DEPARTMENT OF BIOCHEMISTRY/BIOPHYSICS

Curriculum in Biochemistry is administered by the Department of Biochemistry and Biophysics.

Biochemists seek to understand life at the molecular level, including the detailed structures of biological molecules and the chemical reactions in which they participate. They study the molecules of living systems of all kinds, from the simplest viruses and bacteria to higher plants and animals. In their work, biochemists use experimental tools ranging from x-ray crystallography and nuclear magnetic resonance to bioinformatics and genetic engineering. Biochemistry is a dynamic and diverse field that has become the basic discipline for the life sciences, and biochemists have made significant discoveries that relate to medicine, agriculture, and the environment.

Faculty

Ayres, Nicola M, Senior Lecturer
Biochemistry & Biophysics
PHD, University of Nebraska - Lincoln, 1987

Bryk, Mary E, Associate Professor
Biochemistry & Biophysics
PHD, Albany Medical College, 1994

Cho, Jae H, Assistant Professor
Biochemistry & Biophysics
PHD, State University of New York at Stony Brook, 2006

Cruz-Reyes, Jorge A, Professor
Biochemistry & Biophysics
PHD, London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine, 1992

Datta, Sumana, Associate Professor
Biochemistry & Biophysics
PHD, University of California, San Diego, 1987

Devarenne, Timothy P, Associate Professor
Biochemistry & Biophysics
PHD, University of Kentucky, 2000

Glasner, Margaret E, Associate Professor
Biochemistry & Biophysics
PHD, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, 2003

Gohil, Vishal M, Assistant Professor
Biochemistry & Biophysics
PHD, Wayne State University, 2005

He, Ping, Professor
Biochemistry & Biophysics
PHD, Kansas State University, 2003

Henderson, Michelle, Lecturer
Biochemistry & Biophysics
PHD, Texas A&M University, 2010

Herman, Jennifer K, Associate Professor
Biochemistry & Biophysics
PHD, Indiana University, 2005

Hu, James C, Professor
Biochemistry & Biophysics
PHD, University of Wisconsin - Madison, 1987

Igumenova, Tatyana I, Associate Professor
Biochemistry & Biophysics
PHD, Columbia University, 2003

Kaplan, Craig D, Associate Professor
Biochemistry & Biophysics
PHD, Harvard University, 2003

Kunkel, Gary R, Associate Professor
Biochemistry & Biophysics
PHD, University of California, Los Angeles, 1977

Li, Pingwei, Professor
Biochemistry & Biophysics
PHD, Peking University, China, 1996

Meek, Thomas D, Professor
Biochemistry & Biophysics
PHD, The Pennsylvania State University, 1981

Miles, Bryant W, Senior Lecturer
Biochemistry & Biophysics
PHD, Texas A&M University, 1998

Mullet, John E, Professor
Biochemistry & Biophysics
PHD, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, 1981

Mullins, Leisha H, Senior Lecturer
Biochemistry & Biophysics
PHD, Texas A&M University, 1989

Panin, Vladislav M, Professor
Biochemistry & Biophysics
PHD, Moscow State University, 1990

Park, William D, Professor
Biochemistry & Biophysics
PHD, University of Florida, 1977

Pellois, Jean-Philippe, Professor
Biochemistry & Biophysics
PHD, University of Houston, 2002

Peterson, David O, Professor
Biochemistry & Biophysics
PHD, Harvard University, 1977

Pishko, Elizabeth J, Lecturer
Biochemistry & Biophysics
PHD, The University of Texas at Austin, 1993

Polymenis, Michael S, Professor
Biochemistry & Biophysics
PHD, Tufts University, 1994

Reinhart, Gregory D, Professor
Biochemistry & Biophysics
PHD, University of Wisconsin - Madison, 1979
Majors

- Bachelor of Science in Biochemistry (http://catalog.tamu.edu/undergraduate/agriculture-life-sciences/biochemistry-biophysics/biochemistry-bs)
- Bachelor of Science in Genetics (http://catalog.tamu.edu/undergraduate/agriculture-life-sciences/biochemistry-biophysics/genetics-bs)

Minors

- Biochemistry Minor (http://catalog.tamu.edu/undergraduate/agriculture-life-sciences/biochemistry-biophysics/biochemistry-minor)
- Genetics Minor (http://catalog.tamu.edu/undergraduate/agriculture-life-sciences/biochemistry-biophysics/genetics-minor)

Courses

- Biochemistry (BICH) (p. 2)
- Genetics (GENE) (p. 3)
BICH 411 Comprehensive Biochemistry II  
Credits 3. 3 Lecture Hours. 1 Lab Hour.  
A continuation of BICH 410. Structure, function, chemistry and metabolism of lipids and nucleic acids; cellular metabolism viewed from the standpoint of energetics and control mechanisms; interrelationships of metabolic pathways. Not open to biochemistry or genetics majors.  
Prerequisite: BICH 410.

BICH 412 Biochemistry Laboratory I  
Credit 1. 3 Lab Hours.  
Selected methods used to identify, isolate, purify and characterize biomolecules. Not open to biochemistry or genetics majors.  
Prerequisite: BICH 410 or registration therein.

BICH 414 Biochemical Techniques I  
Credits 2. 6 Lab Hours.  
Techniques currently used in biochemistry such as spectrophotometry, column chromatography (gel filtration, ion exchange) electrophoresis and immunoelectrophoresis, performed in purification of proteins, enzymes and nucleic acids. For majors in biochemistry, genetics, molecular and cell biology and microbiology.  
Prerequisite: BICH 440.

BICH 419/GENE 419 Computational Techniques for Evolutionary Analysis  
Credits 3. 3 Lecture Hours.  
Computational techniques for studying evolution; algorithms for construction and analysis of evolutionary relationships.  
Prerequisite: Junior or senior classification or approval of instructor.  
Cross Listing: GENE 419/BICH 419.

BICH 431/GENE 431 Molecular Genetics  
Credits 3. 3 Lecture Hours.  
Molecular basis for inheritance; gene structure and function, chromosomal organization, replication and repair of DNA, transcription and translation, the genetic code, regulation of gene expression, genetic differentiation and genetic manipulations.  
Prerequisites: BICH 410 or BICH 440; GENE 301 or GENE 302 or GENE 320/BIMS 320.  
Cross Listing: GENE 431/BICH 431.

BICH 432/GENE 432 Laboratory in Molecular Genetics  
Credits 2. 6 Lab Hours.  
Laboratory for molecular genetics providing technical experience with tools of molecular biology.  
Prerequisite: GENE 301, GENE 302 or GENE 320/BIMS 320; BICH 410 or BICH 440.  
Cross Listing: GENE 432/BICH 432.

BICH 440 Biochemistry I  
Credits 3. 3 Lecture Hours.  
Rigorous treatment of the structure, function and chemistry of proteins and carbohydrates; kinetics, mechanisms and regulation of enzymes; metabolism of carbohydrates. Course designed for biochemistry and genetics majors and honors students only.  
Prerequisite: CHEM 228 or approval of instructor.

BICH 441 Biochemistry II  
Credits 3. 3 Lecture Hours.  
Continuation of BICH 440; structure, function, chemistry and metabolism of lipids and nucleic acids, cellular metabolism viewed from the standpoint of energetics and control mechanisms; interrelationships of metabolic pathways. Course designed for biochemistry and genetics majors and honors students only.  
Prerequisite: BICH 440.

BICH 450/BIOL 450 Genomics  
Credits 4. 3 Lecture Hours. 3 Lab Hours.  
The study of genomic data includes consideration of the logic behind the most important genomic approaches, as well as their capabilities and limitations in investigating biological processes; the science of accessing and manipulating genomic data; and practical applications, including development of an hypotheses-driven datamining experiment.  
Prerequisites: BIOL 213, GENE 301 or GENE 302, BICH 431/GENE 431 or GENE 431/BICH 431, or BIOL 351; junior or senior classification or approval of instructor.  
Cross Listing: BIOL 450/BICH 450.

BICH 460 Genome Annotation with Ontologies  
Credit 1. 2 Lab Hours.  
Use of ontologies as structured controlled vocabularies for the organization of biological data; annotation based on critical reading of the scientific literature. May be taken two times for credit.  
Prerequisite: Junior or senior classification or approval of instructor.

BICH 461 Advanced Genome Annotation with Ontologies  
Credit 1. 2 Lab Hours.  
Advanced topics in functional annotation using ontologies; usage issues and quality control for ontologies and annotations; mentoring annotation activities from BICH 460 and evaluation of annotations. May be taken three times for credit.  
Prerequisite: BICH 460; junior or senior classification or approval of instructor.

BICH 464 Bacteriophage Genomics  
Credits 3. 1 Lecture Hour. 6 Lab Hours.  
Examines the latest technologies in genomic analysis by sequencing and annotating the genomes of novel bacterial viruses (phage); generates real data which will be submitted to the NIH/NCBI public database; includes phage biology and potential uses.  
Prerequisites: GENE 302; BIOL 351 or concurrent enrollment; approval of instructor.

BICH 485 Directed Studies  
Credits 1 to 4. 1 to 4 Other Hours.  
Directed study in biochemistry not included in established courses.  
Prerequisites: Junior or senior classification; approval of instructor and department head.

BICH 489 Special Topics in...  
Credits 1 to 4. 1 to 4 Lecture Hours. 0 to 4 Lab Hours.  
Selected topics in an identified area of biochemistry, biophysics or nutrition. May be repeated for credit.  
Prerequisite: Junior or senior classification in life or physical sciences.

BICH 491 Research  
Credits 0 to 4. 0 to 4 Other Hours.  
Laboratory research supervised by faculty in biochemistry or biophysics.  
Prerequisite: Biochemistry major.

**Genetics**  
**GENE 101/BICH 101 Perspectives in Biochemistry and Genetics**  
Credit 1. 1 Lecture Hour.  
Introduction to biochemistry and genetics and their relationship to the biological, biophysical and chemical sciences.  
Prerequisite: Biochemistry and genetics major or approval of instructor.  
Cross Listing: BICH 101/GENE 101.
GENE 285 Directed Studies
Credits 1 to 4. 1 to 4 Other Hours.
Introduction to laboratory research.
Prerequisite: Freshman or sophomore classification in genetics or approval of instructor.

GENE 289 Special Topics in...
Credits 1 to 4. 1 to 4 Lecture Hours.
Selected topics in an identified area of genetics. May be repeated for credit.
Prerequisites: Freshman or sophomore classification in genetics; approval of instructor.

GENE 291 Research
Credits 0 to 4. 0 to 4 Other Hours.
Research conducted under the direction of faculty member in genetics. May be repeated 2 times for credit.
Prerequisites: Freshman or sophomore classification and approval of instructor.

GENE 301 Comprehensive Genetics
Credits 3. 3 Lecture Hours.
Survey of the fundamental principles of genetics: Physical basis of Mendelian inheritance, expression and interaction of genes, linkage, sex linkage, biochemical nature of genetic material and mutation. No credit will be given for more than one of GENE 301, GENE 302, GENE 315 or GENE 320/BIMS 320. Not open to biochemistry or genetics majors.
Prerequisite: BIOL 112; concurrent enrollment in GENE 312.

GENE 302 Principles of Genetics
Credits 3. 3 Lecture Hours.
Mechanisms of inheritance, stressing the conservation of fundamental genetic processes throughout evolution, from bacteria to humans; mutations and phenotypes, Mendelian genetics, population genetics and evolution, and complex inheritance. Course designed for biochemistry, genetics and all majors in biology. No credit will be given for more than one of GENE 301, GENE 302, GENE 315 and GENE 320/BIMS 320.
Prerequisite: BIOL 112; concurrent enrollment in GENE 312.

GENE 310 Principles of Heredity
Credits 3. 3 Lecture Hours.
Basic principles of classical genetics, molecular genetics, mutation theory and genetic engineering; emphasis on humans and society. Not open to biochemistry and genetics majors.
Prerequisite: Junior classification.

GENE 312 Comprehensive Genetics Laboratory
Credit 1. 0 Lecture Hours. 3 Lab Hours.
Exercises in Mendelian genetics, meiosis, probability theory in pedigrees, population and quantitative genetics, as well as other genetics theory; molecular techniques to examine DNA and analyze outcomes.
Prerequisite: GENE 301 or GENE 302 or registration therein.

GENE 315 Genetics of Plants
Credits 3. 3 Lecture Hours.
Fundamental genetic principles as applied to plants: transmission, replication, expression and interaction of genes; linkage, recombination and mapping; chromosomal and gene mutation; behavior of genes in populations; selection, mating systems, cytoplasmic inheritance; molecular analysis and manipulation of genes and gene products; genetically modified plants. Not open to biochemistry or genetics majors. No credit will be given for more than one of GENE 301, GENE 302, GENE 315 or GENE 320/BIMS 320.
Prerequisite: BIOL 101 or BIOL 111.

GENE 320/BIMS 320 Biomedical Genetics
Credits 3. 3 Lecture Hours.
Fundamental genetic principles as applied to biomedical science; Mendelian inheritance, linkage and genetic mapping, mutagenesis and pedigree analysis; molecular basis of gene function and inherited disease; gene therapy and genetic counseling. No credit will be given for more than one of GENE 301, GENE 302, GENE 315 or GENE 320/BIMS 320.
Prerequisite: BIMS major with a minimum overall 2.5 Texas A&M GPA.
Cross Listing: BIMS 320/GENE 320.

GENE 404 Plant Breeding
Credits 3. 2 Lecture Hours. 2 Lab Hours.
Application of genetics and other sciences to the breeding and improvement of horticultural crops; methods and special techniques employed.
Prerequisite: GENE 301.
Cross Listing: HORT 404/GENE 404. Credit cannot be given for HORT 404/GENE 404 and SCSC 304.

GENE 405/BIMS 405 Mammalian Genetics
Credits 3. 3 Lecture Hours.
Comparative mammalian genetic systems with emphasis on laboratory animals; organization and expression of mammalian genes; development and use of genetically defined animals in biomedical and genetic research.
Prerequisite: GENE 302.
Cross Listing: BIMS 405/GENE 405.

GENE 406/BIOL 406 Bacterial Genetics
Credits 3. 3 Lecture Hours.
A problem oriented course surveying the manipulation and mechanisms of genetic systems in bacteria; recombination, gene structure and regulation of bacterial genes, plasmids and phages.
Prerequisites: GENE 302; BIOL 351.

GENE 411 Biotechnology for Crop Improvement
Credits 3. 3 Lecture Hours.
Use of biotechnology to improve agricultural, horticultural and forest crops; techniques and methods used and case studies where biotechnology has been used to alter traits such as pathogen resistance, protein or oil consumption, ripening, fertility and wood properties.
Prerequisite: BIOL 111 or equivalent.
Cross Listing: MEPS 411 and SCSC 411.

GENE 412 Population and Ecological Genetics
Credits 3. 3 Lecture Hours.
Concepts of population genetics including dynamics of natural populations with emphasis on ecological interactions.
Prerequisite: GENE 302.

GENE 419/BICH 419 Computational Techniques for Evolutionary Analysis
Credits 3. 3 Lecture Hours.
Computational techniques for studying evolution; algorithms for construction and analysis of evolutionary relationships.
Prerequisite: Junior or senior classification or approval of instructor.
Cross Listing: BICH 419/GENE 419.

GENE 420 Bioethics
Credits 3. 3 Lecture Hours.
The application of ethical theory to the use of modern genetics and biochemistry stressing the social implications of genetic engineering, agricultural manipulation and biotechnology.
Prerequisites: GENE 302; BICH 410 or BICH 440.
GENE 421/BIMS 421 Advanced Human Genetics  
Credits 3. 3 Lecture Hours.  
A rigorous, analytical approach to genetic analysis of humans including diagnosis and management of genetic disease in humans; transmission of genes in human populations; human cytogenetics; the structure of human genes; human gene mapping; molecular analysis of genetic disease; genetics screening and counseling.  
Prerequisites: GENE 302; BICH 410 or BICH 440.  
Cross Listing: BIMS 421/GENE 421.

GENE 431/BICH 431 Molecular Genetics  
Credits 3. 3 Lecture Hours.  
Molecular basis for inheritance including gene structure and function, chromosomal organization, replication and repair of DNA, transcription and translation, the genetic code, regulation of gene expression, genetic differentiation and genetic manipulations.  
Prerequisites: BICH 410 or BICH 440; GENE 301 or GENE 302 or GENE 320/BIMS 320.  
Cross Listing: BICH 431/GENE 431.

GENE 432/BICH 432 Laboratory in Molecular Genetics  
Credits 2. 6 Lab Hours.  
Laboratory for molecular genetics providing technical experience with tools of molecular biology.  
Prerequisite: GENE 301, GENE 302 or GENE 320/BIMS 320; BICH 410 or BICH 440.  
Cross Listing: BICH 432/GENE 432.

GENE 450 Recombinant DNA and Biotechnology  
Credits 3. 3 Lecture Hours.  
Basic genetic engineering techniques; cloning with plasmid, lambda, cosmid and M13 vectors; gene libraries; DNA sequencing and mutagenesis; PCR; eucaryotic expression with yeast, baculovirus and mammalian vectors; transgenic animals and plants; gene therapy; monoclonal antibodies; bioremediation.  
Prerequisites: BICH 431/GENE 431 or GENE 431/BICH 431 or concurrent registration; BICH 411 or 441 or concurrent registration.

GENE 452/BIMS 452 Modifying Mammalian Genomes for Biomedical Research  
Credits 3. 3 Lecture Hours.  
Review advances in the production of transgenic animals, the manipulation of embryonic stem cells for transgenics and therapeutics, the modification of specific genes in mammalian species by homologous recombination and RNA interference; special emphasis on genetic manipulation of cells and animals for biomedical research, stem-cell and gene therapy.  
Prerequisite: GENE 302.  
Cross Listing: BIMS 452/GENE 452.

GENE 481 Genetics I Seminar  
Credit 1. 1 Lecture Hour.  
Seminar topics on recent developments in genetics.  
Prerequisites: GENE 302; GENE 431/BICH 431 or concurrent registration; senior classification or approval of instructor.

GENE 482 Genetics II Seminar  
Credit 1. 1 Lecture Hour.  
Student preparation and presentation of pertinent genetics topics.  
Prerequisites: GENE 481; senior classification or approval of instructor.

GENE 485 Directed Studies  
Credits 1 to 4. 1 to 4 Other Hours.  
Directed study in genetics not included in established courses.  
Prerequisites: Junior or senior classification; approval of instructor and department head.

GENE 489 Special Topics in...  
Credits 1 to 4. 1 to 4 Lecture Hours.  
Selected topics in an identified area of genetics. May be repeated for credit.  
Prerequisite: Approval of instructor.

GENE 491 Research  
Credits 0 to 4. 0 to 4 Other Hours.  
Laboratory research supervised by a faculty member.  
Prerequisites: Major in genetics; junior or senior classification in genetics or approval of instructor.