Mason SCIENCE

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Wednesday, January 18, 2023 **science.gmu.edu**

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A message from the Dean

FERNANDO R. MIRALLES-WILHELM

Commitment to serve

by Fernando Miralles-Wilhelm

"The time is always right to do what is right." ~ Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

This past Monday, many of our #MasonNation participated in the National Day of Service in honor of the late Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Per our university's Center for Culture, Equity, and Empowerment (CCEE/@MasonCCEE) social media post, "it's the only federal holiday designated as a National Day of Service to encourage all persons to give back to their communities through volunteering." Some of us dedicated the day to service, while others took time for reflection and remembrance.

The CCEE also expressed the hope that "doing the 'work' can take on many forms; and by embodying a love ethic beyond care, we can strengthen our communities."

The group offered many suggestions so each of us could commit to serving our community. As we begin the semester, I encourage us each to identify an organization or cause that matters to you personally and find a way to support its mission. Here's food for thought...

Read full message

MASON SCIENCE COMMUNITY

Alessandra Luchini receives Outstanding Faculty Award

by Mariam Aburdeineh

Alessandra Luchini, Professor, School of Systems Biology, Center for Applied Proteomics and Molecular Medicine (CAPMM), is among the 12 educators statewide set to be formally recognized by the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia (SCHEV) with a 2023 Outstanding Faculty Award at a ceremony. *Photo by Creative Services*.

More on her work

LAU AJEDI Professional Development Funds Request

by Paula Danquah-Brobby

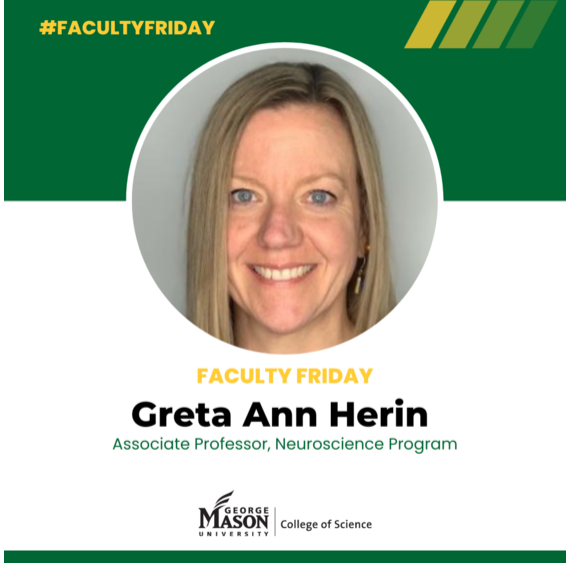
Request AJEDI Professional Development Funds ($3K total) to support AJEDI efforts within your department. Funds must be used no later than June 1, 2023. If you have ideas about how to use the AJEDI funds, be sure to share them with your fellow colleagues and department chair. Departments must submit their requests through their department chair.

Staff and Admin / Professional Faculty AJEDI Professional Development Funds Request

by Paula Danquah-Brobby

Request AJEDI Professional Development Funds ($1K total) to support AJEDI related professional development opportunities. Funds must be used no later than July 31, 2023. Use this form to request "AJEDI Professional Development Funds" (up to $1,000 on first come first serve basis) that have been reserved specifically for staff and admin/professional faculty.

Complete the application form



#FacultyFriday highlights neuroscience associate professor

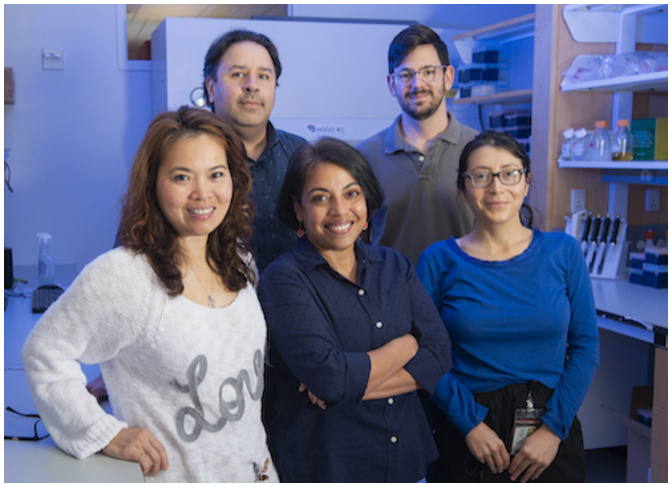
Last week's #FacultyFriday featured Greta Ann Herin, Associate Professor, Neuroscience. Herin's most recent research looks at the effect of environmental pollution on neurotransmitter receptor function. Her research found that lead (Pb) inhibits a neurotransmitter receptor that is important in forms of learning and memory. To some degree, this may explain why children who have been exposed to lead exhibit behavioral issues and learning impairments, even after their bodies have been cleared of the element. View the original Instagram post.

View recent faculty highlights

RESEARCH & DISCOVERY

Mason collaboration receives $3.2 million to help military personnel combat hemorrhagic diseases

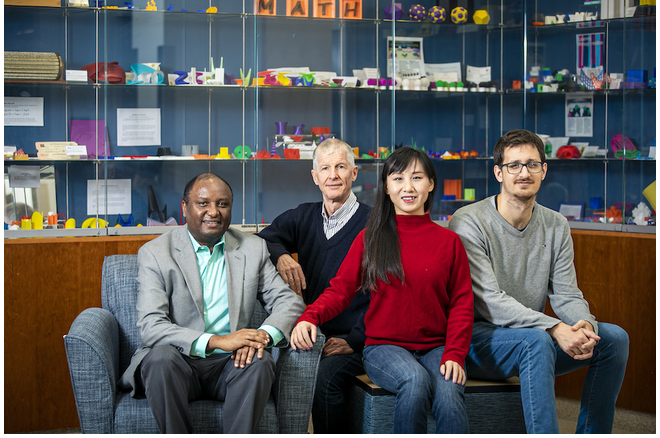
by Katie Maney



Mason infectious disease researcher Aarthi Narayanan, Biology, has partnered with the United States Army Medical Research Institute of Infectious Diseases (USAMRIID) and Cyclica, a biotechnology company based in Canada, to identify potential broad-spectrum therapeutics for illnesses triggered by HFVs and similar pathogens. *Photo by Evan Cantwell/Creative Services.*

Explore their study

Mason interdisciplinary team receives $1.5 million grant to research underwater explosions



by Shayla Brown

A George Mason University interdisciplinary team is studying underwater explosions and their effects on civil engineering infrastructure with the support of a $1.5 million grant from Defense Threat Reduction Agency. Lingquan Li, a postdoctoral research fellow, is working alongside Girum Urgessa of the College of Engineering and Computing, Rainald Löhner of the College of Science, and PhD student Facundo Airaudo. *Photo by Cristian Torres*.

More on their work

IN THE NEWS

Is there a correlation between an interest in criminal activity and committing murder?

The media recently released information on the man accused of murdering four University of Idaho students, including his pursuit of a PhD in Criminology. It led many to wonder - what's the connection between those interested in learning about crimes and those who commit them? According to Mason's forensic science program director, Mary Ellen O'Toole, a fascination with crime and criminals does not necessarily make a person more likely to commit murder. Find out what else O'Toole had to say on this case in Inside Higher Ed, Newsweek, CBS News, Fox News, and CNN.

Happening at Mason

4-VA@Mason 2023 - 2024 Collaborative Research Grants Accepting Proposals

Faculty interested in piloting a novel research project in conjunction with colleagues at one of the seven other 4-VA schools in Virginia are encouraged to apply to the annual 4-VA@Mason Collaborative Research Grants call for proposals. These grants, of up to $20,000, are designed to facilitate and support alliances which leverage the strengths of each partner university to improve efficiencies in research and higher education, reduce working in silos, and provide hands-on experiential opportunities for students. The application link will be posted on the 4-VA@Mason website until Tuesday, February 28, 2023, with funding available Saturday, July 1, 2023.

Find out more

Second Mason Math Alumni and Student Conference
January 21, 2023 | 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. | Horizon Hall, room 1010 and Virtual
Please encourage mathematics students to attend this annual conference that invites Mason alumni to discuss their work in academic, industry, and national labs. Students will get the opportunity to network and make deeper connections with the Department of Mathematical Sciences.

Faculty Senate Meeting
January 25, 2023 | 3 p.m. | Virtual
Attend the first faculty senate meeting of 2023 that will include discussion of bylaw revisions and budget updates. Review the full agenda.

Galileo's Science Cafe
January 26, 2023 | 6 to 9 p.m.
Attend a lecture on Dr. Frank Krueger and Kelsey Mitchell's fascinating research on Human-dog relationships as a framework exploring for human-robot affiliation. Registration required.

Call for Papers: 2023 Annual Modeling and Simulation Conference
Submissions deadline January 29, 2023
The Society for Modeling and Simulation International seeks presenters contributing to the theory and practice of modeling and simulation in any scientific or engineering discipline. The conference takes place in May.

Spring Family Fling
March 31, 2023 | 10 a.m. thru April 2, 2023 | 4 p.m. | Northern Virginia
Experience the beauty of springtime in Northern Virginia at this smaller, spring version of Mason's fall Family Weekend.

See Full Calendar

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Read the College of Science's latest annual report

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