



QSB Retreat 2022



Schedule: Day 1

2022 QSB annual retreat: Vista Ranch, 7326 East Highway 140, Merced CA 95340; https://vistaranch.com/			
Tuesday 5/17/2021	Graduate Students	Faculty	Notes
10:00-10:30 a.m.	Mix and Mingle, socialize		
10:30-11 a.m.			
11 - 11:15 a.m.	Quick announcements; Jessica Wilson UC Merced Grad Slam Winner		
11:15 - 12 noon	Student/postdoc talks (Grand Oak Ctr)		
12-12:30 p.m.	Lunch		Farmers Market Salad ; Chicken Pesto; Sliced
12:30-1 p.m.			Tri-tip; water and iced tea
1-1:30 p.m.	Recognition of Graduates - Good News, State of the Program (Chris A)		
1:30-2 p.m.	Student breakout sessions: (1) Navigating grad school (Jan Zarate and Jourjina Alkhouri); (2) Teaching Tips (Jackie Shay)	Faculty meeting (Grand Oak Ctr)	
2-2:30 p.m.	Student/postdoc talks (Grand Oak Ctr)		
2:30-3 p.m.			
3-3:15 p.m.	Poster viewing		
3:15-4 p.m.			
4-4:30 p.m.	Student/postdoc talks (Grand Oak Ctr)		
4:30-5 pm			
5-5:30 p.m.	Closing announcements		
5:30-6 pm			
6 pm-10 pm	Dinner, entertainment (karaoke, music)		Taco Menu: Corn Tortillas;Proteins: chicken and carne asada;Tortilla Chips;Lettuce;Grilled Peppers and Onions; Sour Cream; Salsas: Green Salsa and Red Salsa; Spanish Rice;Refried Beans; Vegan box options; water and iced tea
			Cash Bar (bring cash and your I.D.)



Quantitative and Systems Biology at UC Merced

Interdisciplinary program for addressing biological programs using quantitative and systems biology approaches.

Currently, 121 graduate students, 67 faculty (from 8 Departments)

- Molecular, Cellular and Developmental Biology
- Evolution and Ecology
- Biochemistry, Biophysics and Bioengineering
- Computational and Mathematical Biology
- Microbiology and Immunology
- Biology Education and Research Pedagogy

QSB went up 31 spots in the latest US News and World Report assessment of graduate programs in Biology

QSB Executive Committee

Chris Amemiya (MCB) — Chair of Grad Group
Fred Wolf (MCB) — Academic Policy, Vice Chair
Jessica Blois (LES) — Recruitment
Susan Ge (MCB) - Admissions
Chi Wen Ni (BioE) — Treasurer
Michael Bemen (LES) — Secretary
Stephanie Woo (MCB) — Awards Chair
Juris Grasis (MCB) — Seminar Chair

Deepika Gunasekaran — Student Representative

School of Natural Sciences Staff:

Jan Zarate – Grad Student Coordinator
Sharee Sok – Grad Programs Assistant
Paul Roberts – Director of Graduate Programs

Also, thanks to many of you who helped with admissions, interviews, fellowship applications, and reviewing of fellowship applications, and to students and faculty for candid feedback

Retreat committee:

Deepika Gunasekaran, Nat Brown, Lucia Jean Bazan Williamson

Please welcome Jessica Wilson
(Rudy Ortiz's lab)

GradSlam finalist (1st place) at UC Merced



CBD: Wonder Drug or Dud?

You can watch her talk at the UC-wide competition [here](#)

Student and Postdoc Talks

		Name of PI	Title of Presentation
1	Cal Larnerd	Fred Wolf	Different forms of ethanol tolerance are encoded by distinct transcriptional programs and brains regions
2	Juan Camilo Sanchez Arcilla	Kirk Jensen	A forward genetics screen for vaccination reveals a single locus required for protective immunity against the highly virulent <i>Toxoplasma gondii</i> strain GUY-DOS
3	Daravuth Cheam	Michele Nishiguchi	Strain-specific responses to protozoan predation on <i>Vibrio fischeri</i> biofilms
4	Josephine Sami	Mike Cleary	The Effect of N6-methyladenosine (m6A) and mRNA Decay in <i>Drosophila</i> Neurogenesis
5	Brian Wang	Fred Wolf	Connectomic Tools Reveal an Interaction Between Thirst and Courtship
6	Tyrome Sweet	Mark Sistrom and Suzanne Sindi	Going through phages: A Computational approach to Revealing the role of prophage in <i>Staphylococcus aureus</i>
7	John Thompson	Stefan Materna	Single-cell Profiling of Endoderm and Dorsal Forerunner Cells During Zebrafish Gastrulation
8	Sammy Villa	Fred Wolf	The <i>Drosophila</i> Deubiquitinase, OTUD6, Regulates Ribosomal Ubiquitination

QSB Poster Presentations

Name	Faculty advisor	Title
Tyrome Sweet	Mark Sistrom and Suzanne Sindi	Going through phages: A Computational approach to Revealing the role of prophage in Staphylococcus aureus
Laura Garcia Lopez	Kirk Jensen	CD8 T cell IFN- γ differentiation in Toxoplasma gondii requires NLRP3-dependent inflammasome-independent pathway
Jesselynn LaBelle	Stephanie Woo	Zebrafish endodermal cells use contact inhibition of locomotion to achieve rapid dispersal and even distribution
Gloria Denise Liguas	Stefan Materna	Tagging proteins of interest with split fluorescent proteins in zebrafish
Christi Waer	Dr. Katrina Hoyer	CXCR5+CD8+ T Cell Function in Autoimmunity
Eva Cai	Susan Ge	Regulation of Hedgehog signaling by ciliary PKA
Feng Yu	Shahar Sukenik	Linking disordered protein sequence and ensemble using interaction maps
Jingyi Zhang	Xuecai Ge	Mechanistic study of Smo signaling in Hh pathway
Xiaoliang Liu	Xuecai (Susan) Ge	Cilium proteomics reveals Numb as a positive regulator of the Hedgehog signaling pathway
Ambarish C. Varadan	Juris A. Grasis	Bacteriophage-mediated IL-8 activation in Human Intestinal Epithelial Cells
Leesa Strasser	Stephanie Woo	The Woo Lab: Investigating the cell biology of gut epithelium formation
Brian Wang	Fred Wolf	Thirst Interneurons that Promote Water Seeking, Limit Feeding, and Encode Positive Valence
Julia Alvarez	Kirk Jensen	Sugar Modifications to the GPI Sidechain Modulate T. gondii Virulence
Daravuth Cheam	Michele Nishiguchi	Transferring the GFP Gene by Triparental Mating to Visualize Vibrio fischeri Biofilms
Brian Pipes	Nishiguchi	sgRNA Delivery in a Vibrio fischeri CRISPRi System

What's new in QSB?

Newest QSB Faculty Members



Sora Kim
Life & Env Sciences
Core Member



Frederik Schulz
Joint Genome Inst
Affiliate Member

Student Awards – Quantitative & Systems Biology

Student	Award
Laura Lopez (Jensen)	Miguel Velez Scholarship
Negar Tehrani (Spencer)	Lakireddy Fellowship
Carlos Vazquez (W-C Chin)	Central Valley Fellowship
Daphney Sihwa (Muñoz)	Genentech Internship
Kris Troy (Kranzfelder, Garcia-Ojeda)	NSF Graduate Research Fellowship
Karen Cornejo (Saha)	Selected for a platform presentation at a Keystone meeting
Maria Mendoza (McCloskey)	Genentech Internship
Feng Yu (Shahar Sukenik)	Research Achievement Award
Nadia Delgadillo Miranda (Hoyer)	National Lab in Residence Fellowship
Jingyi Zhang (Susan Ge)	Contributed to Nature Structural Biology paper
Jasper Toscani Field (McTavish)	Pub on “Extensiphy” computational method, Meth Ecol and Evol
Julia Alvarez (Jensen)	2 nd best talk at Woods Hole Immuno-Parasitology meeting
Oscar Davalos (Hoyer)	Biotech internship for summer
John Thompson (Materna, Woo)	NIH diversity supplement
Leesa Strasser (Woo)	Awarded CCBM fellowship in spring 2022
Marie Brache Smith (Sogin)	Admitted to a summer course at the Marine Biol Lab (Woods Hole)

Joint Genome Institute Summer Internship

Nathaniel Brown (Muñoz)
 Dararvuth Cheam (Nishiguchi)
 Shari Larsen (Sistrom)
 Irina Birskis Barros (Yeakel)
 Tyrome Sweet (Sistrom, Sindi)
 Feng Yu (Sukenik)
 Yumary Vasquez (Bennett)

QSB students who “defended” in AY 2021-2022



April Apostol
(Jensen/Beaudin)



Ashley Arevalo
(Nobile)



Priyanka Bapat
(Nobile)



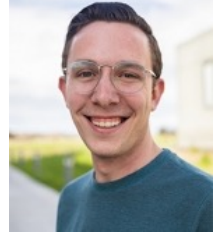
Maedeh Bazmi
(Escobar)



Betsabel Chicana
(Manilay)



Anh Diep
(Hoyer)



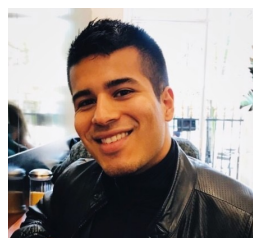
Craig Ennis
(Nobile)



Jade Fee
(Cleary)



Anthony Lange
(Wolf)



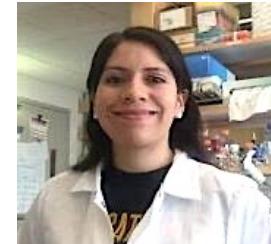
Eli Maciel
(Oviedo)



Keedrian Olmstead
(Amemiya)



Akshay Paropkari
(Nobile)



Diana Rodriguez
(Nobile)



Thaddeus Seher
(Nobile/Sindi)

Incoming QSB students - 2022



Yazan Al-Issa
Madaba, Jordan



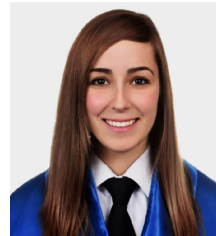
Zahra Alitaneh
Mashad, Iran



Shayna Bennett
Merced, CA



Priosmita Biswas
Kolkata, India



Cristina De Zaballa
Málaga, Spain



Yinyue (Lisa) Du
Guangxi, China



Josue Duque
Fresno, CA



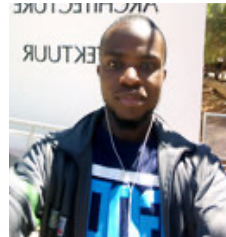
John Espinosa
Merced, CA



Korenna Estes
Fresno, CA



Taiwo Fagbayibo
Akure, Nigeria



Abdullahi Jamiu
Oyo, Nigeria



Eira Jardines
Merced, CA



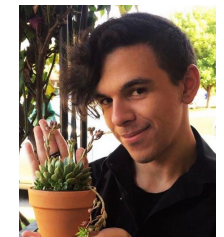
Jesselyn Labelle
Dos Palos, CA



Miranda Luque
Los Angeles, CA



Jazmin Reyes
Escondido, CA



Reece (Riley) Riley
Fresno, CA



HyeJoo Ro
Seoul, S. Korea



Maryam Salemi
Tehran, Iran



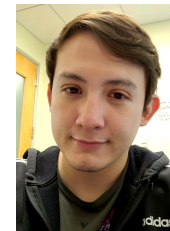
Nora Shamoon
Turlock, CA



Guillermo Vasquez-
Anaya; Modesto, CA



Andie Venegas
Los Angeles, CA



Chantz Williams
Oxnard, CA



Tahirah Williams
Kingston, Jamaica

Korenna Estes – Eugene Cota Robles Fellowship

Jesselyn Labelle, Eira Jardines and Miranda Luque – G-RISE Fellowship

Tahirah Williams – Chancellor's Excellence and UC-HBCU Fellowships

Andie Venegas – John and Victoria Elia Fellowship

Academic Senate Faculty Award Winners

Katrina Hoyer (MCB)



*Distinguished Graduate
Teaching & Mentorship*

Patti LiWang (MCB)



*Distinguished Service to
the Academic Senate*

Susan Ge (MCB)



*Distinguished Early
Career Research*

Schedule: Day 2

Wednesday 5/18/2021	Graduate Students	Faculty	
9:00-9:30 a.m.	Mix and mingle		
9:30-10:00 a.m.	R1 status and why I should care - Chris A		
10:00-10:30 a.m.	Breakout -So you think you want to start a company? - Mark Bold (UCM Innovation-Entrepreneurship Office)	Tips for faculty mentoring - Nish Nishiguchi (Grand Oak)	Fresh fruit, breads, coffee
10:30-11 a.m.			
11-11:30 am	Navigating the mentee-mentor relationship - Nish Nishiguchi (Grand Oak)	Faculty Breakout - Jackie Shay: Teaching Commons; Resources and Tips	
11:30-12 noon			
12:00-12:25 pm	One postdoc talk, one student talk (Grand Oak)		
12:25-12:30	Closing comments; future of the program (Fred Wolf)		
12:30-1 pm	Lunch		Sandwiches: smoked turkey, roast beef; some Vegan Box options; Cash Bar (bring cash and your I.D.)
1 - 1:30 pm			
1:30 - 2 pm			
We have the space until 4 pm so feel free to stick around, socialize, have informal lab group discussions, toss the frisbee, play bocce, etc.			