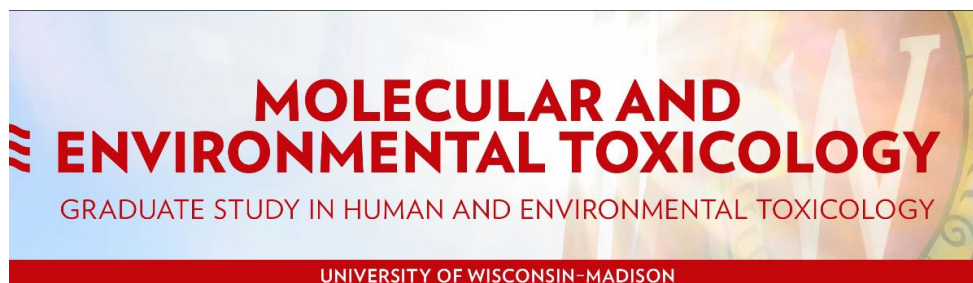


[View this email in your browser](#)



## Summer Updates!!



Alumni, students, faculty and friends,

Before we can jump in to a warm and (hopefully) relaxing summer, let's rewind the spring 2022 semester!

It was an eventful semester to say the least. The UW campus is finally looking like it's old self again - students walking to in-person classes, the path to Picnic Point blooming with greenery, and a return to Friday evenings at The Library. The exciting and engaging updates lead by the MET student population continue to exceed expectations with more and more alumni, current student, and faculty contributions every day. This kind of participation is essential and has allowed our program to flourish this semester including national conference presentations, diversity and inclusivity in biosciences education, and inspiring ideas for the semesters ahead of us. The UW MET community still serves as example of what excellent, diverse and interdisciplinary scientific research has to offer all while still having the one of the best reputations on campus for graduate student outlook. Our current students know that is largely thanks to the students, administrators, and faculty trainers that have come before us so before going any further - Thank you!

The decision making responsibilities and freedoms allowed to our students have already benefitted the program greatly but we could use your help. We students are enthusiastically seeking out engaged alumni to develop our MET program into a professional network that can provide information, mentorship, and professional

Please reach out if you are interested in serving as an alumni contact for current students, as a guest seminar speaker, or to share your ideas for strengthening our program as a whole: [ncarrillo@wisc.edu](mailto:ncarrillo@wisc.edu).

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## MET announces its newest Equity Ambassador!

Please join us in welcoming second year graduate student, **Chamia Chatman** as our new MET Equity Ambassador(EA)!



Almost two years ago now, MET introduced a new officer position entitled Equity Ambassador. This position will be held by a current student which will be dedicated to the equity and diversity in all the MET proceedings. The equity officer will attend all MET policy, curricular, and admissions meetings, a reminder that the goal of equity is enduring and persistent. The equity officer will be the first to offer suggestions and opinions at these meetings. They will also review and recommend changes to the MET graduate program handbook.

Chamia is a second year graduate student and SciMed research fellow. Originally from Chicago, Chamia graduated from the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign with a B.S. in Animal Sciences. She had this to say about her new position:

"My name is Chamia Chatman. I am a second-year MET graduate student training with Dr. Erica Majumder. I'm excited to announce that I will be joining the SLC as their newest Equity Ambassador. I'd like to thank Noah and Glorimar for their support and for considering me for this role. During my time at UW-Madison, I have always appreciated that the MET program cares about student voice. As the newest equity ambassador, I want to ensure this continues."

Stay tuned for more updates from Chamia about directions for her new role and the MET program as a whole in our next newsletter!

Each seminar we are having short presentations given by current students and faculty highlighting the contributions of different scientists from minority groups. Our Equity Ambassador can also lead fascinating discussions within the MET program to further talk about any topics of interest that arise from the presentations.

## The Molecular and Environmental Travel Award for Equity and Inclusion

Students in MET have organized a new **Travel Award: The Molecular and Environmental Toxicology Travel Award for Equity and Inclusion** to fund graduate student travel to the Annual Biomedical Research Conference for Minority Students (ABRCMS) or the Society for Advancement of Chicanos/Hispanic or Native American in Science (SACNAS). Graduate students will apply and a sub-committee will review the application and decide each year's recipient.

See the MET website here for more details. Are you excited about this award or want to give back to the MET program? Consider donating to this award here!

**DONATE**

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## Spotlight on Graduation



**Jessica Parrot** (2018 cohort) will be defending her thesis on August 2022. Jess works in the laboratory of Dr. Christopher Bradfield studying genetics and molecular biology of the aryl hydrocarbon receptor pathway. After she finishes graduate school, she plans on pursuing a career as an industry scientist.



**Glorimar Guzmán-Pérez** (2018 cohort), will be defending her thesis on August 11, 2022. As part of the lab of Dr. Nihal Ahmad, Glorimar has worked on determining the role of sirtuin 3 (SIRT3) in melanoma. After completing her PhD, she plans on pursuing a career as an industry scientist.



**Andrew Knutson** (2017 cohort), will be defending his thesis on July 22, 2022. During graduate school, Andrew worked in the lab of Dr. Jyoti Watters exploring the long-term consequences of maternal sleep apnea during pregnancy on offspring brain development and cognition. He is looking for a position as a toxicology study director in the Midwest, particularly with consumer products, medical devices, or reproductive and developmental toxicology.

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### ***Molecular & Environmental Toxicology Grad Recognition Event:***

On April 14, 2022, MET put together a lovely event to celebrate the soon to be graduates. Students were able to share their experiences during grad school and being in UW-Madison.

Pictures from the activity are included below:





Pictured (left to right): Andrew Knutson, Jessica Parrot, and Glorimar Guzmán-Pérez



Pictured: Dr. Chad Vezina (left; MET director) and Alejandra Gutierrez (right; MET master's student)



Pictured: Dr. Chad Vezina (left; MET director) and Andrew Knutson (right; MET PhD student)



Pictured: Dr. Chad Vezina (left; MET director) and Jessica Parrot (right; MET PhD student)



Pictured: Dr. Chad Vezina (left; MET director) and Glorimar Guzmán-Pérez (right; MET PhD student)

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## Alumni Spotlight

**To be featured in the next MET alumni spotlight email Mark Marohl at [mdmarohl@wisc.edu](mailto:mdmarohl@wisc.edu) by October 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!**

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It is with a heavy heart that we will be saying goodbye to perhaps the most iconic MET-er yet. **Mr. Mark Marohl**, our graduate program coordinator, will be moving on from the MET program at the end of June to take a new position within the UW School of Medicine and Public Health. For those of us who have had the opportunity to work with Mr. Marohl, from figuring out how to enroll in classes to helping distribute these newsletters, we know that he will be truly missed. Please join us in taking a moment to remember his time here with MET:



- *When did you start as MET coordinator?*

"I started at MET in October 2007. At that time, there were two others in the office and I was able to learn from them. I think that I became the full student services coordinator in 2012 (give-or-take)."

- *What drove you to apply to this role?*

"I was serving as a departmental administrator for a research center on campus in an interim role. When my appointment time "came due," I needed to find other work. At that time, I was applying to pretty much everything and anything. MET was the first group to make me an offer and I accepted it. What made me think that it was a great transition for me was that, during the interview process, I was asked a lot of questions that I was able to respond with, "Yes, I have done that before," so I figured I had a decent shot of being successful."

- *What have you enjoyed the most in your years as MET coordinator?*

"Honestly, I don't know where to begin. This has been such a privilege.

What is something you are proud of during your time with MET?

I am proud of my students, the contributions they made, the work they completed, and the adventures they've traveled post-graduation."

- *What is something you didn't expect about the coordinator position at MET?*

"I did not expect how many opportunities it would open - professional networking, proposals (internal and external), latitude for personal growth - there were many things that the job allowed me to pursue and achieve within the realm of "student services coordinator" that I know colleagues in similar roles may not have had."

- *A funny anecdote you would like to share..?*

replied, "Thinking about relaxation stresses me out!"

If I were to do a second, the SLC hosted an "April Fools" data exchange. Each student gave four slides of figures without legends and those were randomly assigned, so a different student had to make sense of the data and present. I went to that after having read a section of a proposal and recognized one of the figure sets from that very proposal. So, naturally, I asked a question, using proposal buzz-words. The student whose data it was turned to me and goes, "Oh my gosh, that is such a mean question!" That is the starting point of me asking questions at MET 800 seminar."

- *What is your next step in your career?*

"I will be assuming a grants administrator role within the UW-Office for Training Grant Support. It is a new position and there are still roles to be defined, but the initial tasks will be to work with PIs and other programs to help develop T32s for submission to various NIH institutes."

- *What are you looking forward to most about the new position?*

"Having been intimately involved with a T32 for the past fifteen years, I know the opportunities that one can provide and how it can serve a trainee, a faculty member, and a program well to move forward new ideas and initiatives. I am hoping that, through this role, I am able to assist to build a larger T32 presence on campus to help install some of the initiatives that started here in MET to a wider campus community."

- *What will you miss the most about MET?*

"I work with amazing people and I shall miss you all."

- *A message(s) you would like to say to MET students and faculty.*

"Two messages? 1) This has been a privilege for me. 2) I'm proud of you."

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### ***Celebrating the legendary Mark...***

Recently, MET put together a small gathering in no other than our old seminar room to celebrate Mark and thank him for all he's done for the program. Below are a couple of pictures of Mark together with MET graduate students, summer interns, and alumni:





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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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