

SMS Connects - October 2021



discover your talents and help us transform the world for sustainable living

Dear SMS Community,

The semester is heating up as the weather finally cools. This month alone high-quality research continues to be produced by SMS members at a tremendous pace. Our students and faculty have been active and well recognized with several grants (including \$13.7 million from NSF) and awards.

Please come and visit the SMS booth at the ASU Homecoming Block Party. It will feature hands-on activities for the whole family, prizes and swag. It starts at 9 a.m. Oct. 30 and runs until game time (noon).

Sadly, we must report that Sandra Pizzarello, Emeritus Research Professor in SMS, passed away on October 24th, 2021. She was an important member of the SMS community, and will be deeply missed. Her contributions to the School's research mission will be forever remembered and celebrated.

We very much want to strengthen our community of alumni, friends, students, faculty and staff. I hope that you will welcome this effort and help us in continuing to build a top-flight School of Molecular Sciences.

Best Regards,
Tijana Rajh
SMS Director

Join Us!



The School of Molecular Sciences is now recruiting PhD/MS students for entry in Fall 2022. The School offers graduate students unique research opportunities that transcend the traditional boundaries and training to be successful independent modern scientists.

If any member of our community knows of talented undergraduates who are prepared for a challenge and are looking for contemporary training in modern molecular science, please help them learn more about the opportunities available in SMS by directing them to this website: <https://sms.asu.edu/graduate-study>

In the News



Buseck receives AAAR Award

Regents Professor Peter Buseck receives the David Sinclair Award from the American Association for Aerosol Research (AAAR).



Anbar elected as an AGU fellow

President's Professor Ariel Anbar has been elected as an American Geophysical Union (AGU) fellow.

ASU Homecoming is this Saturday!

ASU Homecoming Block Party



Saturday, October 30 9:00 am- Noon

We would like to welcome alumni and friends to our annual ASU Homecoming Block Party on Saturday, October 30. Stop by our SMS Booth, see chemistry demonstrations by the Science is Fun club, and cheer on the ASU Sun Devils as they scare off the WSU Cougars at Sun Devil Stadium! [click here for more information](#)

Fall Eyring Lectures are Back!



The Fall Eyring Lecture Series will be held on **Thursday, November 4th, and Friday November 5th, 2021.**

This semester's lectures will be delivered by Professor Mario Capecchi from University of Utah. Capecchi will deliver a General Lecture on Thursday at 6:00 p.m. in Biodesign Auditorium entitled "The Making of a Scientist: An unlikely Journey." This lecture will describe the unlikely journey of a young street rogue in war torn Italy to Stockholm. He will give a technical presentation on Friday at 2:30pm pm in Biodesign Auditorium entitled "Mutant Hoxb8 Microglia Are Causative for Chronic Anxiety and OCD-Spectrum Disorders in Mice."

For more information please visit:

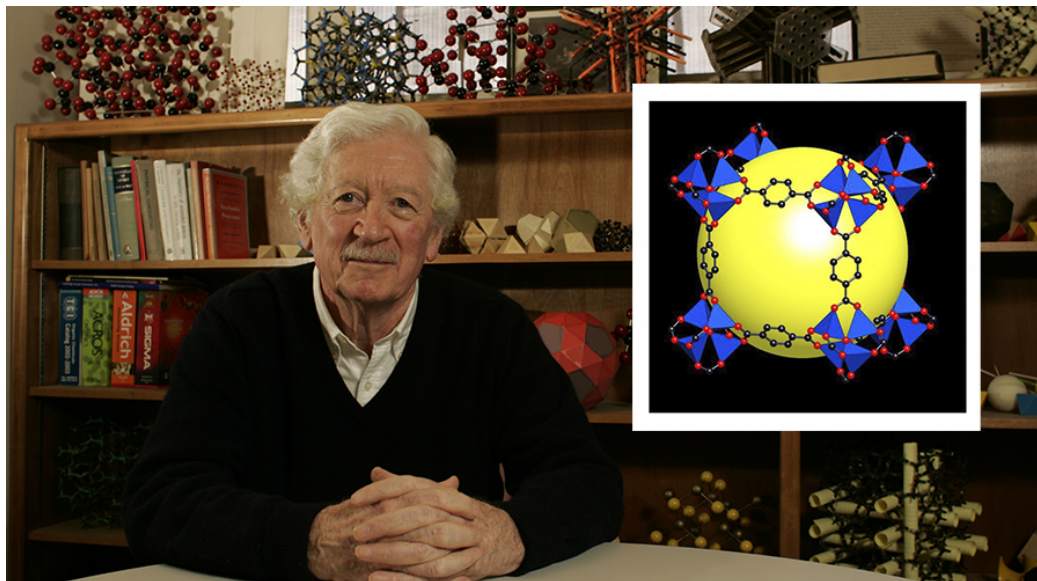
<https://sms.asu.edu/about/SMS-Seminars>

Reception (please RSVP)

We invite SMS alumni to join us for a reception with Professor Capecchi before his General Lecture, on Thursday, November

4th, 5:10-5:45 pm at Biodesign C Patio. Please RSVP for this event by sending an email to asusms@asu.edu.

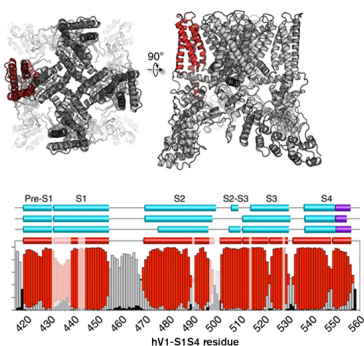
The O’Keeffe Lecture Series



The O’Keeffe Lecture Series honors the scientific contributions of Regents Emeritus Professor Michael O’Keeffe and celebrates his seminal contributions to the study of crystalline inorganic solids and the invention of reticular chemistry.

The inaugural O’Keeffe lecture will be delivered by O’Keeffe’s collaborator in the development of reticular chemistry, Professor Omar Yaghi from the University of California, Berkeley on November 19th in the Biodesign Auditorium. Detailed information will follow.

Research Highlights



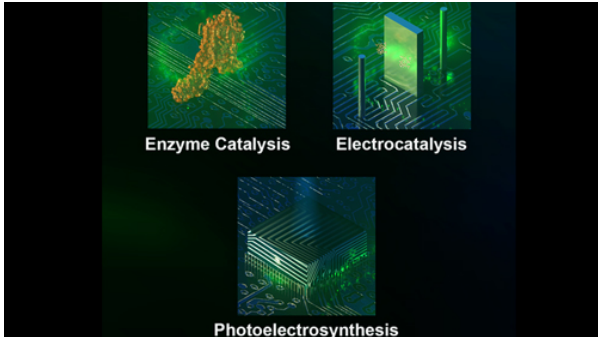
SMS research boosts Nobel Prize

ASU research on protein responsible for detection, regulation of body temp part of collection marking Nobel Prize.



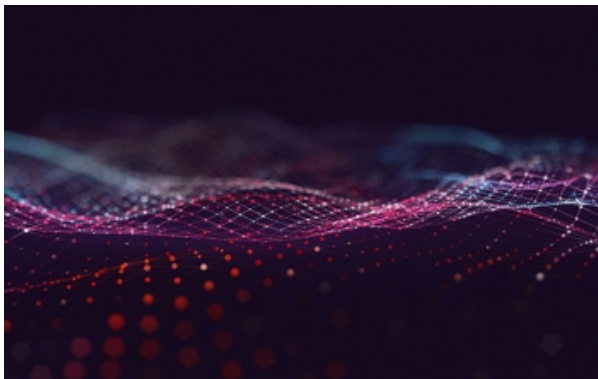
Improvements in microscopy home in on biology's elusive details

SMS faculty and students are carrying the field of microscopy a step further, refining a technique known as cryogenic electron microscopy, or cryo-EM.



New theories and materials aid the transition to clean energy

Gary Moore and graduate student Daiki Nishiori explore different approaches to catalysis.



\$13.7M NSF grant for "FORCE"

The National Science Foundation has just announced the award of \$13.7 million to Arizona State University to build a one-of-a-kind high-pressure research facility, the FORCE (Facility for Open Research in a Compressed Environment).

[Read more SMS News and Research](#)

Faculty Profile



Celebrating ASU history: Carleton Moore, meteorites and moon rocks

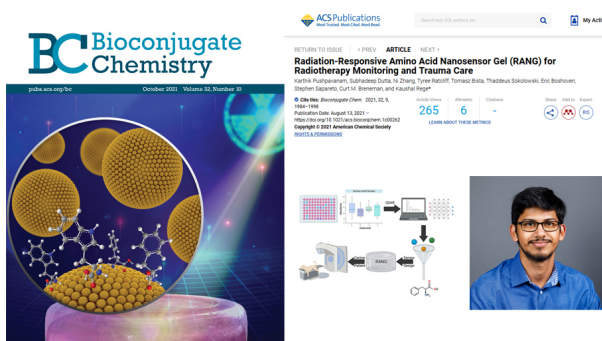
SMS revisits the outstanding career of Emeritus Regents Professor Carleton Moore, the founding director of the Center for Meteorite Studies at ASU. Moore was the first to detect extraterrestrial amino acids in meteorites.

Our Students



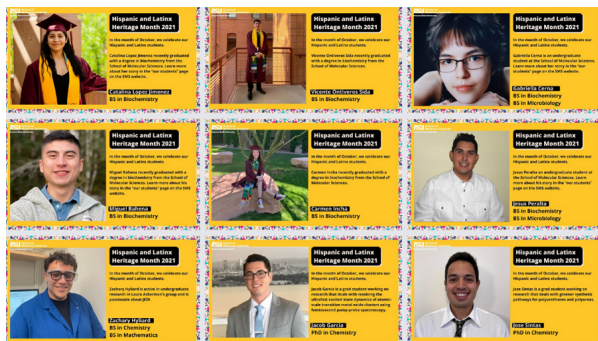
Lincoln Scholar Miriam Goras

Miriam Goras, double majoring in biochemistry and biological sciences, combines passion for ethics and science and emphasizes equity for women in STEM fields.



SMS student Subhadeep Dutta featured on journal cover

Research on Radiation-responsive amino acid nanosensor gels performed by SMS graduate student Subhadeep Dutta is featured on the cover of the journal Bioconjugate Chemistry.



2021 Hispanic and Latinx Heritage Month

September 15 to October 15 is the National Hispanic and Latinx Heritage Month and we have been celebrating some of our outstanding Hispanic and Latinx students. Please visit our [Facebook album](#) or [SMS Instagram](#) to meet these amazing students. One month is not enough time to acknowledge all of the ways our Hispanic and Latinx students contribute to the intellectual strength and values of the SMS community, we thank them all.

Professor George “Bob” Pettit Fellowship



The School of Molecular Sciences announces a fellowship to honor the memory of one of its most distinguished faculty members, Dr. George (Bob) Pettit. Bob was a pioneer and leader in the development of anti-cancer drugs derived from marine animals and other natural sources. Bob's reputation for excellence in the organic chemistry of natural products helped put the original ASU Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry on the map.

Cancer is the second-leading cause of death in the United States and impacts lives around the world. To continue the fight against cancer, we are creating a fellowship in Bob's name to support graduate students in the School of Molecular Sciences whose studies relate to cancer research.

Please visit sms.asu.edu/Pettit to learn more information on how you can support.

We thank you in advance for your support. Please help us in our ongoing fight against cancer by supporting cancer research and spreading the word by forwarding this to others who may want to join the fight.

We thank our community members who have already made the donations. Your gift will allow us to create an endowment that supports graduate student education and the fight against cancer for generations to come.

In Memoriam: Sandra Pizzarello



The School of Molecular Sciences is saddened to report that Sandra Pizzarello, Emeritus Research Professor in SMS, passed away on the afternoon of Sunday October 24th, 2021.

Professor Pizzarello was well known as the co-discoverer, with Professor John Cronin, of enantiomeric excesses in amino acids extracted from meteorites, and for studies of the origins of homochirality in Earth biochemistry. She performed important work on asymmetric catalysis of biochemical reactions using non-racemic mixtures amino acids. Professor Pizzarello's work was characterized by the most careful attention to detail and she was lauded as an international expert in the analysis of organic material from meteorites. She was an important member of the SMS community, and will be deeply missed. Her contributions to the School's research mission will be forever remembered and celebrated.

SMS is Hiring!

- [Two Open Rank Positions Job#16884 – Materials Chemistry](#)
- [Assistant / Associate / Full Professor -Polymer Chemistry Job #16896](#)
- [Lecturer - General Chemistry \(AY Job #16781\)](#)

Please feel free to send email to ASUSMS@asu.edu at any time with questions, concerns, or suggestions. Please visit our website at sms.asu.edu to learn more about our school.

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