



National Institute of  
General Medical Sciences



Jon R. Lorsch, Ph.D.,  
Director

National Institute of  
General Medical  
Sciences

September 7, 2023

# National Advisory General Medical Sciences Council

# ***Ad hoc Council Participants***

**Christina Kendzierski, Ph.D.**

Professor

Department of Biostatistics and Medical Informatics

University of Wisconsin-Madison



**Reena Zutshi, Ph.D.**

President and Chief Executive Officer

Luceome Biotechnologies



# Early Career Investigator *Ad hoc* Council Participants

**Saad Bhamla, Ph.D.**

Assistant Professor

School of Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering

Georgia Institute of Technology



**Christal Sohl, Ph.D.**

Associate Professor

Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry

San Diego State University



# NIGMS Personnel Changes

## New Hires

- **Greg Bissonette, Ph.D.**, Chief, Scientific Review Branch, Division of Extramural Activities
- **Thomas Cho, Ph.D.**, Program Director, Biophysics Branch, Division of Biophysics, Biomedical Technology, and Computational Biosciences
- **Kevin Czaplinski, Ph.D.**, Program Director, Cell Biology Branch, Division of Genetics and Molecular, Cellular, and Developmental Biology
- **Joanna Dimas, M.S.W.**, Management Analyst, Management Analysis and Policy Section, Division of Management



# NIGMS Personnel Changes (2)

## New Hires (cont.)

- **Kyungsook Gartrell, Ph.D.**, Program Director, Research Advancement Programs Branch, Division for Research Capacity Building
- **Jeremy McIntyre, Ph.D.**, Program Director, Predoctoral Basic Biomedical and Medical Science Training Programs Branch, Division of Training, Workforce Development, and Diversity
- **Desirée Salazar, Ph.D.**, Chief, Cell Biology Branch, Division of Genetics and Molecular, Cellular, and Developmental Biology



# NIGMS Personnel Changes (3)

## New Hires (cont.)

- **Dimitrios Vatakis, Ph.D.**, Program Director, Developmental and Cellular Processes Branch, Division of Genetics and Molecular, Cellular, and Developmental Biology
- **Ariel Zane, Ph.D.**, Deputy Director, Division of Extramural Activities



## Promotion

- **Jianhua Xu, Ph.D.**, Chief, Developmental and Cellular Processes Branch, Division of Genetics and Molecular, Cellular, and Developmental Biology



# NIGMS Personnel Changes (4)

## Departures

- **Sheila Caldwell, Ph.D.**, Program Director, Networks and Development Programs Branch, Division for Research Capacity Building (move to the NIH Office of the Director)
- **Stephanie Constant, Ph.D.**, Chief, Scientific Review Branch, Division of Extramural Activities (move to the NIH Office of the Director)
- **Ming Lei, Ph.D.**, Director, Division for Research Capacity Building (move to West Virginia University Health Sciences, School of Medicine)



# NIGMS Reorganization

- To better manage internal workloads, we've proposed reorganizing two of our divisions: the Division for Research Capacity Building and the Division of Pharmacology, Physiology, and Biological Chemistry.
- The reorganization would create a new branch within each division.
  - PPBC: Add Physiology and Clinical Sciences Branch; change names of existing branches to Chemistry and Chemical Biology and Biochemistry and Molecular Pharmacology
  - DRCB: Add Health Research and Development Programs Branch
- NIGMS invited public input on the proposed reorganization in July.

# Wanted: NIGMS Tribal Health Research Strategy Coordinator

- Will assume a broad sphere of responsibilities that include:
  - Serving as the expert on matters related to Tribal health research and as a senior-level NIGMS representative in collaborations with the NIH Tribal Health Research Office, the Indian Health Service, Tribal nations, and federal and academic partners
  - Planning, directing, and evaluating NIGMS-wide programs for Tribal health research, capacity building and training
  - Advising leadership on matters related to Tribal communities
- Accepting applications September 18–27; read more on our *Feedback Loop* blog: [go.nih.gov/7QmFILp](https://go.nih.gov/7QmFILp)

# NIH Director Nomination

## Monica M. Bertagnolli, M.D.

- Is President Biden's nominee for NIH director.
- Has served as director of the National Cancer Institute since October 2022.
- Was previously the Richard E. Wilson professor of surgery at Harvard Medical School, a surgeon at Brigham and Women's Hospital, and a member of the Gastrointestinal Cancer and Sarcoma Disease Center at Dana-Farber Cancer Institute.



# Director, National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases

## Jeanne M. Marrazzo, M.D.

- Named director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases in August; expected to begin her role in the fall.
- Brings a wealth of experience in leading international clinical trials and translational research.
- Was previously director of the division of infectious diseases at the University of Alabama at Birmingham.



# Associate Director for Behavioral and Social Sciences Research

**Jane M. Simoni, Ph.D.**

- Became NIH associate director for behavioral and social sciences research and director of the NIH Office of Behavioral and Social Sciences Research on July 30.
- Joined NIH from the University of Washington in Seattle, where she was professor and director of clinical training in the department of psychology.



# Judith H. Greenberg Early Career Investigator Lecture

## Akhila Rajan, Ph.D.

Associate Professor, Basic Sciences Division, Fred Hutchinson Cancer Center

- Lecture title: “Lard of the Flies: Investigating How Fat Cells Communicate With the Brain”
- September 27, 1:00-2:00 p.m. ET
- Lecture followed by Q&A session
- Participate remotely via Zoom or watch on NIH VideoCast: [videocast.nih.gov](https://videocast.nih.gov)
- Learn more about Dr. Rajan and her research: [bit.ly/3K6Fdqz](https://bit.ly/3K6Fdqz)



# DeWitt Stetten Jr. Lecture

## Ry Young, Ph.D.

Distinguished Professor Emeritus and Founding Director of the Center for Phage Technology, Department of Biochemistry and Biophysics, Texas A&M University

- Lecture title: “The Great Escape: Phage Lysis and Its Control”
- November 8, 2:00-3:00 p.m. ET
- Participate remotely via Zoom or watch on NIH VideoCast: [videocast.nih.gov](http://videocast.nih.gov)
- Learn more about Dr. Young and his research: [bit.ly/3Mdpl8w](http://bit.ly/3Mdpl8w)



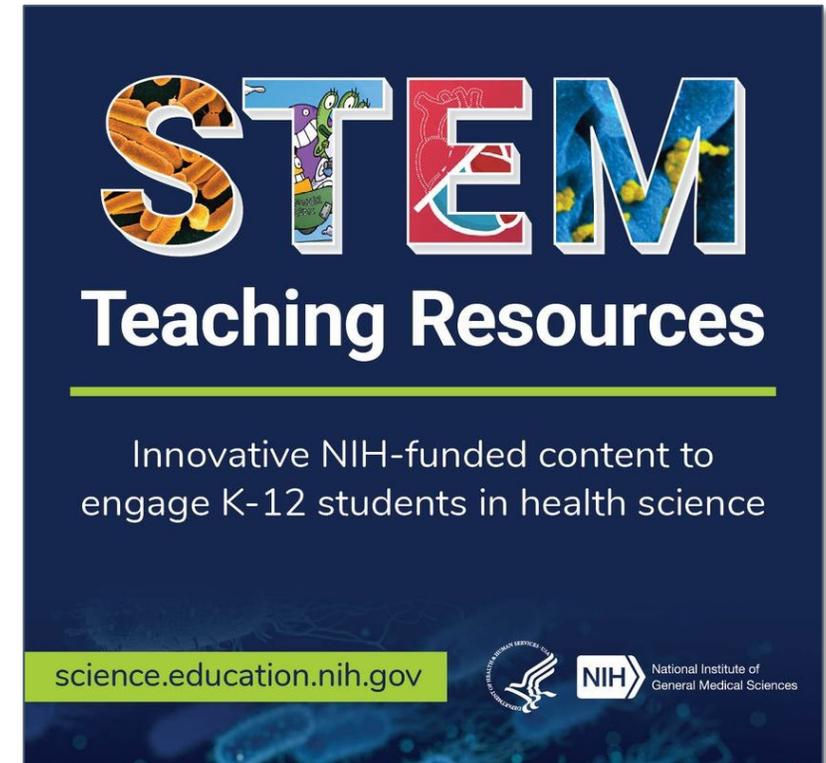
# New Lab Safety Resources

- NIGMS provided training grant supplements for developing lab safety curricular materials.
- Some of those resources are found on our laboratory safety training and guidelines webpage: [go.nih.gov/OLqRfn4](https://go.nih.gov/OLqRfn4).
- The page now includes six videos that were created by Virginia Commonwealth University with support from an Initiative for Maximizing Student Development training grant supplement.



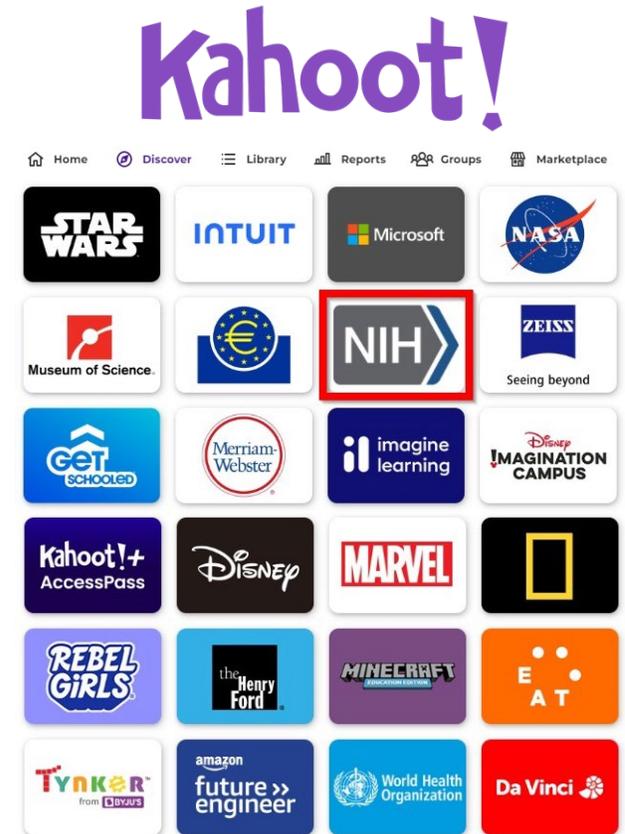
# STEM Teaching Resources Portal

- Provides an NIH-wide collection of free, easy-to-access materials educators can use to engage K-12 students in science; managed by NIGMS with contributions from NIH institutes and centers.
- Is currently the feature of an NIGMS back-to-school promotional campaign.
- Regularly spotlights SEPA-funded resources and NIH-produced content.
- See more: [science.education.nih.gov](https://science.education.nih.gov).



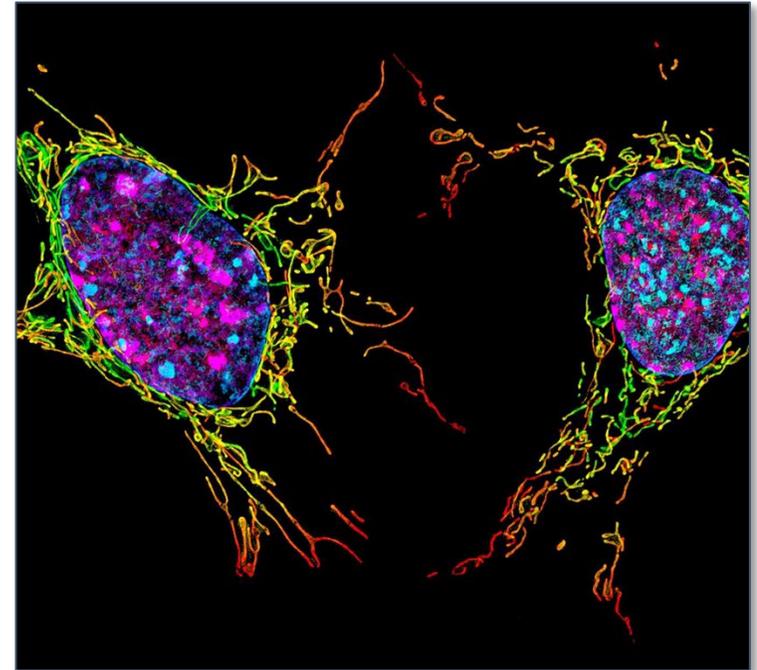
# *Kahoot!* Partnership

- NIGMS led efforts to create a new partnership with *Kahoot!*, a popular, interactive learning platform widely used by teachers in classrooms across the U.S.
- NIH's official *Kahoot!* landing page launched in August; it includes content from multiple institutes and centers and resources created through the SEPA program.
- NIH content will be promoted on the main *Kahoot!* webpage for teachers to easily find and use as educational STEM tools.



# NIGMS Image and Video Gallery

- Searchable collection of scientific photos, illustrations, and videos from NIGMS-funded work.
- Learn more about how to use the content, and browse the gallery and submit your NIGMS-funded content: [images.nigms.nih.gov](https://images.nigms.nih.gov).



Dylan T. Burnette, Vanderbilt University School of Medicine.

# MOSAIC Program Updates



- Part of NIH's efforts to enhance diversity within the academic biomedical research workforce
- K99/R00 award for scholars and UE5 awards to organizations for scholar mentoring, networking and skills development
- By end of FY2023:
  - 130+ K99s awarded by 17 ICs
  - ~75% women and ~70% from underrepresented racial and ethnic groups
  - >42 have accepted or started their faculty positions

# MOSAIC Program Updates (2)

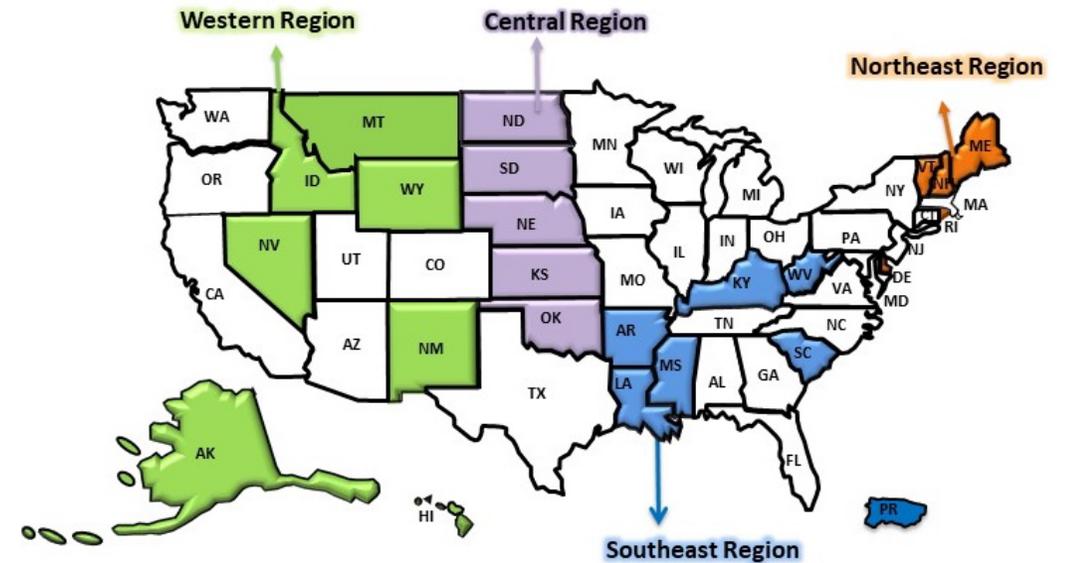


- Recent updates to UE5 program
  - New Award to American Society for Microbiology (funded by NIAID)
  - Expanded eligible organizations to include Higher Education Institutions and eligible PD/PIs to include full-time faculty members at academic organizations
  - Priority areas: Neuroscience, physiology, population health
- **Upcoming Webinar (K99/R00 and UE5)**  
– 9/12 at 1 PM ET

# IDeA Regional Entrepreneurship Development (I-RED) Program: Facilitating Entrepreneurship in IDeA States

To support small businesses in IDeA states to develop educational products that:

- Enhance entrepreneurial knowledge and skills of faculty and trainees in each of the four IDeA regions
- Provide hands-on entrepreneurial training
- Strengthen institutional technology transfer programs
- Build upon the work done by the Regional Technology Transfer Accelerator Hubs funded in 2018



# I-RED Programs Now Funded in Each of the Four IDeA Regions

IDeA Region	Program Name	Small Business Concern	Academic Partner
Southeast	I-RED Southeast XLerator Network	XLERATEHEALTH, LLC, Louisville, KY	University of Kentucky Research Foundation, Lexington, KY
Central	STARTUP Central	Continuum Educational Technologies, PBC, Lawrence, KS	University of Kansas, Lawrence, KS
Western	Development of an Educational Product for Accelerating Solutions for Commercialization and Entrepreneurial Development (ASCEND) in Western IDeA States	The New Mexico Start-Up Factory II, LLC, Albuquerque, NM	University of New Mexico Health Sciences Center, and University of New Mexico Anderson School of Management, Albuquerque, NM
Northeast	Increasing IDeA state Biomedical Entrepreneurship via Ecosystem, Enterprises & Experts	InsiteHub, LLC, Newark, DE	University of Delaware, Newark, DE

# Subscribe to *Feedback Loop* Blog

- Primarily intended for current NIGMS grantees, applicants, and others in the scientific community.
- Provides the latest on NIGMS funding opportunities, meetings, resources, and other useful information.
- Two subscription options: receiving posts as they happen or in digest format.
- Also, follow us on LinkedIn!

[loop.nigms.nih.gov](http://loop.nigms.nih.gov)

# Questions for Discussion

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- Who should be doing a postdoc and for how long?
- Should NIGMS consider piloting a program to support the development of a skilled biotechnology technician workforce?
  - For example, a community college-based apprenticeship program