

NEWSLETTER

OCT 2025



TSGP NEWS

As the semester advances, TSGP continues its admissions preparations and activities. Our Virtual Info Sessions and Doctoral Preview day are just a few of the efforts instrumental to finding a rigorous and effective AY26-27 cohort.

This Newsletter will cover these efforts as well as highlight one specific theme of Obstetrics & Gynecology.

UPCOMING EVENTS

November 10th

Pre-Registration opens

November 10th

TSGP Virtual Info Session

December 19th

Vivian Cheung Seminar Series

**SEMINAR SERIES:
NICOLE JAMES**
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Nicole James, Assistant Professor of
Obstetrics & Gynecology, the Warren
Alpert Medical School

SEMINAR SPOTLIGHT

NICOLE JAMES PRESENTS AT SEMINAR SERIES:

**“NOVEL IMMUNOMODULATORY
APPROACHES TO IMPROVE
THERAPEUTIC OPTIONS FOR HIGH
GRADE SEROUS OVARIAN CANCER.”**

On Friday, October 3, 2025, Nicole James, Assistant Professor of Obstetrics & Gynecology, the Warren Alpert Medical School, delivered an insightful presentation as part of this semester’s seminar series titled “Novel Immunomodulatory Approaches to Improve Therapeutic Options for High-Grade Serous Ovarian Cancer.” Her talk focused on advancing treatment strategies for high-grade serous ovarian cancer (HGSOC), the most lethal of all gynecologic cancers.

While patients with HGSOC often respond favorably to initial chemotherapy, recurrence and the development of treatment resistance remain significant clinical hurdles. Nicole’s research aims to address these challenges by investigating the biological factors that influence therapeutic response and resistance mechanisms.

She discussed the limited success of current immunotherapy approaches in ovarian cancer, noting that the disease’s complex tumor microenvironment—a network of diverse cell types surrounding and influencing the tumor—may underlie this lack of responsiveness.

Following the seminar, TSGP students joined James in Sidney Frank Hall for an informative talk-back session. Talk-back sessions, like these, with our faculty provide PhD students with valuable opportunities to engage in open



Nicole James presenting in Marcovitz Hall on October 3rd, 2025 as part of the Seminar Series.

dialogue, receive constructive feedback, and refine their research ideas. These discussions foster critical thinking, collaboration, and professional growth, helping students develop the skills and confidence essential for successful independent scholarship.

Thank you to all who participated in this seminar.



TSGP IS NOW ON LINKEDIN

[HTTPS://WWW.LINKEDIN.COM/COMPANY/THERAPEUTIC-SCIENCES-GRADUATE-PROGRAM](https://www.linkedin.com/company/therapeutic-sciences-graduate-program)

TSGP is now on LinkedIn. Follow our LinkedIn page to get even more updates on the program and to connect with our network.

Anything else you want to add for future issues of our Newsletter? Any photos to post to our LinkedIn page? Email Program Coordinator, Gregg Casazza for more information.

Gregg_Casazza@Brown.edu



Several of TSGP students met with Nicole James after her seminar to discuss her research and engage thoughtfully in discourse.



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CONFERENCE HIGHLIGHT

ANGELICA SALAVERRIA

AACR SPECIAL CONFERENCE IN CANCER RESEARCH: ADVANCES IN OVARIAN CANCER RESEARCH

Angelica Salaverria represented the James Lab by recently presenting her work at the AACR Special Conference in Cancer Research: Advances in Ovarian Cancer Research, held September 19–21, 2025, at the Grand Hyatt Denver in Denver, Colorado. Salaverria presented her poster, entitled “Amphiregulin neutralization reduces tumor burden and combats immunosuppression within the ovarian tumor microenvironment.”

The AACR’s biennial conference serves as a premier forum for scientists, clinicians, and industry leaders to discuss the most recent advances in ovarian cancer biology and treatment. This year’s meeting explored topics ranging from tumor initiation and heterogeneity to novel immunotherapies, biomarker-driven precision medicine, and antibody-drug conjugates (ADCs). It also emphasized emerging technologies such as artificial intelligence, multi-omics, and single-cell analysis, which are rapidly reshaping the landscape of cancer diagnosis and therapeutic development.

Ovarian cancer remains one of the most challenging malignancies to treat—despite progress,

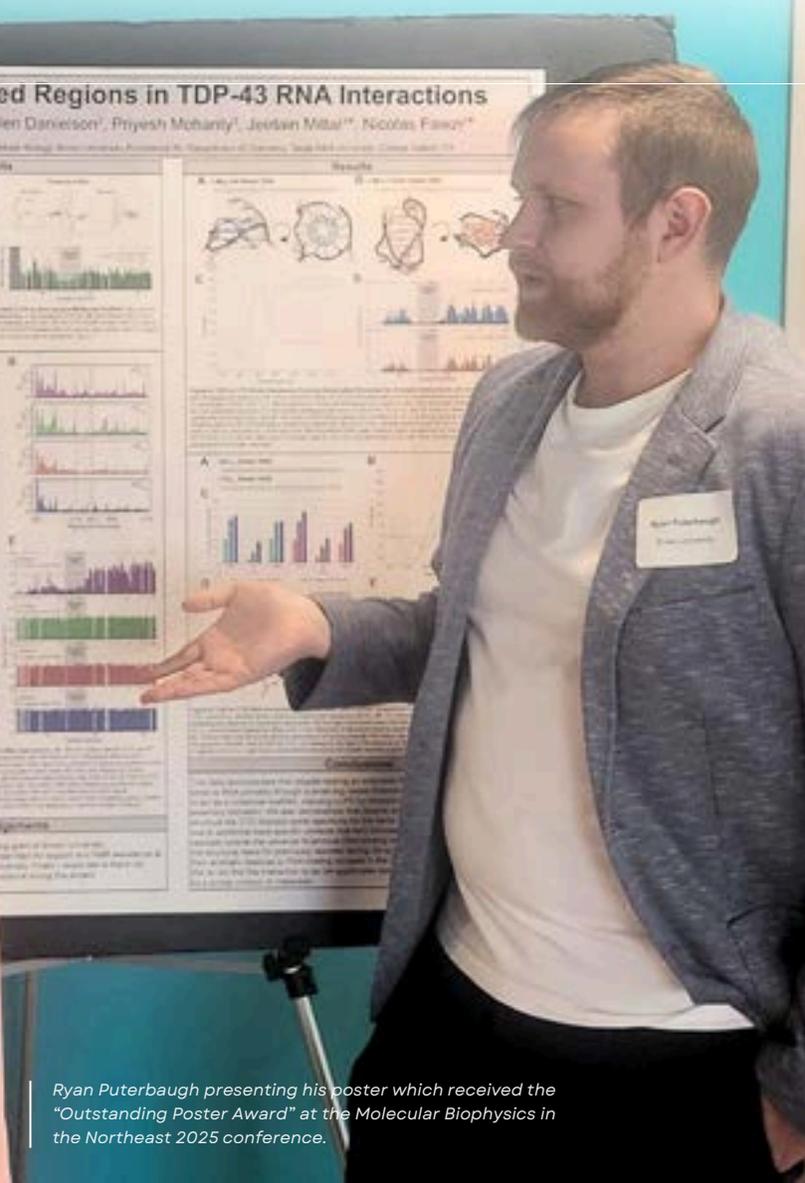
it is still the most lethal gynecologic cancer and the fifth leading cause of cancer-related death among women in the United States. With an estimated 19,680 new cases and 12,740 deaths in 2024, continued research efforts like Salaverria’s are vital to improving patient outcomes.

Her participation in this high-profile conference not only showcased her scientific rigor but also contributed to the broader dialogue on overcoming therapeutic resistance and improving survival for patients with ovarian cancer.



Angelica Salaverria representing the James Lab by recently presenting her work at the AACR Special Conference in Cancer Research: Advances in Ovarian Cancer Research

CONFERENCE HIGHLIGHT

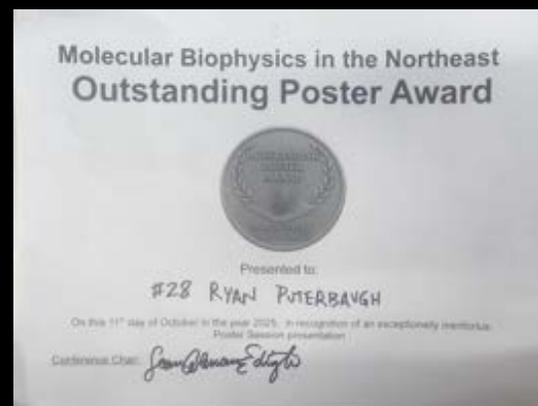
RYAN
PUTERBAUGHMOLECULAR BIOPHYSICS IN
THE NORTHEAST 2025

Ryan Puterbaugh presenting his poster which received the "Outstanding Poster Award" at the Molecular Biophysics in the Northeast 2025 conference.

On October 11, 2025, Ryan Puterbaugh presented a poster at the Molecular Biophysics in the Northeast 2025 conference. The event brought together leading researchers from across the region, highlighting innovative work and fostering collaboration in the field of molecular biophysics.

Ryan was recognized with an Outstanding Poster Presentation Award for excellence in research communication and presentation. The conference featured numerous exceptional talks and posters from scientists throughout the Northeast, contributing to a dynamic and engaging scientific exchange.

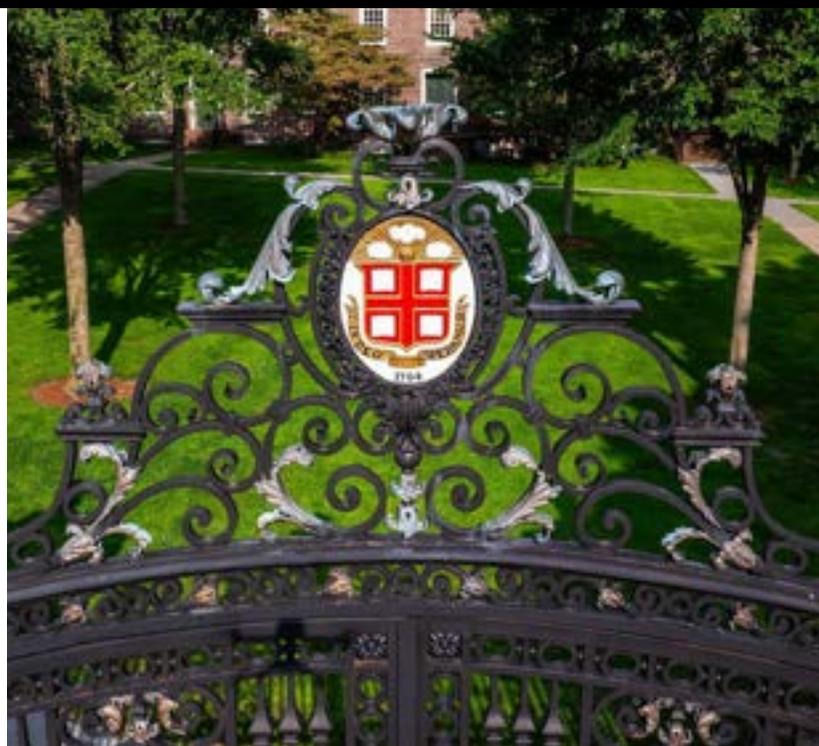
Among the distinguished presenters was Dr. Nick Polizzi from the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, who delivered an impressive presentation on the de novo design of proteins capable of scavenging biological warheads that can inadvertently cleave from conjugated antibodies during cancer treatment. His work was particularly noteworthy, and his lab is based in Boston.



DOCTORAL PREVIEW DAY

On October 20th, 2025 TSGP hosted five potential candidates to our PhD program as a part of the Doctoral Preview Day. These five students participated in a number of activities including lab tours led by Dr. Elena Oancea and Dr. Ahmed Abdelfattah.

Special thanks to Carmelissa Norbrun, Shira Strongin, Katie Newton, Lillianna Hammons and Aidan Biondi for meeting with the preview participants and for being ambassadors to our program.



CONGRATULATIONS, DR. WAKE!



Dr. Wake immediately following the defense of his thesis celebrating with his lab.

As a member of Dr. Nicolas Fawzi's laboratory at Brown, Noah Wake focused his research on understanding the role of Intrinsically Disordered Proteins in neurodegenerative diseases, and characterizing the structural and residue specific contributions to complex assemblies such as biomolecular condensates. On October 31st, 2025 Noah successfully defended his PhD thesis entitled "Uncovering the Rules of Phase Separation and Liquid-to-Solid Transition of the ALS-Linked RNA-binding Protein Fused in Sarcoma." Afterward, Noah enjoyed a celebration on campus with his Advisor, Dr. Nicolas Fawzi, and Brown students, faculty and staff.

Congratulations, Dr. Wake!



THERAPEUTIC SCIENCES SEMINAR SERIES

William Oldham, M.D

DIRECTOR OF RESEARCH & INNOVATION
FOR THE PULMONARY, CRITICAL CARE,
AND SLEEP MEDICINE DIVISION AT
BROWN UNIVERSITY HEALTH



FRIDAY
10 | 31 | 2025



1:00 - 2:00 PM



SFH, MARCUVITZ
AUDITORIUM

“Rewiring
fibrometabolic
circuits in the lung”



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Anything else you want to add for future issues of our Newsletter? Any photos to post to our Instagram page? Email Program Coordinator, Gregg Casazza for more information.

Gregg_Casazza@Brown.edu



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