

Fall 2020

Dean's Report - Fall 2020

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New York Medical College

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Dear GSBMS Students, Faculty and Staff,

We are beginning the 2020-21 academic year facing many challenges: the new reality of living amidst the long-term COVID-19 pandemic, the reminder that racism still exists and the political unrest as the U.S. looks to the 2020 presidential election. As scientists, we are best positioned to use our knowledge, critical thinking, skills and professional influence to fight irrational prejudice and scientific illiteracy. At GSBMS, we are proud of our students, who come from diverse backgrounds and enrich us with their experiences, talents and personal stories. It is of paramount importance to ensure that our students feel safe and supported here at New York Medical College (NYMC), and maintain the high standards of academics and professionalism. I want to extend my gratitude to all my colleagues who teach, advise and support students despite the challenging circumstances. I am immensely proud of our students who continue to learn and form communities, even if they are far apart. Every one of you makes a difference in our workplace, classrooms and community. Please read my recently published op-eds: [The COVID-19 pandemic is separating women out of sciences](#), on how a disproportionate number of women have experienced a professional productivity deficit due to picking up the household responsibilities during the COVID-19 pandemic, and [Supporting Ph.D. students in the time of COVID-19](#), about the unique hardships imposed on graduate students by the pandemic. I wish everyone a productive Fall 2020 semester.

Sincerely,
Marina K. Holt, Ph.D.
Dean of the Graduate School of Basic Medical Sciences
Professor of Cell Biology and Anatomy

NYMC Celebrates the Class of 2020 with Online Pomp and Circumstance



The Graduate School of Basic Medical Sciences is proud to announce the *awarding of eight doctor of philosophy (Ph.D.) degrees, and sixty-nine master of science (M.S.) degrees at the New York Medical College 150th and the Touro College of Dental Medicine Inaugural Commencement.*

On May 19, we also celebrated the Class of 2020 graduates in a virtual hooding and awards ceremony.

[View the GSBMS Virtual Awards Ceremony](#) honoring outstanding achievements of our 2020 graduates.

[View the NYMC and TSDM Unified Virtual Commencement.](#)



Welcome New GSBMS Students

GSBMS Online Orientation and Student-Led Meet and Greet Sessions

The Graduate School has begun a new academic year with a full cohort of new Ph.D. and M.S. students despite the ongoing challenges presented by COVID-19.

Traditionally, the GSBMS welcomes new students with a week-long orientation with presentations by faculty, administrators and representatives from NTMC's many administrative departments. Included is a celebratory barbecue for everyone to come together as a community to share some good food and fun, while getting to know one another. This year, rising to the challenges presented by the restrictions of COVID-19, the Graduate School constructed a virtual platform to provide a thorough orientation for all new students.

With the help and cooperation by representatives from each department, Valerie Benson-Mason, director of admissions, coordinated the effort to record all orientation sessions and post them on Canvas for new students to review. In conjunction with these recordings, the GSBMS held four live Zoom sessions (one for each cohort) to meet faculty and staff, and to ask questions. Our thanks go out to the dedicated members of each department who participated.

In an effort to promote interaction among our students, Student Meet and Greet Sessions were arranged to give new students the opportunity to meet their classmates and upper-year students returning to NTMC.

Accelerated Master's Program (AMP)

We would like to thank our Accelerated Master's Program (AMP) alumni, now current NTMC medical students, Stella Iskandarani, Channagood Sosa, Shiba Palla, Rebecca Friedman, Max Elross and Nick Vecchio, who welcomed the newest members of the AMP via a Zoom Meet and Greet on August 9th. Our record-breaking class of twenty-six new AMP students have expressed their appreciation for this session saying that the opportunity to talk with former AMPers and meeting each other was the best thing we could have done for their confidence going into this challenging year.

Master's Students

Our thanks to Graduate Student Association (GSA) President Harry Hanna, Usman Ahmed, Alexander Hebard and Caitlin Gaudin (second-year graduate students) who led a Zoom Meet and Greet to welcome new GSBMS master's and non-Matriculating students to the NTMC community. More than 60 students were in attendance and had the opportunity to ask questions about the college, our programs and the NTMC community in general.

Ph.D. Students

Current Ph.D. students, including Elizabeth Perry, Michelle Carrasco, Tara Jarboe, Yim Thakkar, Odara Gaines, John Pascale, Gilly Sahah, Anish Maskey, Catherine D'Ackario, Aditya Patel, Elidiana Ighorua, Sahib Hossain and Prici Bhat, welcomed the new cohort of Ph.D. students to a Zoom session on Monday, August 17. The goal being, in Elizabeth's words, "so that you can all meet the current Ph.D. students, get to know us and ask any questions about the program, school, courses, life work, student life and anything else you might want to talk about." The session was a great success, lasting more than an hour, offering a warm welcome to our eight new Ph.D. students (Callie Rickander, Jacob Hohl, Mia Candlere, Morgan Anderson-Grannage, Nicole DeGenna, Karl Kaper, Ibrahim Masa, and Amy Shuck).



Welcome Clinical Laboratory Sciences Students!

The Graduate School welcomed nine new students into the Clinical Laboratory Sciences Program which began on Monday, July 6. Clinical laboratory scientists are currently in high demand in hospitals and industrial/pharmaceutical laboratories. We provide several clinical rotation sites for our students including at BioReference Laboratories, Danbury and Putnam Hospitals (Health Quest Systems), Good Samaritan, Lawrence Hospital, White Plains Hospital and Westchester Medical Center. We wish our students the best as they build their clinical skills for these important positions in the health care community.



Back row: Hishel McQueen, Marissa Tardella, Tashia Shaffer, Lindsey McQuinn, Krystal Antonione, Trisha Magat, Debbie Anselmi (Coordinator)
Front row: Audra Brown, Miaa Wong, Maria Ditch

GSBMS Tackles COVID-19



During the COVID-19 pandemic, NYMC has taken several measures to protect the safety and well-being of our students, faculty and staff, while maintaining the highest level of instruction. The College initiated enhanced sanitation routines, health screening and social distancing measures in campus buildings, supplying PPE where needed and more. In the Graduate School, this included the move to online classes wherever possible, and work from home arrangements for faculty and staff. Alongside our orientation gifts for new students, the GSBMS Dean's Office has been distributing safety kits containing washable, reusable masks, a personal thermometer, a COVID-19 symptom checklist, hand sanitizer and disinfectant wipes, to each of our students to support their efforts to stay safe and protect others from the spread of infection.

NYMC Receives \$594K NIH Shared Instrumentation Grant



The collaborative efforts by a team of NYMC faculty researchers from across all of the basic science disciplines have paid off to the tune of nearly \$594,469. The grant proposal team made up of nearly 20 NYMC faculty and led by Dana G. Morde, Ph.D., associate professor of microbiology and immunology, secured a Shared Instrumentation Grant from the National Institutes of Health (NIH), which will be used to purchase a new high-resolution confocal microscope. This new microscope will be critical to the College's biomedical research. The confocal system will allow NYMC's researchers to quantitatively visualize dynamic processes in living specimens gently over extended periods of time (4D imaging). The increased sensitivity and high resolution will be particularly valuable to image thicker tissue sections/slices in a wide variety of biological specimens. [Read the full article on the NIH grant.](#)



Days of Giving Raises More than \$530,000 for Student Scholarships



For two days on June 9 and 10, the NYMC community came together to raise \$530,713 for student scholarships. A group of generous donors contributed funds to match the 223 gifts made during the Days of Giving 2020. It was the most successful Days of Giving campaign to date. With increased scholarship support, students in the School of Medicine, the GSMMS and the School of Health Sciences and Practice, can better focus on their studies. The additional scholarship money comes at a time of great magnitude when the COVID-19 pandemic has resulted in financial hardships for some students who fear they may have difficulty remaining in school. [Read more about student scholarships.](#)

Faculty Spotlight: Paul Arnaboldi, Ph.D.



Initially considering a career in clinical medicine, native New Yorker Paul Arnaboldi, Ph.D., first found his passion for basic science and translational research as a full scholarship student at the College of Saint Rose. He defended his Ph.D. thesis at Albany Medical College in 2003 and went on to study the role of Hepatocyte T cells with Lloyd Mayer, M.D. at the Mount Sinai School of Medicine, where he successfully competed for an NIDA postdoctoral fellowship award from the NIH. He was later introduced to NYMC through his collaboration on oral vaccine for Herpesis postis (the causative agent for Pityriasis) with owner and CEO of Biopetides Corp., Raymond J. Dattwyler, M.D., professor of medicine, pediatrics, microbiology and immunology. In 2011, Dr. Arnaboldi joined Biopetides Corp. as a research scientist simultaneously joining NYMC as a research assistant professor, before moving to a tenure track assistant professor position in 2016. "Working in both areas allows me to compete for basic science and early translation research grants to understand immune mediated mechanisms of disease, as well as compete for small business awards that allow us to translate those basic science findings to the clinic more effectively. That your research can have a direct effect on people's lives is a rewarding experience."

Dr. Arnaboldi has two primary research foci: understanding the cells and mechanisms involved in immune regulation at mucosal surfaces, and the development of improved diagnostic tests for tick-transmitted diseases ([see research](#)). Dr. Arnaboldi lectures in the medical microbiology course for medical, dental and podiatry students. He is the co-course director for the general microbiology II course (with Dana Muehle, Ph.D.) in the GSMMS. He serves as the Chair of the Institutional Biosafety Committee, and is in charge of the Department of Microbiology and Immunology flow cytometer.

Ph.D. Student Spotlight: Tara Jarboe



Tara Jarboe earned her B.S. in chemistry with a concentration in biochemistry from Wake Forest University. Before pursuing her master's and Ph.D., Tara danced with a professional dance company and taught dance for five years. During her early academic and dance career, she shared her love of science and of dance with children, through STEM presentations and arts access programs. Upon returning to graduate school, Tara was interested in expanding her knowledge into new areas of science and was excited to undertake a Master of Science in Microbiology and Immunology. Choosing the research tract, she was paired with Raj Tivari, Ph.D., interim chair and professor of microbiology and immunology, as her mentor, joining his lab during the master's program. Upon completion of her master's degree, and receiving the Faculty Graduate Council Award for her thesis, she applied and was accepted into the Ph.D. program, where she continues her work as tumor immunology. "I appreciate that all of the students and faculty here want to collaborate and help each other to succeed. I wanted to stay at NYMC for my Ph.D. education because I was committed to the work I was doing in Dr. Tivari's lab, I appreciated his mentorship, and I felt at home at NYMC."

As a Ph.D. student, Tara now serves as the Ph.D. representative for the Department of Microbiology and Immunology, and is a founding member of the Ph.D. newsletter, *The Transcript*. Through invitation of a GSMMS alumna, Christopher Pappas, Ph.D., "I" she has been provided the opportunity to teach "Introduction to Health and Wellness" at Manhattanville College. She has served as TA for medical microbiology labs and presented a tumor immunology lecture here at NYMC. "I appreciate these opportunities because I am passionate about continuing to teach throughout my life! My ideal future would be as a professor at an undergraduate or graduate institution and the PI of my own lab. I hope I can make it happen for myself one day!"

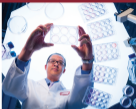


NEW YORK MEDICAL COLLEGE

A MEMBER OF THE YOUNG 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 workings of the body's vascular system, educate the future generation of researchers or manage a science-focused non-profit, we offer M.S., Ph.D., M.S./M.D. and M.D./Ph.D. programs to meet their goal. Our Accelerated Master's Program allows students to complete two years of coursework in just one year, and graduates of this program have a distinct advantage when applying to medical school, enjoying an acceptance rate of 86 percent. Our M.S. programs offer options for research training, non-research thesis or project-based internships in industry. The newly launched Professional Science Master's track is designed for students interested in pursuing careers in the pharmaceutical, biotechnology, or other biomedical sciences industries – or in the government or not-for-profit sectors related to these fields. A new Master of Science in Clinical Laboratory Sciences program trains professionals to work in medical or industrial / pharmaceutical laboratories. Our Integrated Ph.D. program focuses on core scientific knowledge and the interrelatedness of the basic sciences before students declare a specific field of study.



GSBMS Facts and Figures

195

STUDENTS
(As of Fall 2019)

Academic Programs

- M.S. in 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 Sciences 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: \$4,280 per credit



CAMPUS SIZE 54 ACRES



~129,000



60% FEMALE 40% MALE

GSBMS Diversity Numbers

- 23% 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:



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