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**Wednesday, August 4, 2021** **science.gmu.edu**

## In this Issue


- Message from the Dean
- Mason Science Community
- Research & Discovery
- In the News
- Happening at Mason
- Events

*A message from the Dean*

**FERNANDO R. MIRALLES-WILHELM**

## Scientist selfies for a greater good

*by Fernando Miralles-Wilhelm*

As we ready ourselves for the fall semester, each of us has the opportunity to reset personal goals and objectives; to try new things both inside and outside of our labs and classrooms that can enrich our students' experiences.

Some goals may be reaffirmations, like to continue research grant writing productivity which ratcheted up during COVID-19, or to remain community focused as many of us took on additional student mentoring roles to help navigate a non face-to face learning landscape.

Here's something you may not have considered for your goals list, yet research shows it can be a benefit. How many of you said, "I'm going to step up my social media presence to better establish my academic brand and thought leadership role in my field"?

According to a 2019 research study 'Using selfies to challenge public stereotypes of scientists,' a team of

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negative attitudes toward scientists."

The study further suggests "that scientists posting self-portraits ("selfies") to Instagram from the science lab/field were perceived as significantly warmer and more trustworthy, and no less competent, than scientists posting photos of only their work."

Read full message

# MASON SCIENCE COMMUNITY

## AOES and Mathematical Sciences welcome new department chairs

The college welcomes two new department chairs: Mark D. Uhen for the Department of Atmospheric, Oceanic and Earth Sciences and Maria Emelianenko for the Department of Mathematical Sciences. Find out the great impact they've already had in their respective departments and plans for the future. Thank you to outgoing chairs, Jim Kinter and David Walnut for your service to the College and to Mason while in these respective roles.

More on the new chairs

## Clayborne becomes Center for Sustainable Nanotechnology Affiliate

*by Gerald Weatherspoon*

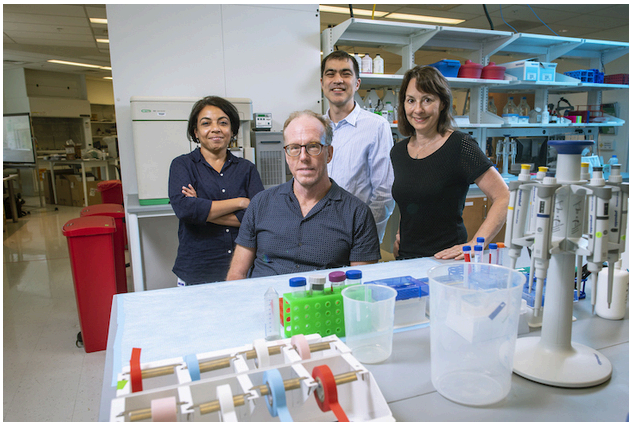
Chemistry and Biochemistry Assistant Professor Andre Clayborne recently accepted an invitation to become a Center for Sustainable Nanotechnology Affiliate. The center, as its name suggests, aims to develop nanotechnologies in a sustainable way using basic chemistry.

More on his appointment

# RESEARCH & DISCOVERY

## Team at start-up AexeRNA Therapeutics Inc. pursue patents for improved COVID-19 vaccines

*by Martha Bushong*



A team of scientific collaborators, including Mason Science's Mikell Paige, Aarthi Narayanan, and Patrick Gillevet, have devised improved lipid nanoparticle technologies to deliver mRNA that could make mRNA vaccines such as the COVID-19 vaccines less costly, with fewer side-effects and more available worldwide.

More on this research

# IN THE NEWS

## To mask or not to mask?

The American Academy of Pediatrics recently stated that they support both vaccinated and unvaccinated individuals wearing masks for a safer return to in-person learning. Environmental Science and Policy Chair Alonso Aguirre recently spoke to *Telemundo* about masking as students return to the classroom.

Watch the news segment

# Happening at Mason

## Mason announces new vaccination requirements for fall semester

Mason is joining the growing community of universities that require all students, faculty, and staff to get vaccinated, and to share verification of their vaccination status, in order to work, study, and live on campus. Mason will approve appropriate exemptions for medical and religious reasons. If you have not submitted your vaccination records, please submit ASAP.

What you need to know

## 12-Month Faculty Leave Roll Change

Mason Vice President for Human Resources and Payroll Lester Arnold, Sr. announced that the leave roll date for 12-month faculty will change from June 24 to January 9 each calendar year begining January 9, 2022. If you have questions, email hr@gmu.edu. Check your email from Arnold for more details (sent Friday, July 30)

**Transfer Science Bridge 1 (virtual)**
August 6, 2021 | 10:30 a.m. to noon
*Transfer students are invited to join us for an interactive, virtual bridge session that builds on New Student Orientation and fully prepares you for life as a Mason Science student.*

**Females of Color and those Underrepresented in STEM (FOCUS) Academy (virtual)**
August 9, 2021. - August 13, 2021
*High school students will participate in STEM workshops as well as enhancement sessions including college and SAT prep, goal setting, fitness classes, a farewell party, and more.*

**College of Science Faculty Meeting**
August 19, 2021, 3 to 4 p.m.
*Check your email for virtual meeting details.*

**Welcome Back To Mason Celebration**
August 20, 2021 | Noon
*Celebrate the start of the semester with food, music, games, and giveaways. The celebration will continue as everyone walks to EagleBank Arena for New Student Convocation from 2 to 3:15 p.m. Register to attend.*

**Save the Date: ScienceConnect**

September 14, 2021 at Mason's Fairfax Campus and September 16, 2021 at Mason's SciTech Campus

See Full Calendar

## Stay Connected

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