Welcome GMS Alumni!
We are the community of students from the Division of Graduate Medical Sciences (GMS) at Boston University School of Medicine (BUSM). This inaugural bi-annual newsletter serves as the first GMS student initiative to bridge the divide between past and present students. The face of graduate education at BUSM has changed dramatically over the years and this newsletter intends to bring you up to speed on many exciting changes and more importantly, acknowledge the excellent work of students and alumni alike. No doubt, our alumni are a vital part of the GMS community! We are reaching out to you as an alumnus for content for future editions of the newsletter and to let you know that we are in the process of seeking alumni in the workforce to join an alumni mentoring network.

GMS: Past and Present

1940 BUSM Histology Classroom

2015 Classroom

BUSM Entrance 2009

BUSM Entrance 2015 (seating outside)

BUSM Lobby 2009 (the statues!)

BUSM Entrance 2015 (Pete’s Coffee and study space)
GMS Today

GMS is a recognized leader in research and graduate education in the biomedical sciences. Affiliated with the world-class teaching hospital Boston Medical Center, GMS offers 33 fields of study, including a host of interdisciplinary programs. Every year almost 900 students pursue master’s and doctoral degrees across 26 departments/programs. Our renowned faculty have established collaborations with clinical investigators, exposing our students to important, cutting edge research in Boston, the epitome of bio-science innovation. GMS offers endless scientific and service opportunities both on and off campus.

PhD Programs
- Anatomy & Neurobiology
- Behavioral Neuroscience
- Graduate Program for Neuroscience
- Pharmacology & Experimental Therapeutics
- Program in Biomedical Sciences
  - Biochemistry
  - Biophysics
  - Genetics & Genomics
  - Immunology
  - Microbiology
  - Molecular & Translational Medicine
  - Nutrition & Metabolism
  - Oral Biology
  - Pathology & Laboratory Medicine
  - Physiology

MD/PhD Program

Masters Programs
- Bioimaging
- Biomedical Forensic Sciences
- Clinical Investigation
- Forensic Anthropology
- Genetic Counseling
- Healthcare Emergency Management
- Medical Anthropology & Cross Cultural Practice
- Mental Health Counseling & Behavioral Medicine
- Nutrition & Metabolism
- Oral Health Sciences
- Pathology
- Vesalius (Educator Track)

Medical Sciences
- Physician Assistant Program (PA)
Ph.D. Student Spotlight

After graduating from the University of Nebraska with honors, Samantha joined the lab of Dr. Bob Varelas in the Department of Biochemistry to examine the Hippo tumor suppressor pathway. Her projects have focused primarily on the transcriptional effectors TAZ and YAP and their roles in breast cancer progression. Her work “The transcriptional regulators TAZ and YAP direct transforming growth factor β-induced tumorigenic phenotypes in breast cancer cells” was recently published in The Journal of Biological Chemistry. Samantha also teaches and tutors students in biochemistry and is an active participant in the Graduate and Professional Leadership Council.

Samantha Hiemer
Ph.D. Candidate in Biochemistry

M.S. Student Spotlight

Noah came to BUSM to pursue his Masters in Medical Science after completing a B.S. in Biochemistry at the University of Michigan. While an undergraduate, he volunteered as a tutor in an urban squash and academic development program for middle school students. After moving to Boston, he continued tutoring at SquashBusters, a similar program for underprivileged Boston youth. He has helped recruit several GMS students to join him as much-needed science and math tutors. This past summer, Noah helped SquashBusters develop a two-week summer science outreach camp that included a field trip to BUSM to participate in an interactive laboratory centered on sickle cell anemia.

Noah Frydenlund
M.S. Medical Sciences

Alumni Spotlight

After graduating and completing a post-doctoral fellowship in the Department of Anatomy and Neurobiology, Adrian moved to Indianapolis to take a position of Assistant Research Professor in the Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine at Indiana University School of Medicine (IUSM). Adrian’s focus is on the anatomical distribution of proteins in neurodegenerative disorders. Adrian has received two pilot grants to support her work. One grant focuses on the cytoarchitectonic distribution of tau in familial and sporadic frontotemporal dementia. The other project focuses on axonal pathology in two mutant models of cerebral amyloidosis. Adrian recently published the first neuroanatomical description of rapid-onset dystonia associated with the I758S mutation in the ATP1A3 gene entitled, “Rapid-onset Dystonia-Parkinsonism associated with the I758S mutation of the ATP1A3 gene: A neuropathologic and neuroanatomical study of four siblings” (Acta Neuropathologica). Adrian also teaches in the neuroscience course for second year medical students.

Adrian Oblak, Ph.D.
Anatomy & Neurobiology
Assistant Research Professor
Indiana University School of Medicine

Comments or suggestions? Email us at gmsalumni@bu.edu