

SMS Connects- September 2020



Dear SMS Community,

We are now well into the new semester, and we have reason to believe our cautious optimism might have been justified. Enrollments are high, in fact ASU has one of its highest ever enrollments this semester, and classes are running as smoothly as can be expected under the difficult circumstances. It is clear that the vast majority of the students have chosen not to delay their education, they are eager to proceed, and our faculty, graduate students and staff are working hard to make their experience as positive as possible.

Everything is harder and slower in the pandemic, yet the research output from SMS remains impressive. Nearly 200 papers have been produced by SMS in the time period January 2020 - August 2020, with several high profile papers being recently published, see below. Producing this important science required lot of creativity and hard work from our graduate students, postdocs and faculty. Publications also represent the culmination of all the hard work that goes into graduate student and postdoc mentoring that is too easy to take for granted. And of course, they all help to raise SMS's profile.

I thank everyone for their dedication to both our educational and research missions!

Best regards,
Ian Gould
SMS Interim Director

Retirement Recognition



School of Molecular Sciences professor retires after stellar ASU career

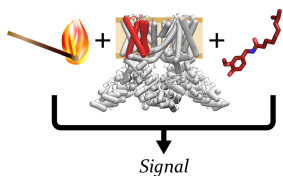
Professor Rebekka Wachter has spent nearly 20 years in Arizona State University's School of Molecular Sciences as an expert in the field of structural and functional characterization of proteins and as a mentor and inspiration to many students and colleagues. [read more](#)



Distinguished ASU Chemistry Professor Bob Pettit Retires after 55 years of service

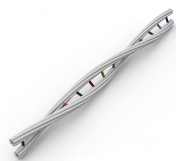
Regents Professor Bob Pettit is retiring from the School of Molecular Sciences after a 55-year career at Arizona State University, where he was the director of the Cancer Research Institute and Dalton Professor of Cancer Research and Medicinal Chemistry. [read more](#)

News and Research Highlights



[New study takes aim at advanced types of nonaddictive pain therapies](#)

Wade Van Horn and Marcia Levitus recently published a study in Nature Communications that helps clarify the contributions to an ion channel's temperature-dependent activation.



[A new twist on DNA origami](#)

A team of researchers from ASU and Shanghai Jiao Tong University (SJTU), led by Hao Yan, has just announced the creation of a new type of meta-DNA structures that will open up the fields of optoelectronics, including information storage and encryption as well as synthetic biology.



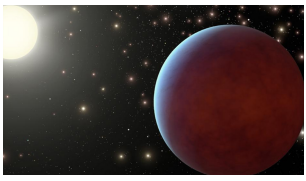
[New microfluidic device minimizes loss of high value samples](#)

A major collaborative effort that has been developing over the last three years between ASU and European scientists has resulted in a significant technical advance in X-ray crystallographic sample strategies.



[New method to design diamond lattices, other crystals from microscopic building blocks](#)

In a new study appearing in the journal Physical Review Letters, Petr Sulc's group describe a technique for using Lego-like elements at the scale of a few billionths of a meter.



Scientists search for stellar phosphorus to find potentially habitable exoplanets

In a new study recently published in *Astrophysical Journal Letters*, scientists have identified stellar phosphorus as a probable marker in narrowing the search for life in the cosmos.

[Read more SMS News and Research on ASU Now](#)

SMS Undergraduate Student Highlight

First-generation ASU student blazes new trail



"I knew I would be the first experiencing many of the struggles that come with obtaining a higher education. However, I am setting the path for my cousins that are much younger than me to learn about the power of opening your heart and mind to a higher education," says Jesus Peralta, who is a sophomore majoring in biochemistry and microbiology, with a minor in global health. Jesus received the School of Molecular Sciences First-Generation Scholarship this year, he shared his first year experience at ASU. [read more](#)

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Follow us on Instagram @SMS.ASU to keep up with our amazing students, projects, and events happening at the School of Molecular Sciences.

Employment Opportunities

Fujifilm Dimatix: [Plating/Wet Chemistry Process Engineer II](#)

Department of the Air Force: [Chemist](#)

Versum Materials : [Analytical Chemist](#)

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

Fall 2020 COVID-Specific Guidance and Resources

ASU: [Fall 2020 update](#)

SMS: [Package Pickup and Gas Cylinder Exchange instructions](#)

SMS: [Office Disinfection and Facial Covering Guidance - Video](#)

SMS: [Lab Disinfection Instructions - Video](#)

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

