



USF Chemistry NEWS

News of Interest to Friends of the
Department of Chemistry
University of South Florida
A Florida Preeminent Research
University

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Faculty Recognition

Clarivate Analytics

Professor **Shengqian Ma** was named a 2019 Clarivate Highly Cited Researcher, meaning he is once again in the top 1% of all chemists cited worldwide.

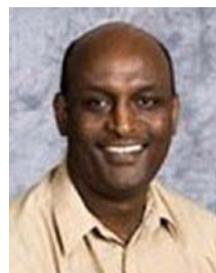


Dr. Ma

The Highly Cited Researchers data from Clarivate Analytics form a key component of the Academic Ranking of World Universities (<http://www.shanghairanking.com/ARWU2019.html>).

USF World Presented Global Achievements Awards

Solomon Weldegirma was recognized both as a nominee for a Global Achievement Award for his work in Ethiopia, and he received a pin commemorating his being named a Fulbright Scholar.



Dr. Weldegirma

Xiaopeng Li was recognized for Outstanding Global Success, in part for being named the 2019 recipient of the Cram Lehn Pedersen Prize for Supramolecular Chemistry.



Dr. Li

And the Science in Florence faculty team, which includes **Kirpal Bisht**, **Kim Fields** and **David Merkler**, won the team award for Outstanding Global Student Success.



Dr. Bisht,



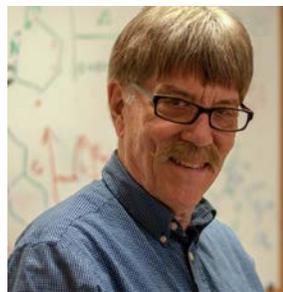
Dr. Fields



Dr. Merkler

New Research Award

Dr. **Wayne Guida** (Professor) is the PI and Dr. **James Leahy** (Professor and Chair) is the Co-PI of a new NIH-funded project, “Development of antagonists targeting STING in systemic lupus erythematosus.



Dr. Guida

The project started January 1, and it is scheduled for a two-year period.

Excellence in Innovation

Dr. **Kirpal Bisht** (Associate Professor, above) is one of five faculty members to be awarded a USF Excellence in Innovation Award for his work with USF Health’s Department of Molecular Medicine

Schneller Legacy Lecturer

Dr. **Wendy Young** is the Senior Vice President of Small Molecule Drug Discovery at Genentech. On December 4th, she presented her lecture entitled “Delivering Innovative Medicines: Small Changes Can Have a Large Effect.”

Dr. Young is a chemist by training and has extensive experience leading drug discovery teams. She is listed as an author or inventor on over 70 papers and patent filings and has led and managed numerous drug discovery project teams.



Presentation of plaque by Dr. Leahy

Notably, she led the research team and is co-inventor of fenebrutinib, a Bruton tyrosine Kinase (btk) inhibitor, which has been evaluated in Phase II studies in several immunology indications.

She wrote, “We anticipate this molecule will LIP soon and move to pivotal studies MS and possibly other indications.”

Dr. Young received a B.A./M.S. in chemistry from Wake Forest University and her Ph.D. from Princeton University, where she was part of the team that invented Alimta that was launched by Eli Lilly for several oncology indications.

She was an American Cancer postdoctoral fellow at Memorial Sloan Cancer Center where she completed the total synthesis of Taxol – 52 steps long!

Wendy Young has been highly involved in the National American Chemical Society for over a decade and was elected as the national MEDI chair in 2017.

In 2015, she was recognized by the San Francisco Business Times as one of San Francisco Bay Area’s “Most Influential Business Women of 2015.”

In 2018, she was a recognized as an ACS Fellows Awardee and in March of 2020, will

be awarded the ACS Earle B. Barnes Award for Leadership in Chemical Research Management.

The Schneller Chemistry Legacy Lectureship honors the chemistry faculty who, from 1960 to 1968, endured sand spurs and gravel roads to arrive at a Ph.D.- granting department with an undergraduate degree program consistently recognized by the American Chemical Society.

Unfortunately, Dr. Schneller was unable to attend this year’s lecture.

Chemistry Graduates

Some 5,000 degrees were awarded at USF’s 119th commencement convocation held December 13-14.

An unusual number of chemistry majors received advanced degrees on December 14th: A list of the graduates and their advisers follows

Doctorates:

Dr. Abdulaziz Alanazi,
(Dr. **Randy Larsen**)

Dr. Cole Cerrato (Dr. **Li-June Ming**)
Dr. Brian O’Flynn (Dr. **David Merkler**)

Dr. Anne-Claire Limon
(Dr. **Bill Baker**)

Dr. Andrew Shilling (Dr. **Bill Baker**)
Dr. Bo Song (Dr. **Xiaodong Li**)

Dr. Raja Bommreddy
(Dr. **Mildred Acevedo-Duncan**)

Dr. Anisul Islam
(Dr. **Mildred Acevedo-Duncan**)

Dr. Ying He (Dr. **Xiaodong Shi**)
Dr. Andrea Lemus (Dr. **James Leahy**)

Dr. Rainer Metcalf (Dr. **Wayne Guida**)
Dr. Alejandro Rivera Nicholls

(Dr. **Julie Harmon**)
Dr. **Silvia Sing** (Dr.**Jianfeng Cai**)
Dr. **Lei Wang** (Dr.**Jianfeng Cai**)

Masters:

Mr. **Christopher Johnson** (MA),
(Dr.**Wayne Guida**)
Mr. **MD Dewahur Rahman** (MS),
(Dr. **Scott Lewis**)

Ms. **Paige Romero** has added these names to the Webpage Alumni list, together with current activities of each as we learn of them.

Martin Lecturer

The 2020 Martin Lecturer was
Dr. **Christy Haynes**, who is the

Distinguished McKnight University
Professor, Elmore H. Northey Professor
University of Minnesota, Department of
Chemistry, Minneapolis,

Her seminar on January 22 was titled “Design
and Redesign of Sustainable Engineered
Nanomaterials”



Dr. Haynes

Dr. **Theresa Evans-Nguyen** (Assistant
Professor) coordinated seminar arrangements
and served as host. Ms. **Paige Romero**
arranged for the special before- and- after
refreshments.

Persons you may know

Chuhua Wang (Ph.D. '98) sent greeting to
Dr. **Dean Martin**, and noted he and his wife
were spending part of the holidays in
Philadelphia.

Dr. **Aleksandra Karolak** ('15) is an
Assistant Research Professor at City of Hope,
{Pasadena, CA}



Dr. **van der Vaart** was her doctoral advisor.

USF News

New Honor

USF was honored by the Association of
Public and Land-grant Universities (APLU),
the national association for the leading 237
public research universities in the United
States, as the top winner of its 2019
Institutional Award for Global Learning,
Research and Engagement.



Dr. Currall

This prestigious award, which President
Steven Currall accepted on behalf of the

university during the APLU's annual meeting in San Diego, distinguishes USF's global leadership in international education, research and engagement, and sets us apart among USF peers.

President Currall wrote, "The award is a wonderful reflection of the great work being carried out by USF World and many other units across our university."

New Appointment

President Currall accepted an invitation APLU Council invitation to participate as a Commissioner in the group's flagship effort, the National Commission on Innovation and Competitiveness Frontiers, a multi-year effort by the Council to overcome critical challenges facing the U.S. innovation engine.

New Home

"The new USF Health and Morsani College of Medicine and Heart Institute officially opened on January 8 when USF friends, supporters, staff, and students cut through a long white ribbon signifying the culmination of nearly five years of design and construction of the 13-story building that will help attract the best in education and research."

The 395,000 square foot building will house more than 1,800 students, faculty, researchers and staff.

The facility is relatively close to Tampa General Hospital.

Fastest-rising University

USF is now No. 44 according to new rankings released by *U.S. news and World Report*. This ranking is 14 points higher than last year and is USF's highest position ever on the *US News* list of best universities

USF Innovation Enterprise

Paul R. Sanberg, M.D., Ph.D., D.Sc., is Senior VP for Research, Innovation & Knowledge Enterprise. He is also President and Founder of the National Academy of Inventors.

Dr. Sanberg is also a highly cited author. One of 146 at USF who are among the top



Dr. Sanberg

1.5% of all cited scientists worldwide

As President, National Academy of Inventors. Dr. Sanberg was able to announce the 158 new Fellows of NAI, two are from USF.

He also shared significant patent information:

For the seventh consecutive year, USF stands with the world's top universities in inventing new technologies, tools, and objects that have been granted a U.S. patent USF was seventh among American public research universities and 16th among all universities world-wide in generating new patents

Acknowledgements

Patent information was obtained from the 2018-19 Performance Report of the USF Foundation.

APLU information was obtained from end-of-the-term information that was provided to the University community.

Ms. **Kaitlyn Kroner** provided the names of advanced graduates. She serves as Graduate Program Coordinator for Chemistry.

Ms. **Paige Romero** is an Administrative Specialist.

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Ms. Paige Romero

For past issues you may have missed, please see the departmental Web page.

News for us or comments?

Please write to: dfmartin@usf.edu

Abbreviations

NSF: National Science Foundation

PI: Principal Investigator

CoPI: Co-Principal Investigator

NIH: National Institute of Health

News and feedback

Chair:



Dr. Jim Leahy
Professor and Chair
Department of Chemistry
The Florida Center of Excellence for Drug
Discovery & Innovation
Department of Molecular Medicine

