

Rowan University

Department of Biological & Biomedical Sciences

Seminar Series

Presented by the BBS Seminar Committee and
BBS Student Professional Development Committee

Seminars are all hybrid, unless otherwise indicated; see below for details.

In person: Science Hall Room 126 on Rowan University's main campus.

Virtual: [Zoom link](#).

We have three types of presentations.

A. Research. Speakers focus on their research, while adding a brief background on their own career path.

B. Career. To demonstrate the breadth of jobs available to BBS students, speakers describe their jobs and their own personal career paths.

C. Perspectives. Speakers take various approaches to addressing the historic and present lack of diversity, equality, and equity in the many biological fields, the effects this has had on our communities, and potential solutions or best practices.

Fall 2025

September 10, 2025, 2:00-3:15 pm, Science Hall 126 or [Zoom](#)

Research. “[Left, right and everything in-between: Biomedical and evolutionary studies in veiled chameleon \(*Chamaeleo calyptratus*\)](#).” Natasha Shylo, Ph.D., Assistant Professor, Department of Biological & Biomedical Sciences, Rowan University, Glassboro, NJ, USA.



September 24, 2025, 2:00-3:15 pm, Science Hall 126 or [Zoom](#)

Research. “[Using a landscape ecological model to assess effective pest management strategies for the wheat stem sawfly \(*Cephus cinctus*\) in the Northern Plains](#).” Courtney Richmond, Ph.D., Professor, Department of Biological & Biomedical Sciences, Rowan University, Glassboro, NJ, USA.



November 7, 2025, 2:00-3:15 pm, Science Hall 126 or [Zoom](#)

Research. “[Neuroengineering Brain Organoids to Investigate Neurological Diseases](#).” Annie Kathuria, Ph.D., Assistant Professor, Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, Maryland, USA. 🎥 [View recording](#).



November 12, 2025, 2:00-3:15 pm, Science Hall 126 or [Zoom](#)

Research. “[From Wolves to Breeds: A Genomic Journey through Dog Domestication](#).” Krishna Veeramah, Ph.D., Associate Professor, Department of Ecology and Evolution, Stony Brook University, Stony Brook, NY, USA.



December 3, 2025, 2:00-3:15 pm, Science Hall 126 or [Zoom](#)

Research. “[Assessing Motor and Cognitive Impairment after Non-traumatic Brain Injury using Smart and Affordable Robotic/Mechatronic Technologies](#)” Michelle Johnson, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation and Associate Professor in Bioengineering, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA, USA.



Spring 2025

March 5, 2025, 2:00-3:15 pm, Science Hall 126 or [Zoom](#)

Research. "[A 20-Year Journey Unraveling the Mysteries of the Eastern Golden Eagle](#)." Trish Miller, Ph.D., Executive Director, Senior Research Wildlife Biologist, Conservation Science Global, Cape May, NJ, USA.



March 12, 2025, 2:00-3:15 pm, Science Hall 126 or [Zoom](#)

Career. "[Biology Beyond Undergrad: Navigating the Pathway Before, During, & After Graduate School](#)." Kelly Schmid, Ph.D. Biology Education Researcher and Content Specialist, SimBio, Missoula, MT, USA. Rowan Biology Alum, 2013.



April 9, 2025, 2:00-3:15 pm, Science Hall 126 or [Zoom](#)

Research. "[A Journey into Making Mouse Organoids](#)." Claude Krummenacher, Ph.D. Associate Professor, Department of Biological & Biomedical Sciences, Rowan University, Glassboro, NJ, USA.



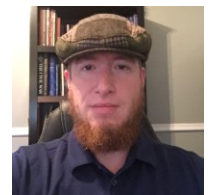
April 16, 2025, 2:00-3:15 pm, Science Hall 126 or [Zoom](#)

Research. "[Exploring the Intersection of Environment and Early-Life Physiology Using Multi-Omics Approaches](#)." Tanya Alderete, Ph.D. Associate Professor, Environmental Health and Engineering, Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, Baltimore, MD, USA.



April 23, 2025, 2:00-3:15 pm, Science Hall 126 or [Zoom](#)

Perspective. "[Nature: Accessible for All- Making New Jersey's Natural Spaces More Inclusive and Accessible](#)." Sean Kane-Holland. Access Nature Disability Advocate, Pinelands Preservation Alliance. Southampton, NJ, USA.



Fall 2024

September 18, 2024, 2:00-3:15 pm, Science Hall 126 or [Zoom](#)

Research. “[Marsupial epigenetics: A path towards de-extinction of the Tasmanian Tiger](#).” Benjamin Carone, Ph.D., Associate Professor, Department of Biological & Biomedical Sciences, Rowan University, Glassboro, NJ, USA. 🎥 [View recording](#).



October 2, 2024, 2:00-3:15 pm, Science Hall 126 or [Zoom](#)

Career. “[Graduate School 101: Insights into Graduate School \(MS & PhD\)](#).” Madison Dautle, Elias Elias, Rosalind Moore, Dawn Williams, & Ariel Zhang. Graduate Students, Department of Biological & Biomedical Sciences, Rowan University, Glassboro, NJ, USA. [Slides](#). 🎥 [View recording](#).



October 23, 2024, 2:00-3:15 pm, Science Hall 126 or [Zoom](#)

“[A Poetic Lens on Medicine, Science and Ethics](#).” Wynne Morrison, MD, MBE, Director of the Justin Michael Ingerman Center for Palliative Care and Associate Chief for Faculty Affairs in the Division of Critical Care at Children's Hospital of Philadelphia; Professor of Anesthesiology and Critical Care at University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA, USA. 🎥 [View recording](#).



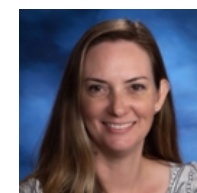
November 1, 2024, 10:00-11:00 am [Zoom](#) only

Career. “[Culturing a Career: A Microbial Adventure as a Microbiologist for the State of New Jersey](#)” Robert Newby, Ph.D. Research Scientist- Microbiology. New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, Trenton, NJ, USA. 🎥 [View recording](#).



November 13, 2024, 2:00-3:15 pm, Science Hall 126 or [Zoom](#)

Research. “[The Spreading Problem in Neurodegeneration: Insights from Fruit Fly Brains](#).” [Maggie Panning Pearce](#), Ph.D., Associate Professor, Department of Biological & Biomedical Sciences, Rowan University, Glassboro, NJ, USA. 🎥 [View recording](#).



December 4, 2024, 2:00-3:15 pm, Science Hall 126 or [Zoom](#)

Perspectives & Research. “[Diversity matters: Adapting an evolutionary model organism for host-microbe interaction studies](#).” Kat Milligan-McClellan, Ph.D., Assistant Professor, Department of Molecular and Cell Biology, University of Connecticut, Storrs, CT, USA. 🎥 [View recording](#).



Spring 2024

January 22, 2024, 12:30-1:45 pm, Science Hall 126 or [Zoom](#)

Research. “[BBS Research Faculty Panel: How to Find a Research Position in the Rowan BBS Department](#).” BBS Research Faculty, Department of Biological & Biomedical Sciences, Rowan University, Glassboro, NJ, USA.

🎥 [View recording](#).



February 5, 2024, 12:30-1:45 pm, Science 126 or [Zoom](#)

Career. “[From Cheese to Chocolate, a Food Engineer's Journey](#).” Meghan Keck, Ph.D. Food Engineer. Mars-Wrigley, Elizabethtown, PA, USA.

🎥 [View recording](#).



February 28, 2024, 2:00-3:15 pm, Science Hall 126 or [Zoom](#)

Research. “[Illuminating the Monoamine Transporters: New Fluorescent Ligands to Study DATs and NETs](#).” Gisela Andrea Camacho Hernandez, Ph.D. NIH: National Institute on Drug Abuse, Post-doctoral IRTA Fellow, Medicinal Chemistry Section. Baltimore, MD, USA. 🎥 [View recording](#).



March 4, 2024, 12:30-1:45 pm, Science 126 or [Zoom](#)

Career. “[Great Job or Greatest Job? Management and Stewardship of a Biological Field Station](#).” Jennifer Hunter, Ph.D. Resident Director. Hastings Natural History Reservation, Museum of Vertebrate Zoology - University of California - Berkeley, Carmel Valley, CA, USA. 🎥 [View recording](#).



March 18, 2024, 12:30-1:45 pm, Science 126 or [Zoom](#)

Career. “[Animal Lover? Consider a Career in Wildlife Rehabilitation & Education](#).” Ally Reagle, B.S. Wildlife Rehabilitation Hospital Shift Supervisor & Environmental Educator, Woodford Cedar Run Wildlife Refuge, Medford, NJ, USA. 🎥 [View recording](#).



March 20, 2024, 12:30-1:45 pm, Science 126 or [Zoom](#)

Research. “[How Plants Use Soil Microbes to Obtain Nutrients and as Growth Stimulants](#).” James White, Ph.D. Professor, Department of Plant Biology & Pathology, Rutgers University, New Brunswick, NJ, USA. 🎥 [View recording](#).



March 25, 2024, 12:30-1:45 pm, Science 126 or [Zoom](#)

Career. “[A day in the life of a Clinical Microbiology Laboratory Scientist](#).” Albert Carrette, MS, M(ASCP). Corporate Microbiology Manager. Virtua Health, Voorhees, NJ, USA. No video available.



April 10, 2024, 2:00-3:15 pm, Science Hall 126 or [Zoom](#)

Research. “[Microenvironmental regulation of vascular formation and regeneration](#).” Sharon Gerecht, Ph.D. Duke University, Paul M. Gross Distinguished Professor of Bioengineering, Department of Biomedical Engineering, and Associate Dean For Research and Infrastructure. Durham, NC, USA. 🎥 [View recording](#).



CANCELED. April 17, 2024, 2:00-3:15 pm, Science Hall 126 or [Zoom](#)

Perspectives. “[Wade in the Water: Perspectives on Diversity in Ecology & Environmental Science](#).” Ambrose Jearld Jr., Ph.D. Director of Academic Programs, Marine Biologist, retired. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Northeast Fisheries Science Center, MA, USA.



April 24, 2024, 2:00-3:15 pm, Science Hall 126 or [Zoom](#)

Research. “[Phenotypic plasticity and adaptive diversification in threespine stickleback fish](#).” Matthew Wund, Ph.D. Professor of Biology. The College of New Jersey. Ewing, NJ, USA. No video available.



Fall 2023

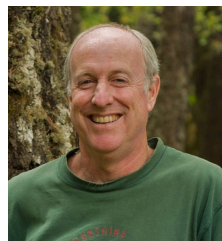
September 6, 2023, 2:00-3:15 pm, Science Hall 126

Research. "[Unveiling the Invention of MK-7602: a Breakthrough in Malaria Treatment](#)." Manuel de Lera Ruiz, Ph.D. Principal Scientist, Discovery Chemistry, Merck, Philadelphia, PA, USA. No video available.



September 6, 2023, 4:30-6:00 pm, Business 235

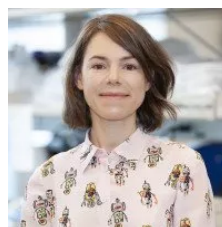
Career. "[Starting a Career in Pharma](#)." Manuel de Lera Ruiz, Ph.D. Principal Scientist, Discovery Chemistry, Merck, Philadelphia, PA, USA. No video available.



October 4, 2023, 7:00-8:30 p.m. Chamberlain Student Center, Eynon Ballroom.

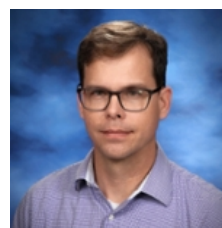
Research. Centennial Lecture Series. "[Nature's Best Hope](#)." Doug Tallamy, Ph.D. T. A. Baker Professor of Agriculture in the Department of Entomology and Wildlife Ecology at the University of Delaware, Newark, DE, USA.

🎥 [View recording](#).



November 8, 2023, 2:00-3:15 pm, Business 104

Research. Dean's Distinguished Speaker & U-RISE Keynote. "Early Life Imprinting of Immune Tolerance" Chrysothemis Brown, M.B.B.S., Ph.D. Assistant Professor & Assistant Attending Physician, Pediatrics. Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center. USA. 🎥 [View recording](#). (We apologize that the sound was not working for the first few minutes [here](#)).



December 6, 2023, 2:00-3:15 pm, Science Hall 126

Research. Jason Heindl, Ph.D. "[Integrating Cell Cycle Regulation with Persistent Infection In Agrobacterium](#)." Associate Professor, Department of Biological & Biomedical Sciences, Rowan University, Glassboro, NJ, USA.

🎥 [View recording](#).

Spring 2023

January 25, 2023 2:00-3:15 pm, Science Hall 126 and Virtual
Research. "[Understanding the autophagic system in catabolic conditions-induced muscle atrophy](#)." Kleighton Silva, Ph.D. Assistant Professor of Biomedical Sciences, Cooper Medical School of Rowan University, Camden, NJ, USA. 🎥 [View recording](#).



March 8, 2023 9:30-10:45 am, Virtual Only
Career. "[Am I there yet? Navigating a career after Rowan](#)." Eileen Oni, Ph.D. Health Science Policy Analyst, National Institutes of Health (NIH), Washington, District of Columbia, USA. No video available.



March 29, 2023 2:00-3:15 pm, Science Hall 126 and Virtual
Research. "[Laurasia, Gondwana, and Indian Arks: Investigating the When and Where of Placental Mammal Diversification](#)." Luke Holbrook, Ph.D. Professor, Biological & Biomedical Sciences, Rowan University, Glassboro, NJ, USA. 🎥 [View recording](#).



April 5, 2023 2:00-3:15 pm, Science Hall 126 and Virtual
Perspectives. "[Race and American Reproductive and Gynecologic Practices: A Historical Perspective, Past to Present](#)." Kristina Williams, MD. General Obstetrician-Gynecologist at Cooper University Health Care and Assistant Professor of Obstetrics & Gynecology at Cooper University Medical School of Rowan University, Camden, NJ, USA. 🎥 [View recording](#).



April 12, 2023 2:00-3:15 pm, Science Hall 126 and Virtual
Research. "[Integrated behavioral and metabolically flexible responses of wild orangutans to variation in nutritional intake](#)." Erin Vogel, Ph.D. Associate Professor, Department of Anthropology, Rutgers University, New Brunswick, NJ, USA. 🎥 [View recording](#).



April 13, 2023 6:00-7:15 pm, Science Hall 128 and Virtual
Career. "[From Dirty Dirt to Septic Systems to Food Safety: The Average Day of a Registered Environmental Health Specialist \(REHS\)](#)." Rebecca Sleeter, MPH, CPH, REHS, LI/RA. Principal Registered Environmental Health Specialist at Salem County Department of Health & Human Services, Salem, NJ, USA. 🎥 [View recording](#).



Fall 2022

October 28, 2022 12:30pm, Science Hall 126

Research. "[Computational Neuroethology to Unveil Mechanisms behind Chronic Pain](#)." Nathan Fried, Ph.D. Department of Biology, Rutgers University, Camden, Camden, NJ, USA. 🎥 [View recording](#).



(We also had eleven un-recorded seminars by candidates for professors).

Spring 2022 [[Poster](#)]

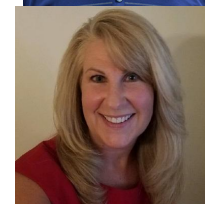
January 27, 2022 2:00 pm

Research. "[Tiger Beetles as Models for Cryptic Species Discovery](#)." Daniel Duran, PhD. Department of Environmental Science, Rowan University, Glassboro, NJ, USA. 🎥 [View recording](#).



February 9, 2022 11:00 am

Career. "[Forensic Science: What It Is and What It Isn't](#)." Laura Tramontin, Assistant Chief Forensic Scientist/Laboratory Director, East Regional Laboratory, Office of Forensic Sciences, New Jersey State Police, Sea Girt, NJ, USA. 🎥 [View recording](#).



February 23, 2022 3:30 pm

Research. "[Hedgehog Signaling Regulation of Taste Organ](#)." Archana Kumari, PhD. Department of Biological Science, Rowan School of Osteopathic Medicine, Stratford, NJ, USA. 🎥 [View recording](#).



March 10, 2022 3:30 pm

Career. "[Wildlife Biologist: How my love for nature transformed my career path](#)." Merlin Benner, Founder of Wildlife Specialists, LLC and Co-founder of Remote Intelligence, LLC, Wellsboro, PA, USA. 🎥 [View recording](#).



March 24, 2022 11:00 am

Research. "[Combining genetic sequencing and field experiments to study white clover adaptation in diverse climates](#)." Sara Wright, PhD. Lecturer, Department of Biological Sciences, Rowan University, Glassboro, NJ, USA. 🎥 [View recording!](#)



April 8, 2022 12:30 pm

Research. "[Discovery of a zinc chaperone for metalloprotein biosynthesis](#)." Chrysten E. Blaby-Haas, PhD. Biologist, Brookhaven National Laboratory, Upton, NY, USA. 🎥 [View recording](#)



April 12, 2022 9:30 am

Career "[Genetic Counselors: What do they do?](#)" Kendra Flores, MS, CGC. Senior Genetic Counselor, Christiana Care, Newark, DE, USA. 🎥 [View recording](#). To request access, please contact Dr. Ginnene DiStefano at distefanog@rowan.edu from your Rowan email address.



Fall 2021 [[Poster](#)]

September 29, 2021

Research. “How to work with Rowan’s Biology Research Professors.” Various Research Faculty. Department of Biological Sciences, Rowan University, Glassboro, NJ, USA. 🎥 [View recording](#).



October 12, 2021

Research. “[Drug Discovery for Addiction: Targeting the Dopamine D4 Receptor](#).” Thomas Keck, PhD. Department of Molecular and Cellular Biosciences and Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry, Rowan University, Glassboro, NJ, USA. No video available.



October 27, 2021

Career. “[The Role of Medical Laboratory Scientists and HLA Scientists](#).” Helene Paxton, PhD. and Chris Gravante, M.S. Department of Biological Sciences, Rowan University, Glassboro, NJ, USA. 🎥 [View recording](#).



November 8, 2021

Research. “[Verging on Convergence: Marine Mammals and Paleobiology](#)” Brian Beatty, PhD. Department of Anatomy, New York Institute of Technology School of Osteopathic Medicine, Long Island, NY, USA. 🎥 [View recording](#).



November 30, 2021

Career. “[Death Investigation Systems and Forensic Pathology](#).” Jan Thompson Gorniak, D.O., Clark County Office of the Coroner/Medical Examiner, Las Vegas, NV, USA. 🎥 [View recording](#). To request access, please contact Dr. Shelly Thomas at thomassh@rowan.edu from your Rowan email address.



Spring 2021 ([Poster](#))

March 30, 2021

Research. "[Innate Immunity, Cancer, & Viral Infections: The GOOD, the BAD, and the UGLY Sides of Nectins](#)." Claude Krummenacher, PhD. Department of Molecular and Cellular Biosciences, Department of Biological Sciences, Rowan University, Glassboro, NJ, USA. No video available.



April 6, 2021

Research. "[Disruption of Cerebellar Postnatal Development Precedes Neurodegeneration of Purkinje Cells in a Mouse Model of Niemann-Pick Type C Disease](#)." Ileana Soto-Reyes, PhD. Department of Molecular and Cellular Biosciences, Rowan University, Glassboro, NJ, USA.  [View recording](#).



April 12, 2021

Research. "[Effects of Urbanization on Aquatic Turtle Population Structure](#)." Patrick Crumrine, PhD. Department of Environmental Science, Department of Biological Sciences, Rowan University, Glassboro, NJ, USA.  [View recording](#). To request access, please contact Dr. Shelly Thomas at thomassh@rowan.edu from your Rowan email address.



April 19, 2021

Research. "[Transmission Dynamics of Antibiotic Resistant Organisms Between ICU Surfaces and Patient Populations](#)." Kimberley Sukhum, PhD. Washington University School of Medicine, St. Louis, MO, USA.  [View recording](#).

