

BioNews – March 2022

Prof. Jeong awarded NSF CAREER grant

A huge congratulations to **Prof. Jeeyon Jeong** on the (finally official!) awarding of a prestigious CAREER award from the National Science Foundation. This grant, entitled “Investigation of the Cellular and Physiological Effects of Chloroplast/Mitochondrial Iron Export in Plants,” will provide almost \$1M in support to the Jeong lab over the next five years. This is a tremendous accomplishment and much deserved. Congratulations Jeeyon!

Welcome to new greenhouse manager

We are thrilled to have a new greenhouse manager, **Sofia Dobner-Pereira!** Sofia comes to us with an extensive background in plant propagation, maintenance and care from working at four farms in PA, NY and MA. Sofia is looking forward to supporting the teaching and research efforts of the students and faculty who use the greenhouse. Welcome Sofia!

New laboratory instructor and coordinator for Biology 191 hired



Dr. Christina Bowers will be joining the department this summer as the new laboratory instructor and coordinator for 191, a position held by Julie Emerson before her retirement. Christina is currently an Adjunct Assistant Professor of Biology at Southwestern University in Georgetown, TX and an Ambassador Academy Member (2020-2023) for the HHMI BioInteractive Ambassador Community. She is also a Secondary Science Teacher at Meridian World School in Round Rock, TX. We look forward to working with her in the fall!

Owais '23 is co-author on two new papers

Maira Owais '23 is a co-author on two publications this year, which are related to her work as part of a team studying Type I diabetes at the T.H. Chan School of Public Health at Harvard. A huge congratulations to Maira on this mammoth accomplishment!

[“The Prevalence of Islet Autoantibodies in Children and Adolescents with Type 1 Diabetes Mellitus: A Global Scoping Review.”](#)

[“Incidence and Prevalence of Type 1 Diabetes and Diabetic Ketoacidosis in Children and Adolescents \(0–19 years\) in Thailand \(2015–2020\): A Nationwide Population-Based Study.”](#)

Alumni News

Kayleigh O’Keefe ’12, who is currently a postdoctoral fellow at the Ecology and Evolution of Disease Systems lab at the University of Pennsylvania, has accepted a position as Teaching Assistant Professor of Biology at Lehigh University.

Ally Kido ’18, currently the manager of the Bruns lab at the University of Maryland, will be starting a M.S. program this fall in the Interdisciplinary Consortium for Applied Research in the Environment (ICARE) at the University of Maryland, Baltimore County.

Sam Rothberg ’21, who works currently as a research assistant in the Hood lab here at Amherst, will be starting her Ph.D. in the fall in the Department of Ecology and Evolution at UC-Boulder, where she will be working with Scott Taylor.

Congratulations to everyone!



If you have anything to share for the next BioNews, please send it to Ethan Clotfelter (edclotfelter@amherst.edu)