

## SMS Connects- July 2020

**Be smart.  
Do your part.**



**Stay six feet  
apart**

**Wear a  
face cover**

**Wash hands  
frequently**

Dear SMS Community,

This has been a summer of uncertainty for SMS. At the time of writing the exact instructional format for the fall semester has still not been decided. Nevertheless, the faculty are hard at work developing new teaching modalities that can be quickly adapted for both on-ground and remote instruction. The buildings are being prepared for the new semester with social distancing and staff, faculty and student safety a priority. Particular attention is being paid to the main SMS office and G-Wing complexes, where new physical barriers are being installed and new protocols for using these public spaces are being established.

The disruption to normal operation is now stretching into months, but our faculty, staff and students have shown wonderful resilience and pragmatism in the face of unprecedented challenge. This spirit has been captured in two marvelous new YouTube videos on life in SMS during the Pandemic, produced by the SMS media team, you can see them below.

Ian Gould  
SMS Interim Director

# Congratulations to our PhD Graduates!

This summer, five SMS students successfully defended their dissertations in a new online format and earned their PhD degrees. We look forward to hearing about their continued successes in the future!



**Anirban Purohit (Mentor: Marcia Levitus)**

"Investigating the effect of salts and small molecule on dissociation and association kinetics of the DNA processivity clamps using fluorescence techniques"



**Nirupa Nagaratnam (Mentor: Petra Fromme/Stephen Johnston)**

"Structural and Biophysical Studies of Pathological Determinants in Cancer and Infectious Diseases"



**Garrett Williams (Mentor: Anne Jones)**

"Electrocatalytic Comparison of [FeFe]-Hydrogenases"



**Dai Hyun Kim (Mentor: Alexandra Ros)**

"Electric Field-Driven Migration and Separation in the Microenvironment"



**Brian Wadsworth (Mentor: Gary Moore)**

"Hybrid Materials and Interfaces for Artificial Photosynthetic Assemblies"



## News and Research Highlights



### Woodbury named CEO of Science Foundation Arizona

SMS Professor and former Director Neal Woodbury, interim executive vice president of Arizona State University's Knowledge Enterprise and chief science and technology officer, has been named chief executive officer of Science Foundation Arizona (SFAz).



### Gary Moore receives DOE 2020 Early Career Research Award

Dr. Gary Moore is a recipient a research award as part of the DOE Office of Science's Early Career Research Program. This program provides support to exceptional researchers during crucial early career years.



### ASU student behind launch of new education initiative for refugees in Israel

SMS undergraduate student Julia Jackman worked with African refugees in Israel last year and helped to bring higher education opportunities through ASU's Education for Humanity to the displaced people.



### Advances in cryo-EM pave the way for drug discovery

SMS graduate student John Vant (lead author) and Abhishek Singharoy group recently published a paper in J. Chem. Inf. Model.



### SMS Alumnus named one of the ACS 2020 Outreach Volunteers of the Year

SMS PhD Graduate T. Greg Tucker was recently recognized by ACS for his outreach efforts for the Central Arizona Section of the ACS.

## Featured Story: Swarup Dey, PhD Candidate

### ASU student receives 2020 SMS Innovation Award for medical device



"Since I began my journey in research, it has always been my dream to work on something that will leave an impact on the world," says Swarup Dey. He is a graduate student at Arizona State University's School of Molecular Sciences (SMS). Dey was recently awarded the 2020 SMS Innovation Award for his invention, which creates a DNA nano-sensor that mimics transmembrane proteins. [read full story](#)

## Featured Story: Swarup Dey, PhD Candidate



Connor Miller is currently a Sophomore at the School of Molecular Sciences. He is pursuing a dual degree in biochemistry and biophysics.

[A Day in My Life During the Pandemic](#)



We are proud of how our staff have adjusted to the challenge of working both at home and on campus during the COVID-19 pandemic.

[SMS Staff Working During the Pandemic](#)

## Employment Opportunities

Arizona Department Of Public Safety: [Forensic Scientist IV - DNA](#)

Intel: [OR Die Prep Process Engineer](#)

Sherwin-Williams: [R&D Scientist](#)

Please follow us on the [SMS LinkedIn](#) page for more job opportunities. Please also check [Chemistry Job Resource: Chemjobber](#) for more chemistry jobs.

Please feel free to send email to [ASUSMS@asu.edu](mailto:ASUSMS@asu.edu) at any time with questions, concerns, or suggestions. You can visit our website at [sms.asu.edu](http://sms.asu.edu) or connect with us by liking our [Facebook](#) page!

**ASU** School of  
Molecular Sciences  
Arizona State University

