

BBS Symposium 2020

Hindsight is 20/20 Panel Participants

Chloe Cheng



I am a second year BBS graduate student in Dr. Joeva Barrow's laboratory. with a concentration in Metabolism. As a graduate student, my current research project focuses on investigating candidates that may repress the thermogenic response in obese patients under thermoneutral conditions. I grew up in the Bay Area and earned my B.S. in Biochemistry at UCLA in 2018 so I love the science and the sun very much. Outside of the lab, I enjoy paddleboarding, running, reading, playing video games/ watching anime, spending time with friends and trying new food places.

Mason Jager



I am a third year "DVM seeking PhD" in the BBS program with a concentration in Immunology and Infectious Disease. In the lab of Dr. Gerlinde Van de Walle, I study the pathogenesis of a recently discovered virus that can cause fatal hepatitis in horses. Currently, I'm focusing on the role of viral replication dynamics in disease progression and whether environmental factors can influence disease severity. I previously earned a BS in pathobiology from the University of Connecticut, a DVM from Cornell University, and board certification in veterinary anatomic pathology. I really enjoy helping other graduate students with interpreting their histopathology, so feel free to reach out any time! Outside of the lab I enjoy learning new outdoor activities, renovating my old house, and playing video games



Ellie Larson

I am a fifth year "Immunology and Infectious Disease" student in the lab of Dr. Bettina Wagner. The Wagner Lab is an equine immunology lab and I specifically study immune mechanisms of equine allergy. I also develop anti-equine monoclonal antibodies to broaden the available immunology reagents for equine research. I am from Bellingham, WA and received my undergraduate degree from Whitworth University. Outside of science, I love to do anything and everything outdoors: kayaking, swimming and grilling in the summer, and xc skiing and baking cookies in the winter.



James Miller

I am a second-year graduate student in the Biomedical & Biological Sciences (BBS) PhD program with a concentration in Molecular and Cellular Medicine and a minor in Stem Cell Biology. I received my B.S. in Biology from the University of Maine in 2016. Following graduation, I worked for three years in coastal Maine biomedical laboratories before applying to Cornell in Fall 2019. I am now a member of the Van de Walle lab located at the Baker Institute for Animal Health.

My research is focused on understanding how microRNAs (miRNAs), small noncoding RNAs that post-transcriptionally regulate gene expression, influence mammary stem cell (MaSC) potential and proliferation across multiple species including dogs, horses, rats, and humans. It is our hope that by understanding these genetics mechanisms, it may provide insights into mammary cancer pathogenesis and prevention.



Danielle Sosnicki

Danielle is a third year BBS student in Zoology and Wildlife Conservation. As a member of the Travis lab her research focuses on lipid regulation of the voltage-gated calcium channel $Ca_v2.3$ in sperm, as well as functions of the epididymis and processes involved in sperm maturation. She plans to use knowledge gained about sperm function and maturation to improve reproductive methods used in wildlife. She previously earned a BS in Animal and Veterinary Sciences from the University of Maine and a MS in Conservation Medicine from Tufts University.



Cybelle Tabilas

I am currently a fifth-year graduate student from the Sacramento Valley of California. I am in the Rudd lab and here, I am studying how the microbial environment and post-thymic maturation alter T cell behavior and fate. Though, I'm not a fan of the brutal Ithaca winters, the summers are amazing and almost make up for the harsh winters. When I'm not in lab, I like to bake/cook, crochet, watch bachelor franchise shows with friends



Jon Villanueva

I am currently a fourth-year graduate student in the field of Bio-medical and Biological Sciences (BBS) with a co-mentorship between Dr. Charles Danko and Dr. Praveen Sethupathy. Prior to coming to Cornell, I earned my B.S. from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. My current research focuses on investigating how different combinations of somatic mutations affect gene regulation (miRNA and enhancer activity) in a colon cancer context. The goal of this project is to investigate the mechanisms by which mutation status promotes inter-tumor heterogeneity in an effort to advance precision medicine for colon cancer patients.