

Fall 2019

## Dean's Report - Fall 2019

Marina K. Holz

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Welcome to the Graduate School of Basic Medical Sciences (GSBMS) at New York Medical College. This fall, we are excited to welcome our new and returning students – including the first cohort of our newest program, M.S. in Clinical Laboratory Sciences. At present, approximately 150 students are pursuing Ph.D., M.D./Ph.D., M.S., or M.D./M.S. degrees in several scientific disciplines – biochemistry and molecular biology, cell biology, microbiology and immunology, pathology, pharmacology or physiology.

We have made several changes to our programs to adapt them to the evolving needs of our students. For example, we removed the GRE as a Ph.D. admissions requirement and revised the coursework and qualifying exams to be more uniform across our Ph.D. programs. We updated our curricula to prepare our graduates for a variety of careers in academia, scientific publishing, industry and government. We also introduced important policy changes, such as vacation and parental leaves for Ph.D. students.

Our Master's programs prepare students for a variety of in-demand careers. In addition to our new M.S. in Clinical Laboratory Sciences, we updated our Professional M.S. Program in Biomedical Science and Management, which is an excellent opportunity for students interested in careers as researchers and managers in industry. We streamlined the requirements for graduates who wish to continue to the Ph.D. program and made several guaranteed interview agreements with M.D., D.O. and D.P.M. programs for our Master's students who are interested in careers in medicine.

The GSBMS graduate faculty is a community of approximately 90 scientists and educators, most of whom direct active, externally-funded, state-of-the-art research programs. Last year, we welcomed several new scientists whose labs focus on diabetes, allergic disease, breast cancer and vascular pharmacology, and complement research in other NYMC labs that focus on several areas including cardiovascular disease, neuroscience, cancer, infectious diseases, regulation of gene expression, cell signaling and metabolic disease. There are ample opportunities for students to actively participate in these research projects, and our faculty are student-friendly and engaging.

I hope that you all achieve academic and scientific success in the 2019-20 academic year.

**Marina K. Holz, Ph.D.**  
Dean, Graduate School of Basic Medical Sciences  
Professor of Cell Biology and Anatomy



## Inaugural Clinical Laboratory Sciences Class Arrives at NYMC's Graduate School of Basic Medical Sciences



July 8th began the official start of the Master of Science Clinical Laboratory Sciences (CLS) program in the Graduate School of Basic Medical Sciences. Only offered in two other colleges in New York State, the CLS program provides a unique medical opportunity, qualifying students for a professional career in medical and pharmaceutical laboratories, performing diagnostic laboratory tests to help monitor treatments and uncover new disease states. Ultimately, these medical professionals will work alongside physicians, using computer technology to improve patient care and treatment outcomes.

"After four years of planning, the program has started with seven highly enthusiastic and qualified students. We are very thankful for the help we have received from the staff of the Westchester Medical Center laboratory and we look forward to continuing to work with them," said Carol A. Carbonaro, Ph.D. '89, SM, MLSCM (ASCP), CLS program director.



## GSBMS Welcomes New Master's and Ph.D. Students



### Accelerated Master's Program (AMP)

The Graduate School of Basic Medical Sciences (GSBMS) welcomed the newest Ph.D. candidates and Master's students to orientation activities including a celebratory barbecue to kick off the academic year. Students, faculty and staff shared burgers, hot dogs and conversation as they got to know each other before the start of classes. This year's AMP class is the largest in the program's history coinciding with an increase in overall enrollment in the GSBMS - the highest number of incoming students in over ten years. Best of luck to all of our new students!

## New York Medical College Celebrates 160th Graduating Class

New York Medical College's 160<sup>th</sup> Commencement exercises were held on May 22, 2019 at Carnegie Hall in New York City. NYMC awarded 414 degrees in total including 200 doctor of medicine (M.D.) degrees, 42 doctor of physical therapy (D.P.T.) degrees, eight doctor of philosophy (Ph.D.) degrees, 74 master of science (M.S.) degrees, 84 master of public health (M.P.H.) degrees and six doctor of public health (Dr.P.H.) degrees to the Class of 2019.



scientific officer of Regeneron. Over the last 30 years, he has worked to build Regeneron into a leading science-driven biotech company. The Regeneron Genetics Center, in a world-leading biotech innovation effort, has already sequenced the exomes of more than 500,000 people.

Driven to inspire our nation's young talent to pursue scientific careers through numerous STEM and internship programs, under Dr. Yancopoulos' leadership, Regeneron has taken on sponsorship of the nation's oldest and most prestigious high school science competition, formerly sponsored by Westinghouse and Intel, and now known as the Regeneron Science Talent Search.

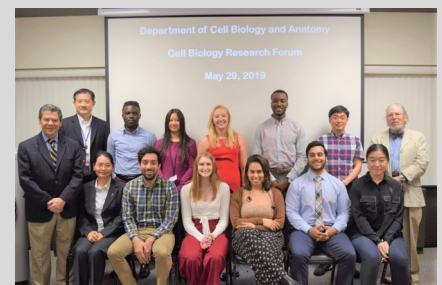


Internationally recognized leader in biotech innovation, George D. Yancopoulos, M.D., Ph.D., delivered the Commencement address. Dr. Yancopoulos is the co-founder, president and chief

George D. Yancopoulos, M.D., Ph.D.

## Department of Cell Biology and Anatomy Hosts Annual Research Forum

A wealth of research projects by high school students, undergraduates, M.S., Ph.D., and M.D./Ph.D. candidates and postdoctoral fellows were presented at the annual Cell Biology Research Forum on May 29. Judges Arthur J.L. Cooper, Ph.D., D.Sc., professor of biochemistry and molecular biology; Esther L. Sabban, Ph.D., professor of biochemistry and molecular biology; and Michael S. Wolin, Ph.D., professor of physiology; evaluated the student research and their communication and presentation skills.



Students and Faculty at the Annual Research Forum

## New York Medical College Announces Guaranteed Interview Agreement with the Touro University California College of Osteopathic Medicine

In March 2019, the Graduate School of Basic Medical Sciences (GSBMS) at New York Medical College (NYMC) partnered with the Touro University California College of Osteopathic Medicine (TUCOM-CA) to support continued medical education for students. Through the agreement, current students or graduates of the GSBMS' Accelerated Master's Program, two-year discipline-based Master's programs within each of our basic sciences departments and the two-year interdisciplinary Basic Medical Sciences Master's Program who seek admission to TUCOM-CA will be guaranteed an interview if they meet certain academic performance benchmarks.

"As educators, one of our primary goals is to provide students with the tools and resources needed to reach their full potential and achieve success in pursuit of their career goals," said Marina K. Holz, Ph.D., dean, Graduate School of Basic Medical Sciences, NYMC. "We are thrilled about this new partnership with TUCOM-CA, which will provide a path to medical studies for bright, determined students who have a record of academic achievements here at New York Medical College."



# GSBMS Hosts the Eighth Annual Summer Trainees in Academic Research (STAR) Program Featuring Poster Presentations



## GSBMS' Largest STAR Program to Date

The Willner Lobby of the Medical Education Center and the Basic Sciences Building hallway were overflowing with poster presentations by participants of the Eighth Annual Summer Trainees in Academic Research (STAR) Program, at the Student Research Forum on August 8. The day was the culmination of a summer of mentored scientific investigations for 75 high school and undergraduate students who also had the opportunity to participate in lectures on current topics in science, discuss and evaluate scientific literature during the STAR Journal Club, develop communication and presentation skills to convey their research and gain valuable feedback from a judging panel made up of students, postdocs and faculty.

"As a community outreach program, the STAR program not only reflects the quality and values of New York Medical College as an institution, it also continues to fulfill our most important role—to educate," said Austin M. Guo, Ph.D., director of the STAR Program and assistant professor of pharmacology. "I am inspired by the achievements that our STAR students have accomplished this summer and I am grateful to the 40 faculty mentors who dedicated their time and efforts to the program."

## Marina K. Holz, Ph.D., One of Ten Medical Professionals Honored This Year for Community Service, Innovative Research and Academic Leadership



Marina K. Holz, Ph.D., the dean of the Graduate School of Basic Medical Sciences at New York Medical College (NYMC), was honored by *Westchester Magazine* as a 2019 Westchester County "Healthcare Hero." Dr. Holz was selected along with nine other individuals for her work in community service, innovative research and leadership in the local Westchester medical community.

Dr. Holz was featured in the May 2019 issue of *Westchester Magazine* and honored at a celebratory luncheon.

"Dr. Holz joined NYMC at the beginning of the fall 2018 semester, but has already made a significant impact on our school," said Edward C. Halperin, M.D., M.A., chancellor and chief executive officer. "From her extraordinary work in cancer research to her commitment to mentoring and training the next generation of biomedical researchers, the Westchester community has much to gain from Dr. Holz."

"*Westchester Magazine*'s 'Healthcare Heroes' represent the best medical professionals in our community and I am honored to be included in this list of talent," said Dr. Holz. "I look forward to continuing my work in Westchester and continuing to serve this community."

## Faculty Spotlight: Tetyana Kobets, M.D., M.S.P.H.



Tetyana Kobets, M.D., M.S.P.H., assistant professor of pathology was recently appointed assistant dean for Ph.D. programs in the Graduate School of Basic Medical Sciences. Dr. Kobets who joined our faculty in 2014, conducts research focused on the use of *in ovo* models for assessment of genotoxic potential and other adverse effects of environmental chemicals. She has co-authored 21 peer-reviewed publications and two book chapters, has received numerous awards from several professional societies and serves on the Genetic Toxicology Association's Board of Directors.

Her research interests include environmental and molecular toxicology as well as molecular biology of cancer, including epigenetic and genomic mechanisms of chemical carcinogenesis. In her free time, she expresses her lifelong passion for music by playing the piano and enjoys reading, especially detective stories, fantasy and sci-fi novels and mythology.

## Alumni Profile: Tim O'Connell, Ph.D.



GSBMS alumnus, Tim O'Connell, Ph.D. '18 had planned to become a doctor, but changed the focus of his education to research after losing his father to cancer. Earning an M.S. in cell and molecular biology, he worked for several years in the biotech industry, conducting drug discovery research, while making plans to eventually return to school for a Ph.D. Tim earned his Ph.D. at NYMC in 2018, and set up The Bart O'Connell Cancer Research Award in his father's memory to encourage students to conduct cancer research. As he says, "Most charities are designed to raise awareness but I really wanted to start something that encouraged and rewarded action."



# NEW YORK MEDICAL COLLEGE

A MEMBER OF THE Touro College and University System

## Graduate School of Basic Medical Sciences

Whether a student aims to discover the next life-changing drug or vaccine, investigate the basic principles of biology, educate the future generation of researchers or manage a science-focused non-profit, we offer M.S., Ph.D. and M.D./Ph.D. programs to meet their goal. Our Accelerated Master's Program offers two years of coursework in just one; and graduates of this program have a distinct advantage when applying to medical school, enjoying an acceptance rate of 85 percent. Our two-year M.S. programs offer options for research training, non-research thesis or project-based internships in industry. The newly launched Biomedical Science and Management Master's track is designed for students interested in pursuing careers in the pharmaceutical, biotechnology, or other biomedical science industries – or in the government and not-for-profit sectors. A new Master of Science in Clinical Laboratory Sciences program trains professionals to work in medical or pharmaceutical laboratories. Our Integrated Ph.D. program focuses on core scientific knowledge and the interrelatedness of the basic sciences while conducting original laboratory research.



# GSBMS Facts and Figures

**130** STUDENTS  
(As of Fall 2018)

### Academic Programs:

- M.S. Interdisciplinary Basic Medical Sciences (Traditional and Accelerated)
- M.S. and Ph.D. in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology
- M.S. and Ph.D. in Cell Biology
- M.S. and Ph.D. in Microbiology and Immunology
- M.S. and Ph.D. in Pathology
- M.S. and Ph.D. in Pharmacology
- M.S. and Ph.D. in Physiology
- Biomedical Science and Management Master's in six disciplines
- M.S. in Clinical Laboratory Sciences
- Dual degree program  
— M.D./Ph.D. with the NYMC School of Medicine

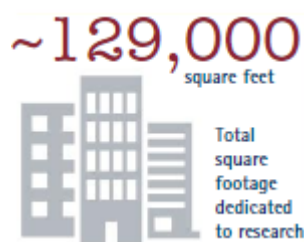
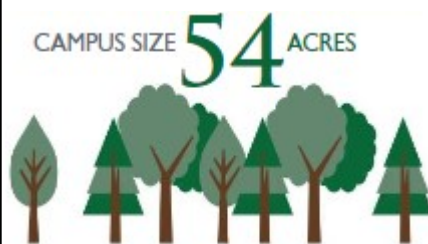
Number of GSBMS Faculty: 97

GSBMS Tuition: \$1,165 per

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[www.nymc.edu/graduate-school-of-basic-medical-sciences-gsbms/](http://www.nymc.edu/graduate-school-of-basic-medical-sciences-gsbms/)



**60% FEMALE**  
**40% MALE**

### GSBMS Diversity Numbers:

- 25% of GSBMS students self-reported as part of a group currently underrepresented in the sciences
- GSBMS students self-reported as members of the following groups:

