak Karamafrooz

Advisor: David Thomas

Susanna Stroik

Advisor: Eric Hendrickson

Wendy Leung

Advisor: Anja Bielinsky

Kassidy Tompkins

Advisor: Wendy Gordon

Chao Li

Advisor: Carrie Wilmot

Caitlin Walker

Advisor: David Bernlohr

Megan McCarthy

Advisor: David Thomas

Hsin Sung Yeh

Advisor: Jeongsik Yong

Fredaria Miller

Advisor: Michael Freeman

Alina Zdechlik

Advisors: Wendy Gordon and Daniel Schmidt

ECOLOGY, EVOLUTION AND BEHAVIOR

Noah Gettle

Advisor: Michael Travisano

Alexander Harkness

Advisors: Emma Goldberg and Yaniv Brandvain

Amanda Gorton

Advisors: David Moeller and Peter Tiffin

Tyler Imfeld

Advisor: Keith Barker

Siddharth Iyengar
Advisors: Elizabeth Borer and Eric
Seabloom

Kaitlin Kimmel
Advisors: Forest Isbell and David Tilman

Rachel King
Advisors: Peter Reich and Sarah Hobbie

Megan Kobiela
Advisor: Emilie Snell-Rood

Mayank Kohli
Advisors: Elizabeth Borer and Eric
Seabloom

Rachel Olzer
Advisor: Marlene Zuk

Melissa Pastore
Advisors: Sarah Hobbie and Peter Reich

Maria Cristina Portales Reyes
Advisor: Forest Isbell

Craig See
Advisors: Sarah Hobbie and Peter
Kennedy

Jennifer Teshera-Levey
Advisor: Jeannine Cavender-Bares

Pu Wang
Advisor: Michael Travisano

MOLECULAR, CELLULAR, DEVELOPMENTAL BIOLOGY AND GENETICS

Ashley Arthur
Advisor: Margaret Titus and Melissa
Gardner

Paul Atkins
Advisor: Daniel Voytas

Bryant Keller
Advisor: David Largaespada

Ryan Nasti
Advisor: Daniel Voytas

David Owen
Advisor: Michael Farrar

Sridhar Selvaraj
Advisor: Rita Perlingeiro

PLANT AND MICROBIAL BIOLOGY

John Benning
Advisor: David Moeller

Shan Kothari
Advisor: Jeannine Cavender-Bares

Praphapan (Beera) Lasin
Advisors: John Ward and Neil Olszewski

Michael Maher
Advisor: Daniel Voytas

Claire Milsted
Advisor: Changbin Chen

Jaclyn Noshay
Advisor: Nathan Springer

Sean O'Mara
Advisors: H. Corby Kistler and Kathryn
Bushley

Tony Schmidt
Advisor: Clay Carter

Noah Strom
Advisor: Kathryn Bushley

Jason Thomas
Advisors: Clay Carter and M. David Marks

Molly Tillmann
Advisor: Jerry Cohen

MEDICAL SCHOOL BASIC SCIENCES

DEGREE CANDIDATES

MASTER'S DEGREES

MEDICAL PHYSICS

Connor Benson
Advisors: Parham Alaei and Pierre-
Francois Van de Moortele

Samuel Drehmel
Advisor: Eric Ehler

Taylor Froehlich
Advisor: Michael Garwood

Nur Zulkamain
Advisor: Yoichi Watanabe and Yigitcan
Eryaman

NEUROSCIENCE

Emily Semaya
Advisor: Cheryl Olman

PHARMACOLOGY

Duha Alshareef
Advisor: Subree Subramanian

Jingyu Cheng
Advisor: Colin Campbell

Dagny Heimisdottir
Advisor: Marco Pravetoni

Tatum Holt
Advisor: Marco Pravetoni

Robert Hughes
Advisor: George Wilcox

Marvis Monteiro
Advisor: Douglas Yee

Alexander Noll
Advisor: George Wilcox

Devin Orchard
Advisor: Timothy O'Connell

Emma Wille
Advisor: Sade Spencer

Xiaoyin Zhang
Advisor: Colin Campbell

REHABILITATION SCIENCE

Mia Larson
Advisor: Manda Keller-Ross

Tanjila Nawshin
Advisor: Bernadette Gillick

STEM CELL BIOLOGY

Azhar Abdukadir
Advisor: Walter Low

Tianxia Lan
Advisor: Beau Webber

Jeyaram Damodoran
Advisor: James Dutton

Yoonkyu (Ryan) Lee
Advisor: Susan Keirstead

Noah Denman
Advisor: James Dutton

Charles (Humphrey) Pruett
Advisor: Jakub Tolar

Abheepsa Gupta
Advisor: Nobuaki Kikyo

Swathi Radha
Advisor: Walter Low

Blake Johnson
Advisor: James Dutton

Anala Shetty
Advisor: Walter Low

Hanna Thueson
Advisor: Beau Webber

DOCTORAL DEGREES

INTEGRATIVE BIOLOGY AND PHYSIOLOGY

Kadambari Chandra Shekar
Advisor: Demetri Yannopoulos

Amber Lockridge
Advisor: Emilyn Alejandro

Forum Klaassen Kamdar
Advisors: Daniel Garry and Stephen Katz

Tatyana Meyers
Advisor: DeWayne Townsend

Carolina Ortiz Cordero
Advisor: Rita Perlingeiro

MEDICAL PHYSICS

Jamison Brooks
Advisor: Susanta Hui

Xueyan Tang
Advisor: Michael Garwood

Brent Rogers
Advisors: Clara Ferreira and Parham Alaei

Myung Kyun Woo
Advisors: Kamil Ugurbil and Gregor Adriany

MICROBIOLOGY, IMMUNOLOGY, AND CANCER BIOLOGY

Lisa Fazzino
Advisor: William Harcombe

erina Robinson
Advisor: Larry Wackett

Emily (Irey) Jesser
Advisor: Kaylee Schwertfeger

Oscar Salgado Barrero
Advisor: Kris Hogquist

Seungeun Lee
Advisor: Kris Hogquist

Frances Sjaastad
Advisor: Thomas Griffith

Sarah Lucas
Advisor: Ryan Hunter

Christopher Tucker
Advisor: Brian Fife

Carlos Perez
Advisor: Carol Lange

Dylan White
Advisor: Anna Tischler

Emily Pomeroy
Advisor: Branden Moriarity

Sathi Wijeyesinghe
Advisor: David Masopust

Xianda Zhao
Advisor: Subree Subramanian

NEUROSCIENCE

Amanda Barks
Advisor: Michael Georgieff

Jennifer Cook
Advisor: Lucy Vulchanova

Elias Boroda
Advisor: Kelvin Lim

Austin Ferro
Advisors: Marija Cvetanovic and Alfonso Araque

Brendan Hasz
Advisor: David Redish

Justin Lines
Advisor: Alfonso Araque

Janna Moen
Advisor: Anna Lee

Morgan Newhoff
Advisor: Karen Mesce

Min-yoon Park
Advisor: Matthew Chafee

Rebecca Speltz Paiz
Advisors: Donald Simone and George Wilcox

Cody Walters
Advisor: David Redish

Zhe Wang
Advisors: Benjamin Hayden and Sarah Heilbronner

Michael (Seng Bum) Yoo
Advisor: Benjamin Hayden

Mariah Wu
Advisor: Stanley Thayer

Zachary Zeidler
Advisor: Esther Krook-Magnusson

PHARMACOLOGY

Abdulaziz Almotlak
Advisor: Jill Siegfried

Allison Anderson
Advisor: Kevin Wickman

Ben Brian
Advisor: Tanya Freedman

Hallie Hintz
Advisor: Aaron LeBeau

Lisa Kim
Advisor: Cheuk Leung

Eric Lake
Advisor: Nicholas Levinson

Baovi Vo
Advisor: Kevin Wickman

Xinwen Zhang
Advisor: Stanley Thayer

REHABILITATION SCIENCE

Jennifer Hutson
Advisors: LeAnn Snow and Peggy Martin

Joyceann Trost
Advisor: Dawn Lowe

About the University of Minnesota

The University of Minnesota, ranked among the nation's top public universities, reflects the state's deep commitment to education. It is almost alone among universities in the United States in its combination of three characteristics: an international research university, a land-grant institution with a strong tradition of education and public service, and a metropolitan academic community.

The Twin Cities campus, the University's largest campus, is made up of 17 colleges and offers the full range of academic and professional degrees. A comprehensive campus in Duluth offers undergraduate and graduate programs. The Morris campus offers a four-year liberal arts program. Crookston offers associate and baccalaureate degrees in technical, career-oriented programs. Rochester, formally established in 2006, is the newest campus and serves the academic and professional needs of southeastern Minnesota.

The University of Minnesota was founded as a preparatory school in 1851, seven years before the territory of Minnesota became a state. Financial problems forced the school to close during the Civil War, but with the help of Minneapolis entrepreneur John Sargent Pillsbury, it reopened in 1867. Known as the father of the University, Pillsbury, who was a University regent, state senator, and governor, used his influence to establish the school as the official recipient of public support from the Morrill Land-Grant Act, designating it as Minnesota's land-grant university.

William Watts Folwell was inaugurated as the first president of the University on December 22, 1869. In 1873, two students received the first bachelor of arts degrees. In 1888, the first doctor of philosophy degree was awarded. The Duluth campus joined the University in 1947. The Morris campus opened in 1960, the Crookston campus in 1966, and the Rochester campus in 2006.

One of the nation's largest schools, the U offers baccalaureate, master's, and doctoral degrees in virtually every field—from medicine to business, law to liberal arts, and science and engineering to architecture. Enrollment in fall 2017 was 67,949 on all five campuses. Enrollment was 51,848 on the Twin Cities campus, 11,168 at Duluth, 2,834 at Crookston, 1,627 at Morris, and 472 at Rochester.

University alumni include several Nobel Prize winners, a former chief justice of the United States, two former vice presidents, the heads of Fortune 500 companies,

pioneers in medicine, two astronauts, civil rights leaders, top journalists, and men and women who have achieved distinction in every field.

Alumni and their families and friends are always welcome at the University. Alumni are invited to continue their relationship with the University through the University of Minnesota Alumni Association and its college associations.

Board of Regents

Current as of May 25, 2021

Mary A. Davenport

James T. Farnsworth

Douglas A. Huebsch

Ruth E. Johnson

Mike O. Kenyanya

Janie S. Mayeron

David J. McMillan

Kendall J. Powell

Darrin M. Rosha

Steven A. Sviggum

Kodi J. Verhalen

Administration

Joan Gabel, President

Rachel Croson, Executive Vice President and Provost

Jakub Tolar, Vice President for Clinical Affairs, Health Sciences and Dean, Medical School

Matt Kramer, Vice President for University and Government Relations

Christopher Cramer, Vice President for Research

Michael Goh, Vice President for Equity and Diversity

Myron Frans, Senior Vice President for Finance and Operations

Ken Horstman, Interim Vice President for Human Resources

Bernard Gulachek, Vice President for Information Technology and Chief Information Officer

Mike Berthelsen, Vice President for University Services