

Medical Graduate Student Organization





President

Tiffany Nelson (she/her)
5th Year, BMS, Immunology/Microbiology



Announcements

- Thank you all for submitting designs for the crewnecks!
- Crewneck handout at the next GBM
 - Sizes Small-4XL
 - Navy or forest green
- Future MGSO idea: MGSO Data Discussion?
 - Biweekly, maybe 5-6pm or something
 - Students sign up to give 3 min (flashtalk), 12 min (standard conference), or 20 min talk
 - All years and programs can sign-up
 - Help practice public speaking (only students would attend)

Fall Fun Fact!

The autumnal equinox marks the first day of fall in the Northern Hemisphere.



Vice President

Ajisha Alwin (she/her)

5th Year, BMS, Immunology/Microbiology

Announcements

- Keep an eye out for upcoming G2G events!
 - Oct – Coffee & Mingle (Tentative October 10th 7:30am-9am)
 - Nov – Painting Social – Tentatively the week of Nov 17th
- Please reach out if you need anything :)
- ajishaalwin@ufl.edu

Fun Fact!

September is National Rice Month in the US.



Treasurer

Zachary Markovich (He/him)
4th year, BMS, Pharmacology

Announcements

- Please let me know about any dietary restrictions or recommendations for catering for the GBMs.

Fun Fact!

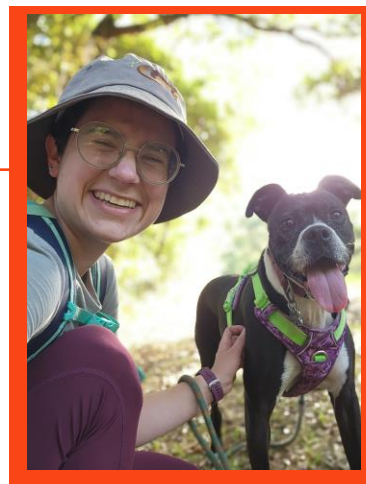
Glassblowers heat glass to around 2,400 degrees fahrenheit before cooling the molten mixture to a gentler 2,000 degrees to be blown and shaped.



Secretary/Social Media Chair

Sydney Velasquez (She/Her)

3rd Year, BMS, Immuno/Micro



Announcements

- Win an award?! Publish!? Receive a grant?! Let me know!
- Officers! Send officer highlight info
- **Next GBM:** October 22nd, 5pm C1-011



Follow us on Insta!



Fun Fact!

It takes roughly 540 peanuts to make a jar of peanut butter.





Social Chair

Maya Basic (She/Her)

2nd Year, BMS, Immuno/Micro

MGSO October Events

- **Friday Oct. 17th** – Happy hour
- **Sunday Oct. 26th** – Pumpkin carving/painting
- **Friday Oct. 31st** – Annual Halloween party!



Things going on in Gainesville:

- **Weekends Oct. 4th – Nov. 2nd:** Fall Festival & Corn Maze @ Crossroads Farm & Apiary
- **Oct. 11th:** Oktoberfest @ Tioga Town Center
- **Oct. 18th:** Fall Horticultural Expo @ Gainesville Garden Club
- **VisitGainesville.com** has a great guide for all things happening in town!

Reach out for any questions or comments! mbasic@ufl.edu

Fun Fact!

In Greek mythology, Fall began when Persephone was abducted by Hades to be the queen of the underworld. Persephone's mother, Demeter (goddess of harvest), caused all the crops on Earth to die until her daughter was allowed to return, marking spring.



Career Development Chairs

GRADEGE
PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT SERIES



Sydney Reed (She/Her), 3rd year, BMS-PhD
Immuno/micro

Rodrigo Tomas, 6th year, BMS-PhD
Neuroscience

Announcements

Post-Seminar Interest
Form



COM Graduate Student
Affairs and MGSO
CAREER DEVELOPMENT
SEMINAR SERIES

Dr. Talline Martins

Director of Education and
Training at the UF
Graduate Student Success
Department



**"Mapping the PhD Journey: From
Genetics Research to Guiding
Graduate Student Success"**

Thursday, September 25, 2025
4-5 pm

DeWeese Auditorium
McKnight Brain Institute LG-101A

**October Bonus Event
Network: Dr. Mark Fedele**

Director of Medical
Communications at Shionogi
Inc.

Friday, October 3, 2025
2-3 pm

MSB – Conference Room Rm
M-112

COM Graduate Student
Affairs and MGSO
CAREER DEVELOPMENT
SEMINAR SERIES

Dr. Jeremy C. McIntyre

Program Director in the Division
of Training and Workforce
Development



**"PhD to PI to PO: Importance of Pivoting and
Mentorship in building your Career"**

Thursday, October 23, 2025
4-5 pm

DeWeese Auditorium
McKnight Brain Institute LG-101A



Fun Fact

Halloween's first Jack-o'-
lanterns were carved from
turnips, not pumpkins,
which are native to the
Americas and were adopted
for the tradition later.

**Tomorrow September 25:
Career Development Seminar
Series**

**October: Career Development Seminar
Series**

November 20
Dr. Sherri Emer –
Associate Professor at
Florida Gulf Coast
University (primarily
undergraduate university)



Community Service Chair

Valerie Hinsch (She/Her)

3rd Year, BMS, Genetics

Announcements

- Reminder – officers need to attend 1 service opportunity academic year
- Fall Service Opportunities are BOOKED!
 - Walk to End Alzheimer's – Oct 11th 8AM-12PMish
 - Signup here:
https://act.alz.org/site/TR?sid=23941&type=fr_informational&pg=informational&fr_id=18498
 - Fill out section for "Day of Walk"
 - Easy way for officers to get their 1 required service event!
 - Email me a selfie if you go!
 - Unsure when this closes, so sign up earlier rather than later
 - Habitat for Humanity – Nov 15th 8:30AM-2:30PM
 - More info to come
- Keep an eye out for emails
- Feel free to email me (vhinsch@ufl.edu) service opportunities/ideas!

Fun Fact! Alois Alzheimer gave Alzheimer's disease its name in 1906. In 2022, 3 University of Florida investigators earned Alzheimer's Association grants.



Athletic Chairs

Emma Metcalf (she/her) & Jacob Davis (he/his)
2nd year, BMS PhD, Immuno/Micro



Announcements

- Intramural Teams
 - Look for Emma's email if want to join IM still & need whats app links (emmametcalf@ufl.edu)
- Tailgates
 - October 4th @ 12 pm
 - Homecoming - October 18th @ TBD (waiting for flex to be announced)

Maybe turf toe Lagway won't play and we win???

FOOTBALL TAILGATE

Florida vs. University of Texas
Saturday October 4th @ 12pm
Game @ 3:30pm



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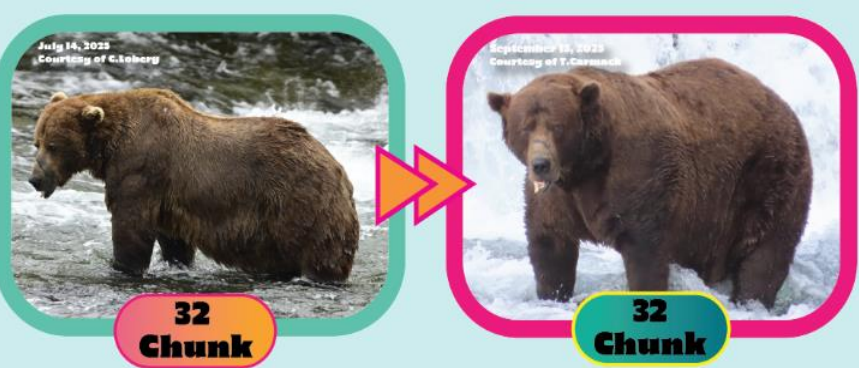
- EVERYONE WELCOME
- FREE FOOD
- FREE FUN
- NO TICKET NEEDED

MEDICAL GRADUATE
STUDENT ORGANIZATION



September Fun Fact!

September 24th, Today, is National Punctuation Day!!!!!!!!!!



Miranda Carter (She/Her)
4th Year, BMS, Immuno Micro

Recruitment Chairs



Bianca Bean (She/Her)
4th Year, BMS, Physio & Cell Biology



Announcements

- We have sent out the poll for the first-year rep position.
- Positions should be filled by the end of the month

Fun Fact!

Fat bear week is an annual online competition celebrating the success of brown bears in Katmai National Park as they fatten up for winter hibernation, with the public voting for the fattest bear. **Voting is open now!**





Ph.D. Advocate

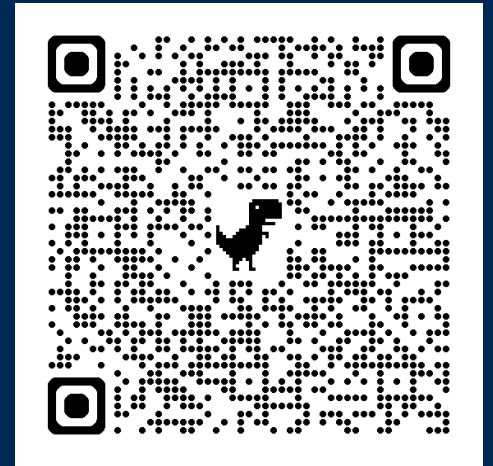
Dallas Galguera-Kelm (he/they)

2nd Year Ph.D. Student, Anatomical Sciences Education

Announcements

- The anonymous reporting form is live. If you or anyone you know is having issues with their workplace, use the link below!
 - <https://forms.gle/p9PHTuN6xe7Qkbbk58>

Anonymous reporting:



Fun Fact!

The "blood" used in Alfred Hitchcock's Psycho (1960) was actually chocolate syrup.



Master's Advocate

Paola Parrales (she/her)

2nd year MS Student, Molecular Cell Biology

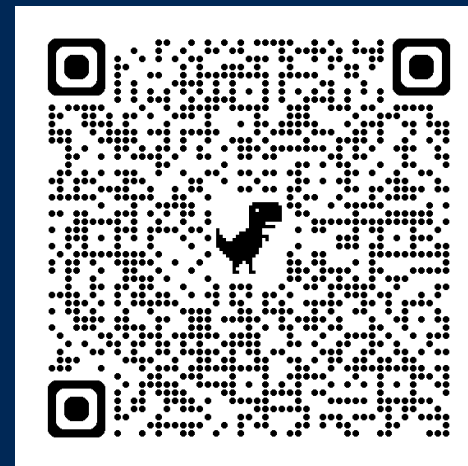
Announcements

- Anonymous reporting form is live. Please share with COM graduate students!
 - Access via QR code or MGSO website:
<https://gsovpres.wixsite.com/gsobms/anonymous-reporting>

Fun Fact!

Since 1981, the American Humane Society has celebrated “Adopt-a-Dog Month®” each October in efforts to help the estimated 3-4 million animals waiting in shelters every year get the loving, forever homes that they deserve.

Anonymous reporting:





MD/PhD Advocate

Christopher (Chris) Mederos (he/him)

GS2, BMS, Micro/Immuno

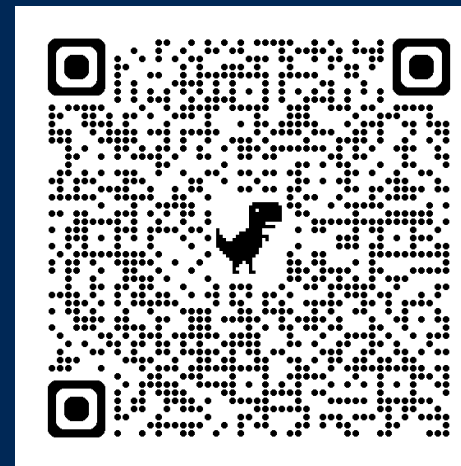
Announcements

- No updates this time :(
- I am at an MD/PhD mentoring event, so updates coming soon

Fun Fact!

Golf was banned in England in 1457 because it was considered a distraction from the serious pursuit of archery.

Anonymous reporting:





Graduate Student Council Rep

Amanda Pretory (she/her)

3rd year, BMS, Immuno / Micro

Full timeline:



Travel Grants

- Upcoming cycle: **10/01 – 10/31**
- Domestic *conference* start date: **12/15 – 01/14**
- International *conference* start date: **01/01 – 02/28**

GSC Game Night

- Next Friday (**10/03**) in the Reitz Union Game Room

GSC is looking for a new social media chair! Reach out to Fatima (akinola.fatima@ufl.edu) if interested

Fun Fact!

Palm trees are not actually trees, and are more closely related to grasses, bamboo, and lilies than to any tree species.





GAU Sign Up!

BMS External Board Reps

Sorin Jacobs (she/her) and Jon Zachary (he/him)
5th Year BMS (Immuno / Micro) 4th Year BMS (Biochem)



Announcements

- BMS has hired a new program manger
- Discussed residency applications for in-state tuition
- Genetics and Genomics is joining BMS genetics concentration for new students
- COM Holiday Party Dec 4th 5-7 pm

GAU Updates

- Due to UF's failure to discuss stipends and RT program we are at **impasse**
 - Special magistrate hearing on Monday, November 17th – please attend to have GA voices heard!

Fun Fact: Science Olympiad regionals are being held in Gainesville in February – looking for volunteers if you are interested.