

SMS Connects - January 2023

Dear SMS Community,

Welcome back to Spring 2023!

We are all, faculty, staff and students, excited about the start of new semester. Our faculty and students continue to make a strong impact and open new opportunities by exploring effective teaching strategies and continuing high-quality research. This semester Petr Šulc received NSF CAREER award for imaginative and far reaching research on DNA based nanodevices. Alex Navrotsky was awarded Czochralski Medal for life time achievements in materials science. Our new faculty Liza Roger brings new science to SMS that impacts how we treat environmental change and its effects on marine organisms. Our faculty and students continue to bring fun science to kids of all ages (see ASU Open Door announcement).

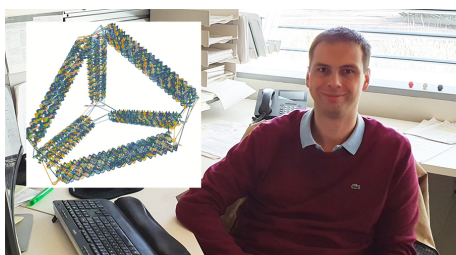
Finally, do not forget to visit our [SMS YouTube Channel](#) where we publish highlights of our student and junior faculty accomplishments and information about SMS scholarships, research and internship opportunities.

I wish you a productive and safe semester!

Best regards,

Tijana Rajh
Director, Professor
School of Molecular Sciences

News and Research...



Petr Šulc receives NSF CAREER award

Petr Šulc designs molecules with promising new applications including diagnostics, therapeutics and new materials.



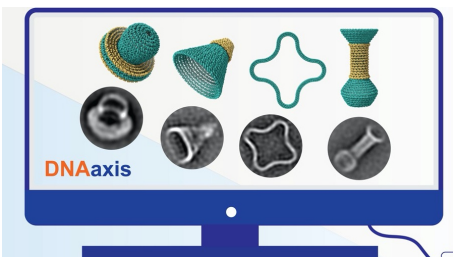
Navrotsky receives materials science award

Alexandra Navrotsky is awarded the Czocharlski Medal for lifetime achievement from the European Materials Research Society.



Illuminating the answers to life's mysteries

Petra Fromme answers questions on ASU's compact X-ray free electron laser (CXFEL) project.



New techniques advance DNA nanotech

Hao Yan describes a technique for expanding the versatility and range of DNA nano-objects.



Discovery advances possibility of designing drugs against SARS-CoV-2

The structure of the protein that helps the covid virus evade the immune response is determined.

SMS Welcomes New Faculty Member- Liza Roger

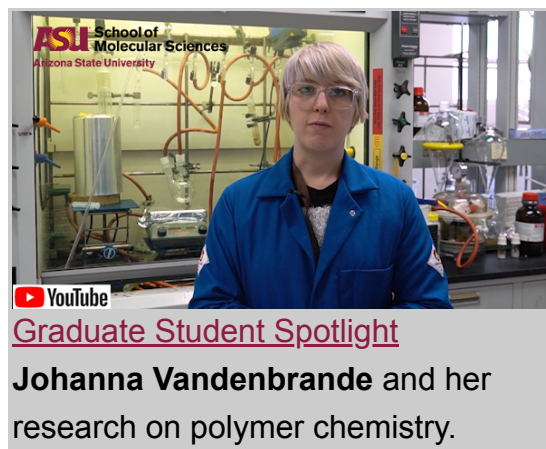
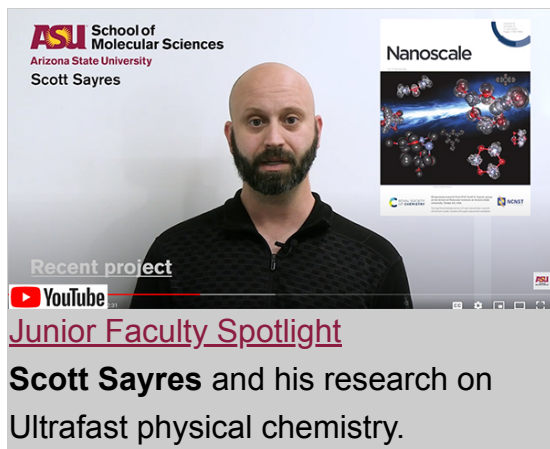


We are delighted to welcome assistant professor Liza Roger who has joined SMS and is also affiliated with ASU's School of Ocean Futures. Liza has an eclectic background having grown up in France, receiving her associate's degree from the Université du Littoral Côte d'Opale, and then a B.Sc. Hon. in Marine Biology and Natural Resources Management, and a Ph.D. in Marine Biology and Geochemistry from the University of Western Australia.

Liza's research focuses on the impacts of environmental change on marine organisms involved in symbiotic relationship with microscopic algae (corals, mollusks, anemones, jellyfish) from a wide range of marine ecosystems. Her recent work has

concentrated on developing coral in vitro methodologies to unlock the next level of coral research.

On the SMS YouTube Channel



For our students...

- **SMS Scholarships**

SMS scholarships are currently accepting applications for the 2023-2024 academic year, the application deadline is Feb 15, [please visit our Scholarship website](#), and submit your application soon.

- **Check out the updated Internship page**

Are you looking for an internship this summer? SMS has updated its internship page to help you find and secure one. [Please click here to visit this page](#) which includes advice and experience from current SMS students, in addition to links and resources.

Save the Date - Feb 25, ASU Open Door



[Open Door](#) returns in-person! Please join us on Saturday, Feb 25, 1-5pm! The School of Molecular Sciences has fun and informative hands-on activities for kids of all ages. Find us in Zone C, located in Tempe Campus, Bateman Physical Sciences Center F (PSF) Outdoors Entryway (South side).

Upcoming Seminars

Spring 2023 Seminars will be on Fridays at 3:00 pm in Biodesign Auditorium, Zoom option is also available.

- **Feb 3**, Nathan Wittenberg, *Lehigh University* "Lipid Membrane Systems for Bioanalytical and Biophysical Studies: Lipid-Protein Interactions and Vesicle Nanoarrays"
- **Feb 10**, O'Keeffe Lecture: Wilfred van der Donk, *University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign* "Biosynthesis and Engineering of Macrocyclic Peptide Natural Product"

Please visit our [SMS Seminar page](#) for the full schedule of Spring 2023 seminars. If you would like to receive seminar information by email, please send the request to SMSSeminars@asu.edu.

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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