



QUANTITATIVE & SYSTEMS BIOLOGY COLLOQUIUM: Science Communications Panel

October 1st 2026

10:30 AM – 11:45 AM

SSB 130



Julia Busiek, UCOP External Engagement

Julia Busiek is a content strategist and writer at the University of California Office of the President, focused on communicating how UC research and discovery contribute to human well-being.



Patty Guerra, UC Merced External Relations

Patty Guerra works in communications in UC Merced's External Relations department. She is among three public information officers who craft stories to share the university's achievements, and coordinates coverage with local, specialized and national media,. She came to the university after a career in newspaper journalism.



Rachel Livinal, KVPR (Valley Public Radio)

Rachel Livinal is an award-winning public radio reporter with experience covering education, health, and science issues. Her work has aired nationally and statewide through KQED and NPR. For the last three years, Rachel primarily covered higher education, including accountability, investigative, and regional stories that inform residents in the San Joaquin Valley. Rachel has won the George F. Gruner award for best feature story two years in a row for reporting on a mound of dirt in Oakhurst that became famous and the repatriation of ancestors to Native people held by public universities. Rachel grew up in Merced and attended Merced Community College and California State University of Long Beach where she earned her B.A. in journalism with a minor in sociology.



Jody Murray, UC Merced External Relations

Jody Murray works in communications for UC Merced's External Relations. He works with faculty, staff and students to develop stories designed to raise the university's profile and promote its mission. He coordinates requests from media outlets for story coverage and interviews. Jody came to UC Merced in 2019 after a lengthy career in newspaper journalism. In his spare time, Jody walks his golden Lab, plays Wordle and cheers for his Oregon Ducks.

For more information, contact: Bercem Dutagaci
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