



UNIVERSITY of MARYLAND
SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

**Graduate Program in Life Sciences
&
Office of Postdoctoral Scholars
2023 Annual Awards Ceremony**

**Monday, October 30, 2023
3:30 p.m.
HSF II Auditorium**

**PhD Scholar Award
PhD Thesis Award
Elaine Miye Otani Memorial Award
MS Scholar Award
Alumnus Award
Teacher of the Year Award
Dr. Mark E. Shirliff PhD Student Mentor Award
Postdoctoral Fellow Excellence in Research Award
Postdoctoral Fellow Excellence in Mentorship Award
Postdoctoral Fellow Excellence in Service Award
Faculty Excellence in Postdoctoral Mentorship Award**

A special thank you to all of the faculty, postdoctoral fellows, and Graduate Program in Life Sciences students who served on this year's Awards Selection Committee.

The Graduate Program in Life Sciences and the Office of Postdoctoral Scholars are honored to partner with the Dr. Laure Aurelian Biomedical Research Endowment to present the 2023 Dr. Laure Aurelian Biomedical Research Awards.

2023 GPILS/OPS Awards

Remarks by

Jessica A. Mong, PhD, *Assistant Dean for Graduate and Postdoctoral Scholars, University of Maryland School of Medicine*

Mark T. Gladwin, MD, *Dean, University of Maryland School of Medicine*

Kenneth H. Wong, PhD, *Dean, University of Maryland Graduate School*

PhD Scholar Award

Megan Stemberger

Program in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology

Presented by Stuart Martin, PhD, Drs. Angela and Harry Brodie Professor of Translational Cancer Research, Department of Pharmacology

This award recognizes a student who shows a combination of outstanding academic performance and great potential as a scientist.

PhD Thesis Award

Christine Carney, PhD

Program in Molecular Medicine

Presented by Anthony Kim, PhD, Professor, Department of Neurosurgery, and Jeff Winkles, PhD, Professor, Department of Surgery

This award recognizes a student whose thesis work has significance in their field of study and science in general.

Elaine Miye Otani Memorial Award

Aishwarya Iyer

Program in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology

Presented by Aikaterini Kontrogianni-Konstantopoulos, PhD, Professor, Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology

This award recognizes the Graduate Program in Life Sciences student of outstanding character who demonstrates superior academic performance and outstanding promise as an independent investigator.

2023 GPILS/OPS Awards

MS Scholar Award

Madeline Ndahayo

Program in Cellular and Molecular Biomedical Science

Presented by Daria A. Gaykalova, PhD, Associate Professor, Department of Otorhinolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery

This award recognizes an outstanding student in one of our master's programs with stellar academic performance and great potential as a scientist.

Alumnus Award

Brian Polster, PhD

Department of Anesthesiology

Presented by Gary Fiskum, PhD, M. Jane Matjasko Professor of Anesthesiology Research, Department of Anesthesiology, Vice Chair for Research, Department of Anesthesiology

This award recognizes the exceptional achievements of an alum of the Graduate Program in Life Sciences or a program that predated the creation of the Graduate Program in Life Sciences

Teacher of the Year

Aikaterini Kontrogianni-Konstantopoulos, PhD

Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology

Presented by Annie Brong, PhD Candidate, Program in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology

This award recognizes a member of the Graduate Program In Life Sciences faculty who is an outstanding and committed educator.

Dr. Mark E. Shirliff PhD Student Mentor Award

Michael Summers, PhD

Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology

Presented by James B. Kaper, PhD, James & Carolyn Frenkil Distinguished Dean's Professor, Vice Dean for Academic Affairs, Chair, Department of Microbiology and Immunology

This award was created in honor of Mark E. Shirliff, PhD, former Professor in the School of Dentistry, Department of Microbial Pathogenesis and School of Medicine, Department of Microbiology and Immunology. The award recognizes faculty members who have a record of supportive graduate student mentorship.

2023 GPILS/OPS Awards

Remarks by

Erin Golembewski, PhD, *Senior Associate Dean and Chief Student Affairs Officer,
University of Maryland Graduate School*

Excellence in Postdoctoral Research Award

Miguel Luján, PhD

Department of Neurobiology

Presented by Joseph Cheer, PhD, Professor, Department of Neurobiology

This award recognizes a postdoctoral fellow who has an outstanding record of professional development, an exceptional record of accomplishments, and significant work in a specific discipline and science in general.

Excellence in Postdoctoral Mentorship Award

Bashar Hassan, MD

R Adams Cowley Shock Trauma Center

*Presented by Michael Grant, MD, PhD, Paul N. Manson, MD Distinguished Professor of Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery,
Department of Surgery*

This award recognizes a postdoctoral fellow who has an outstanding record of mentorship in a lab while at the University of Maryland School of Medicine.

Excellence in Postdoctoral Service Award Winner

Parham Habibzadeh, MD

Institute of Human Virology

Presented by Mohammad M. Sajadi, MD, Professor, Department of Medicine

This award recognizes a postdoctoral fellow who has an outstanding record of service to the University of Maryland School of Medicine community.

Faculty Excellence in Postdoctoral Mentorship Award

Mohammad Sajadi, MD

Department of Medicine

Presented by Lydia Tang, MB, BCh, Assistant Professor, Department of Medicine

This award recognizes an outstanding faculty member who has a record of supportive mentorship of postdoctoral fellows in their lab.

Dr. Laure Aurelian Biomedical Research Award

The Dr. Laure Aurelian Biomedical Research Award was established in 2022 to recognize an early-career faculty member who is either:

- a woman scholar conducting innovative basic or translational biomedical research or
- an investigator conducting innovative basic or translational studies in women's health or
- an exceptional mentor of junior women biomedical researchers (e.g., graduate students or postdocs).

Remarks by

Samantha Wales, PhD, *Research Microbiologist, FDA, Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition*

Winners

Alison J. Scott, PhD

Assistant Professor

Department of Microbial Pathogenesis

University of Maryland School of Dentistry

Introduced by Robert Ernst, PhD, Professor and Vice Chair, Department of Microbial Pathogenesis, University of Maryland School of Dentistry

Whitney Parker, MD, PhD

Assistant Professor

Department of Neurosurgery

University of Maryland School of Medicine

Introduced by Thomas W. Abrams, PhD, Professor, Department of Pharmacology, University of Maryland School of Medicine

Learn more at drlaureaurelianendowment.org