Alumni Newsletter

Department of Physiology and Biophysics

University of Illinois at Chicago

September 2019

**New students**

Ph.D.

Kelly Conger  
 Taliha Nadeem  
 Leslie Saenz  
 Kai Xu

M.D./Ph.D.

Benjamin Gordon  
 Fred Lee

M.S,

Elisabeth DiNello

M.S.M.P. (our 1 year MS program)

Muneeba Ahmed

Chirag Divecha

Michaela Jacob

Bobak Khalili

Kian Khalili

Emily Leiderman

Naif Mansury

Christine Mendoza

Kai Mongan

Bret Olson

Danielle Olson

Ivan Ortega

Katherine Ortell

Guadalupe Ruiz

This will be the last year PhD students are admitted into a department from the GEMS Program. In the future the students will be overseen by the GEMS program and choose a research advisor from a particular research focus. I have attached the document which explains many of the changes including the courses that will be taken.

**Departmental Faculty Awards**

Dr. Dan Shaye has been awarded the 2019 Departmental Rising Star and Dr. Chong Wee Liew was awarded the 2019 Departmental Faculty of the Year.

**Ph.D. Thesis Defense**

Bertha Jane Vandegrift

The role of ventral tegmental area estrogen receptors in neuronal responses to dopamine and ethanol.

Advisor: Dr. Mark Brodie and Dr. Amy Lasek