

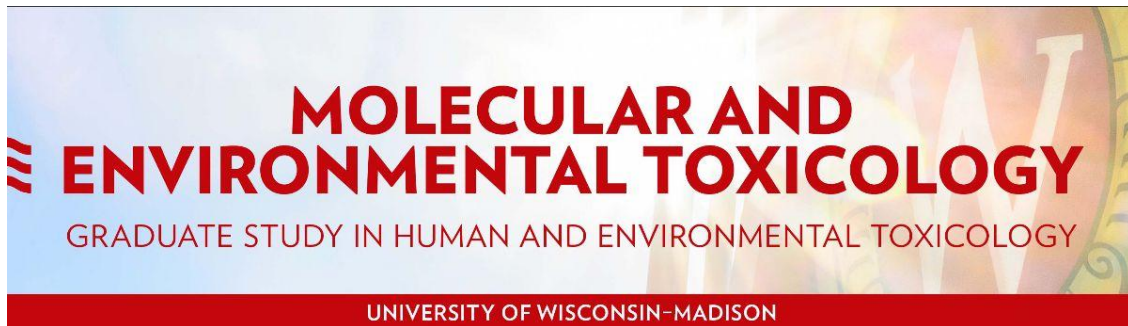
## MET Winter 2019 Newsletter

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To: MARK D MAROHL <mdmarohl@wisc.edu>

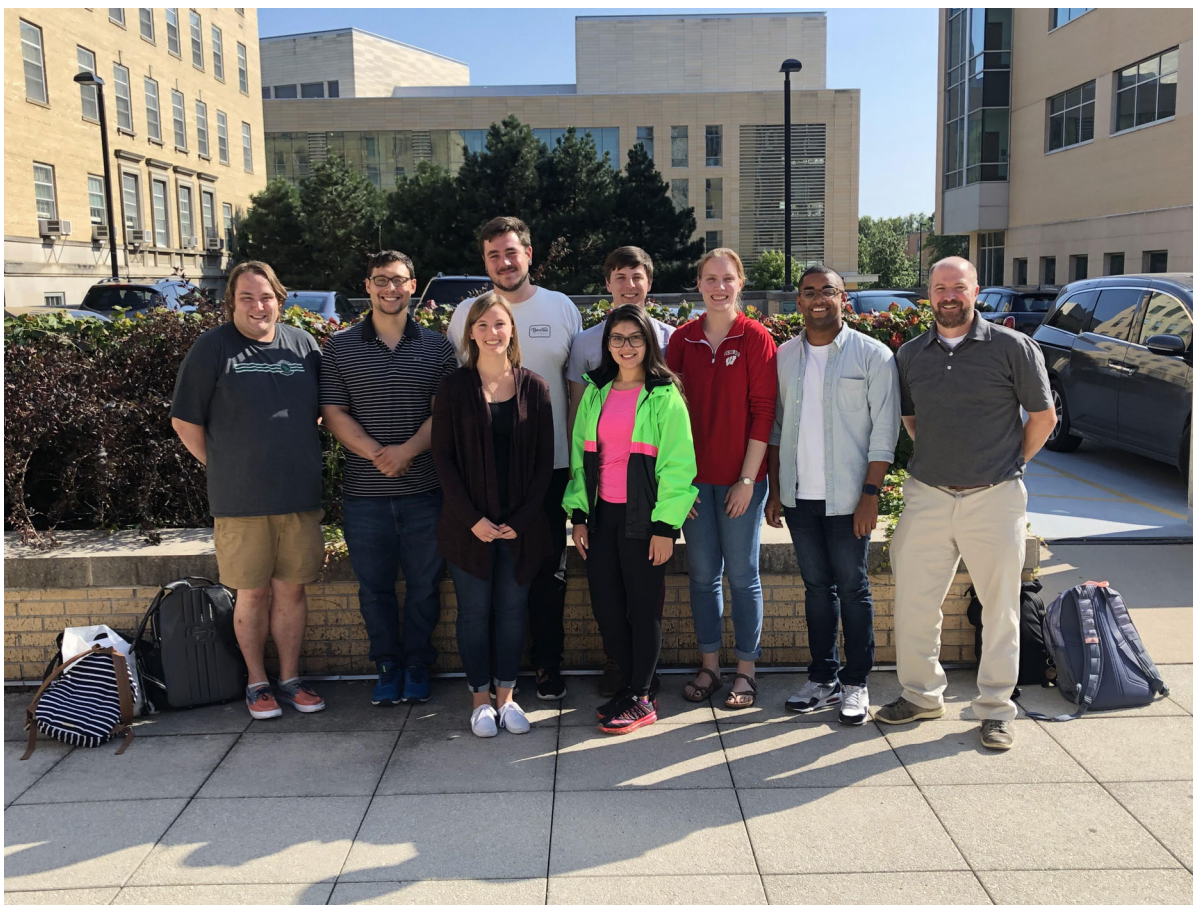
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## What's new with MET?

Meet our new first students! We have eight incoming MET graduate students. Read their bios below:



From left to right:

1. Conner Kennedy: (Joined Dr. Kim Keil's Lab) *Introductions? I suppose. You might have already noticed my name, so that's taken care of. I hail from the University of North Texas (and indeed, I am from the area) with a BS in Biochemistry. As for research interests, I have always been open to just about anything, toxicology is quite versatile. However, with all of the options at hand, I still feel the most drawn to to medical perspectives and implications as resultant of exposure.*

*With the "business" behind us, my free time includes pleasure reading and thrifting. I have not seen a ghost, but I have heard one. For the full story, inquire within... But all I can say is ghosts have some prejudices.*

2. Thomas Peterson: (Joined Dr. Chad Vezina's Lab) I am originally from Kansas City, Missouri. I attended Pennsylvania State University during my undergraduate. My research interests include cancer biology. I want to either work for the government and develop risk assessments for new chemicals or work in industry. If I did have free time, I would enjoy watching movies. The last concert I went to was Lil Wayne. I have not seen a ghost. My favorite animal is the cheetah. I have eaten sea urchin. Caution, excessive time spent with Thomas Peterson may cause uncontrollable laughter.

3. Brandon Scharpf: (Joined Dr. Chad Vezina's lab) My name is Brandon Scharpf and I am from Long Island, NY. I attended SUNY Potsdam from 2014 to 2018 and received my B.S in Biology. My current research interests are flexible, but in the past I studied the toxic effects of oxidizing agents on the DNA of *Drosophila* brain ganglia. My favorite animal would probably be a three toed sloth because I practically am one. I enjoy music, video games, and socializing in my free time, if I get any.

4. Tyler Beames: (Joined Dr. Rob Lipinski's lab) I was born in San Antonio, TX, and spent the majority of my life in Raleigh, NC. After studying Biology and Music at the University of North Carolina, I worked for a small startup company focused on developing *in vitro* and *in silico* alternatives to toxicity testing in animals. My current interests, generally, include critical windows of susceptibility and molecular mechanisms of toxicity. In my free time, I would enjoy playing saxophone if I didn't live in an apartment. The last concert I went to was "Music of Queen" with the North Carolina Symphony. My favorite animal is the red-eyed tree frog, but I've got a new appreciation for badgers now!

5. Hannah Peterson: (Joined Dr. Lauren Trepanier's Lab) My name is Hannah Peterson and I am from Appleton, WI. I attended the University of Wisconsin-Madison for my undergraduate career majoring in Pharmacology & Toxicology. My research interests can be almost anything related to science really. I get excited by discovering new things and learning about how different chemicals/toxins affect the environment and human health overall. Currently I am working in Dr. Trepanier's lab studying TCC from chronic low exposure to carcinogens in urothelial cells from dogs and humans. After graduate school I hope to transition to either industry or government, not sure which one yet though. In my free time I love to catch up with friends and read. I also love to go camping when the weather cooperates and to hang out at the Terrace at UW. The last concert I went to was Foster the People at the Orpheum in Madison, WI a couple of years ago. My favorite animal is a giraffe since I relate to their height issues and their awkward tendencies. The most unusual thing I have ever eaten is fried alligator which does in fact taste like chicken. An interesting fact about me is that I have a fraternal twin sister who is more interested in accounting than science.

6. Robbie Manuel: (Joined Dr. Yun Liang lab) Originally from the golden streets of the San Francisco Bay Area of California I attended Arizona State and Georgia Southern Universities. My research interests fall between reproductive toxicants that cause phenotypic birth defects, as well as sex differentiated diseases processes. After graduate school, my first plan is earn a post-doc position in the Northeast or West Coast and leave the Midwest; it's far too cold here. In my free time, I enjoy

swimming, playing volleyball, and reading about interior design, color theories, and healthcare architecture. Among other things I like to consider myself a La Croix connoisseur and tequila aficionado.

Listening to music is one of the most religious things that I do on a daily basis, and typically falls within the genres of singer-song writer and indie. That being said, I think the last concert I went to was Noah Gunderson or Kevin Garret. Fun fact, I never believed in ghosts until my first year of college where my I found myself living in one of the Nation's historically significant buildings for ghost encounters (Look it up! Palo Verde East, Arizona State University)! But yass, I lived there and had a handful of unwanted encounters during bewitching hours.

A few more fun facts about me, is that my favorite animals are the beluga and killer whales, or quite possibly any whale species; the most unusual thing I've ever [attempted to eat] ate was a durian fruit; and If I had a warning label it would say, "The truth hurts. If you want someone to lie to you, walk away."

7. Brenna Walton: (Joined Dr. Lisa Arendt lab) I am from the suburbs of the Twins Cities (Champlin, MN). I attended the University of St. Thomas in St. Paul, MN for my undergraduate degree in biology. I am very interested in cancer research and the role of epigenetics in cancer development and progression. In my free time I love to play volleyball; I have played since elementary school and hope to continue to play in Madison. I also enjoy baking when I have the time and my favorite season is fall.

8. Alejandra Gutierrez: (Joined Dr. Cara Westmark's lab) I am from Racine, Wisconsin. I attended Philander Smith College in Little Rock, Arkansas where I received my bachelor in Biology. I am currently working on the effects of diets in Fragile X mice in Dr. Cara Westmark's lab. I would like to continue to do research as well as work in a clinical environment involving neuroscience. I enjoy working out, dancing, and especially eating good food. I am always up for an adventure. My favorite animal would be an elephant because they are strong, wise and independent. I'm very excited to meet everyone and to explore the city of Madison!

9. Chad Vezina: The new director for the MET program!

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## Recent accomplishments from MET students

### Awards:

- Andrew Knutson, Brenda Rojas, Lauren Schrader, Jess Parrot, Kenneth Rivera-Gonzalez, and Morgan Walcheck were appointed to the T32 Training grant!

- Rachel Wilson won an award to travel to Sierra Leone!
- MET students involved in the Sierra Leone Exchange program were awarded a grant from SOT to provide \$4,000 to assist with travel to Sierra Leone! Read about the Sierra Leone project in the Wisconsin State Journal [here!](#)
- Congratulations to Anne Turco who won the Dr. Razia Zaman-Dr. Shahanara Saroya Graduate Award for Excellence in Research and Scholarship in October 2019!
- Kyle Wegner won the Society of Toxicologic Pathology Trainee Travel Award in June 2019!
- Anne Turco won the Vilas Travel award in May 2019!
- Morgan Walcheck won the Young Investigator Award from the Midwest Regional Society of Toxicology!
- Alumni Josh Everson's manuscript in Environmental Health perspectives won paper of the month from NIEHS! Read the article [here!](#)

#### Publications:

- Kyle Wegner and Anne Turco published a paper in the Journal of Pathology in October 2019. Read the article [here!](#)
- Fola Arowolo published a paper in the Journal of Meat Science in September 2019. Read the article [here!](#)
- Alumni Dr. Joshua Everson published a manuscript in Environmental Health perspectives linking the chemical piperonal butoxide to the birth defect holoprosencephaly. View the article [here!](#)

#### Professional Development Activities:

- Kyle Wegner was an invited speaker at The Jackson Laboratory Workshop on Techniques in Modeling Human Cancer in Mice.
- Jess Parrott who completed the Morgridge Entrepreneurial Bootcamp this summer!
- Anne Turco completed the TERA Dose response bootcamp in Cincinnati OH.

**Did you recently publish a paper or win an award? If so, email Anne Turco at [aturco@wisc.edu](mailto:aturco@wisc.edu) by April 1st to be featured in the next MET newsletter in 2020!**

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## **Spotlight on Graduation**





[Kyle Wegner](#) will defend his thesis in December. Kyle worked in the laboratory of Dr. Chad Vezina during his graduate career. Click on his name to learn more about his graduate career accomplishments.

**Research Focus:** Novel toxicological endpoints for urology

**Post-Graduate Career Interest:** Pharmaceutical development, consumer products, public health



[Jeremiah Yee](#) will defend his thesis in December. Click on his name to learn more about what he did during his graduate career.

**Research Focus:** Endpoints of AhR activation

**Post-Graduate Career Interest:** Technology Based Post-Doctoral Studies

Debra Garvey is defending her thesis in December. She did her PhD research in the department of dermatology with research advisor Dr. Nihal Ahmad.



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## What's up Postdoc?



Congratulations to Dr. Chelsea O'Driscoll, MET graduate and postdoctoral fellow who started a position at Procter and Gamble in Cincinnati OH!

**Postdocs! Do you want to be featured in the next newsletter? If so, please email Anne Turco at [aturco@wisc.edu](mailto:aturco@wisc.edu) by April 1st!**

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## Alumni Spotlight



Alumni Dr. Matthew Brody (2013) took a faculty position at the University of Michigan! His lab focuses on post-translational lipid modifications and molecular regulation of signal transduction in cardiomyocytes. Read more about his career path [here!](#)



Alumni Dr. Jordan Sand (2010) has started his own company called Ab E Discovery LLC from a technology he developed during his post-doctoral studies at UW-Madison. He developed a new technology to treat disease by targeting the host immune system. Read more about his career path [here!](#)

To learn more about what other alumni have done since graduating the program visit the MET website [here!](#)

To be featured in the next MET alumni spotlight email Mark Marohl at [mdmarohl@wisc.edu](mailto:mdmarohl@wisc.edu) by April 1st! We will interview you and add your career story to the website and the next newsletter!

If you are [hiring](#) and are interested in recruiting MET students please email Mark Marohl at [mdmarohl@wisc.edu](mailto:mdmarohl@wisc.edu) to obtain contact information or to distribute an advertisement!



## Spotlight on Pharmacology and Toxicology Undergraduate Students!

Are you in the Pharmacology and Toxicology program? Do you want to be featured in the next MET newsletter? If you've published a paper, won an award, or made a new discovery in your research send an email to Anne Turco (aturco@wisc.edu) to be featured.

If you are interested in helping gather stories and accomplishments from your classmates email Anne Turco (email listed above) to see how you can get involved in this newsletter!

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### MET Science Image Contest



Do you generate amazing science images in your research? Would you like to win money for your cool images? If so, please participate in our MET cool science image contest!

Images you submit will be judged by MET faculty and students and the top three coolest images will be chosen! First prize will be awarded a \$10 amazon gift card from the SLC and second and third prize will be awarded \$5 amazon gift cards!

Your images will be advertised in the next newsletter and posted on our website!

Please only submit images that won't be in conflict with any upcoming or current publications and those that you give permission to be posted in the newsletter and on the MET website.

Submit your cool science images [here!](#) The deadline for submission is March 1st!

Each MET student is allowed to submit up to 3 cool science images! You will be prompted to include a title of your image and a brief description.

Please email SLC with any questions: [uwmadison.metc.slc@wisc.edu](mailto:uwmadison.metc.slc@wisc.edu)

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## Events for the Semester

- New graduate student application deadline for MET is December 3rd
- Debra Garvey's Thesis Defense is December 16th
- Jeremiah Yee's Thesis Defense is December 18th
- Kyle Wegner's Thesis Defense is December 20nd
- Emmanuel Vazquez-Rivera's seminar in McArdle room 125 on 1/23/2020
- Kyoungtea Kim's seminar in McArdle room 125 on 2/06/2020
- Joni Baker's seminar in McArdle room 125 on 2/13/2020
- Anne Turco's seminar in McArdle room 125 on 2/20/2020
- Morgan Walcheck's seminar in McArdle room 125 on 2/27/2020
- Andrew Knutson/ Charles Olmsted's seminar in McArdle room 125 on 3/05/2020
- Brenda Rojas/ Jess Parrott's seminar in McArdle room 125 on 3/12/2020
- Glorimar Guzman-Perez/ Kenneth Rivera-Gonzalez's seminar in McArdle room 125 on 3/26/2020
- Lily Gonzolez-Vazquez seminar in McArdle room 125 on 4/09/2020
- Patrick Carney/ Dominic Sanchez in McArdle room 125 on 4/30/2020
- Society of Toxicology Annual Meeting is March 15-19 in Anaheim, California

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## List of Award Deadlines

- Awards for the Society of Toxicology are due in December! Click the link here to [apply!](#)
- Vilas Travel Award can be applied for anytime to fund travel to a meeting! Apply here [today!](#)
- MET Cool Science Image Contest due January 10th! Apply today!
- Graduate student Travel award for Midwest Regional Society of Toxicology is due February 14th! Click [here](#) for award details!
- Young Investigator Award for the Midwest Regional Society of Toxicology is due April 24! Click [here](#) for award details!

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Email [uwmadison.metc.slc@gmail.com](mailto:uwmadison.metc.slc@gmail.com) with any questions about this posting.



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