

NEWSLETTER

SEPT 2025



TSGP NEWS

Welcome back to the Fall Semester!
After a successful and science-filled summer, TSGP is thrilled to begin the 2025/2026 Academic Year.

This Newsletter will cover our annual Fall Meet and Greet, a Student Summer Recap, Graduations, and our First Year Orientation. We still have so much to look forward to, and will be sharing even more stories of innovation and impact in the year to come.

UPCOMING EVENTS

October

First Year Morning Meetings Cont.

October 3rd

*TSGP Seminar Series:
Nicole James*

October 10th

Graduate Program Information Sessions via Zoom

October 31st

*TSGP Seminar Series:
William Oldham*

**FALL MEET
AND GREET**
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Several First Year Students and TSGP students attending the Fall Meet and Greet

FALL MEET AND GREET:


BRINGING TOGETHER GRADUATE STUDENTS ACROSS PROGRAMS

For several years, the TSGP has partnered with the Biotechnology Master's Program to host the annual Fall Meet and Greet—a student-led event designed to foster community and highlight the many opportunities available at Brown. This year, the Health Informatics Master's Program also joined the celebration, further expanding the network of collaboration across graduate programs.

Held on September 12, 2025, in Alumnae Hall, the event welcomed more than 100 students along with numerous faculty members. The afternoon opened with a faculty hour, during which faculty shared their research and engaged directly with new students.

Formal remarks began with Dr. Jacquelyn Schell, Director of the Biotechnology Master's Program, who welcomed attendees and provided an overview of the programs. She was followed by Dr. Beth Harrington, Associate Dean of Biology Graduate Education, who introduced the Office of Graduate Studies and highlighted the resources available to students. Dr. Liz Chen, Interim Director of the Center for Biomedical Informatics, and Dr. Neil Sarkar, Associate Professor of Medical Science, then introduced the Health Informatics Master's Program

Following the faculty presentations, Biotechnology Student Association (BSA) executive members Darl Jacob and Johann Philip officially kicked off the student portion of the event.



Dr. Jacquelyn Schell, Director of the Biotechnology Master's Program welcoming a number of TSGP students.

Attendees enjoyed a catered Mediterranean meal, participated in games—including a meet-and-greet bingo—captured memories in a fall-themed photo booth, and competed for a variety of Brown-themed prizes.

Beyond the food and festivities, the Fall Meet and Greet served as a valuable opportunity for students to connect with peers across disciplines, learn more

about the wealth of resources at Brown, and begin building relationships that will carry through their academic and professional journeys.

The Fall Meet and Greet was once again a resounding success, offering students the opportunity to build connections, celebrate community, and begin the academic year on a strong note. Many thanks to all who participated and contributed to making this year's event memorable.



Dean Harrington meeting with students from different programs during the Faculty Hour at the Fall Meet and Greet.

TSGP Student, Jasmine Clark meeting with Dr. Anita Zimmerman



FIRST YEAR ORIENTATION

On September 3, 2025 our 2025 cohort of First Year Students met with Co-Director of Graduate Studies, Dr. Sean Lawler, and Director of Student Welfare, Dr. Anita Zimmerman and our current TSPG second year students.

The five new students, Shira Strongin, Oluwanifemi Shola-Dare, Katelyn Newton, Anna-Nicole Bosco, and Ege Onal, met to discuss the program and met with our second year students to get invaluable first-hand experience. The students also enjoyed apple themed desserts and cider!



Co-Director of Graduate Studies, Dr. Sean Lawler (left) introducing the program to a classroom full of students.

CONGRATULATIONS, DR. DUMOUCHEL!



Dr. Dumouchel (left) immediately following the defense of her thesis.

As a member of Dr. Kate O'Connor-Giles' Lab laboratory at Brown, Jennifer Dumouchel focused her research on a newly identified regulator of synaptic growth and function, TRMT9B. The lab uses genetic, transcriptomic and biochemical approaches in *Drosophila* to explore how TRMT9B promotes nervous system development and function, with a focus on its role in stress resistance. On May, 27th, 2025 Jennifer successfully defended her PhD thesis entitled "Role of tRNA methyltransferases in nervous system development and function." Afterward, Jennifer enjoyed a celebration on campus with her Advisor, Dr. Kate O'Connor-Giles, and Brown students, faculty and staff. Jennifer's family and friends also traveled to Brown as well so they could proudly celebrate this tremendous milestone in her life. Congratulations, Dr. Dumouchel!



STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

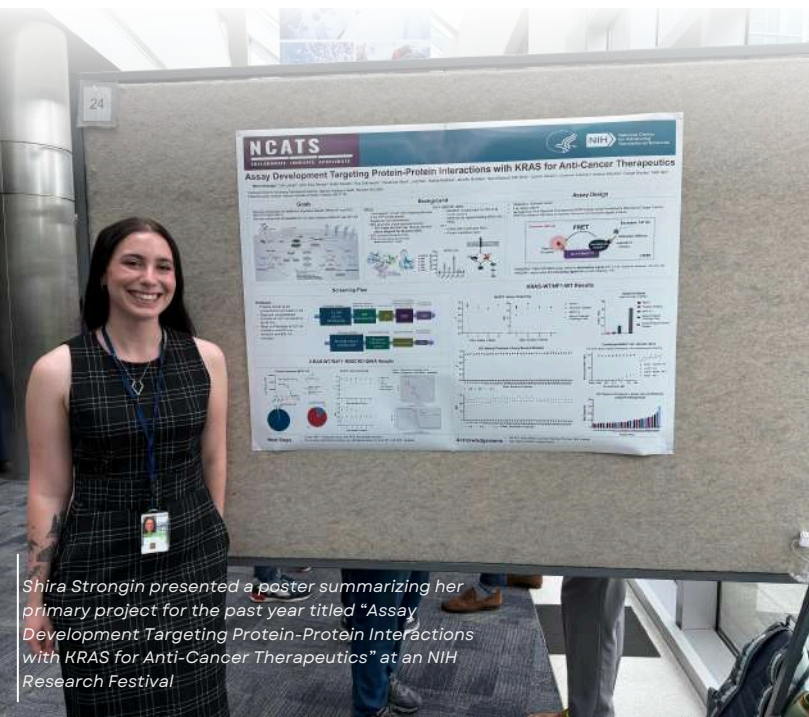


Iz Varghese at the Gordon conference in Switzerland. Their presentation was entitled "Predicting Conformational Distributions of Proteins using Subsampled AF2 (and NMR.)"

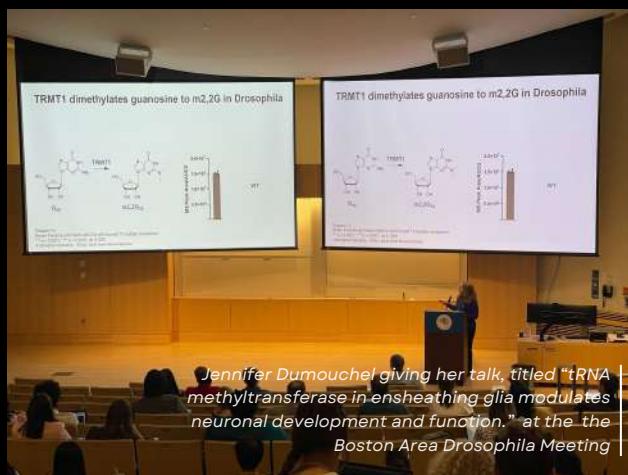
This Summer our TSGP Students represented the program in a number of incredible ways. From Iz Varghese presenting their research entitled "Predicting Conformational Distributions of Proteins using Subsampled AF2 (and NMR,)" at the Gordon Conference in Switzerland, to Esra Taner attending and presenting at NSF Integration Initiative: Sex, Aging, Genomics, & Evolution

(IISAGE), our students continually proved themselves to be important thought-leader in the Scientific community.

Over 60% of our Students said they published their research or attended some kind of conference this summer, and more than 40% had other program specific summer highlights they were proud of—including teaching and volunteer opportunities.



Shira Strongin presented a poster summarizing her primary project for the past year titled "Assay Development Targeting Protein-Protein Interactions with KRAS for Anti-Cancer Therapeutics" at an NIH Research Festival



Jennifer Dumouchel giving her talk, titled "tRNA methyltransferase in ensheathing glia modulates neuronal development and function," at the the Boston Area Drosophila Meeting

From advancing groundbreaking research to taking on meaningful community roles, their efforts underscore the strength and reach of the TSGP community.

Looking ahead, we are excited to continue building on this momentum. With more conferences, collaborations, and research opportunities on the horizon, our students remain at the forefront of scientific discovery and leadership.



Esra Taner and Jennifer Dumouchel at the Boston Area Drosophila Meeting (June 2025) held at UMass Boston

KATIE NEWTON

Published "Conformational Analysis and Structure-Altering Mutations of the HIV-1 Frameshifting Element"

IZ VARGHESE

Presented a poster at Computational Aspects of Biomolecular NMR GRS, and presented a poster at the GRC

TYLER OWENS

Selected as the 2025 Viatrix Pre-doctoral Fellow

ANGELICA SALAVERRIA

RI IDeA Symposium: Emerging Areas of Science

ESRA TANER

Attended & presented at NSF Integration Initiative: Sex, Aging, Genomics, & Evolution (IISAGE)

JENNIFER DUMOUCHEL

Talk & poster at RNA Therapeutics: From Concept to Clinic. Worcester, MA (June 2025) A glial tRNA methyltransferase, linked to intellectual disability, coordinates neuronal development and function

Talk at Boston Area Drosophila Meeting. Boston, MA. - tRNA methyltransferase in ensheathing glial modulates neuronal development and function. (June 2025)

TSGP FALL FIRST YEAR MEETINGS SCHEDULE

Join our incoming 2025 Cohort to discuss their transition into the Therapeutic Sciences Graduate Program, meet mentors, and discuss lab rotations.

Each date has two sessions 10:45 AM - 11:15 AM and 11:15 AM - 11:45 AM. Please make sure to attend all meetings, as these are an expectation for all first years.

**THURSDAY 9/04/2025****AHMED ABDEFATTAH***Assistant Professor of Neuroscience*

10:45 AM - 11:15 AM | BMC 393A

**THURSDAY 9/04/2025****DIANA HORRIGAN***Co-Director of Therapeutic Sciences Graduate Program*

11:15 AM - 11:45 AM | BMC 393A

**THURSDAY 9/11/2025****ANDA CHIRILA***Assistant Professor of Neuroscience*

10:45 AM - 11:15 AM | BMC 393A

**THURSDAY 9/11/2025****WILLIAM OLDHAM***Director of Research and Innovation Pulmonary, Critical Care, and Sleep Medicine*

11:15 AM - 11:45 AM | BMC 393A

**THURSDAY 9/18/2025****NICOLAS FAWZI***Associate Professor of Molecular Biology, Cell Biology, and Biochemistry*

10:45 AM - 11:15 AM | 70 Ship Street BM 106

**THURSDAY 9/18/2025****GEORGE LISI***Assistant Professor of Molecular Biology, Cell Biology, and Biochemistry*

11:15 AM - 11:45 AM | BMC 393A

**THURSDAY 9/25/2025****MEGAN KIZER***Assistant Professor of Chemistry*

10:45 AM - 11:15 AM | BMC 393A

**THURSDAY 9/25/2025****MICHELLE DAWSON***Assistant Professor of Molecular Biology, Cell Biology, and Biochemistry*

11:15 AM - 11:45 AM | BMC 393A

**THURSDAY 10/02/2025****KATE O'CONNOR-GILES***Provost's Associate Professor; Associate Professor of Neuroscience*

10:45 AM - 11:15 AM | BMC 393A

**THURSDAY 10/02/2025****SEAN LAWLER***Co-Director of Therapeutic Sciences Graduate Program*

11:15 AM - 11:45 AM | BMC 393A

**THURSDAY 10/09/2025****EDITH MATHIOWITZ***Professor of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine; Professor of Engineering*

10:45 AM - 11:15 AM | BMC 393A

**THURSDAY 10/09/2025****PHYLLIS DENNERY***Professor of Pediatrics; Professor of Molecular Biology, Cell Biology, and Biochemistry; Chair of Pediatrics*

11:15 AM - 11:45 AM | BMC 393A

THERAPEUTIC SCIENCES SEMINAR SERIES

Nicole James

ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF OBSTETRICS &
GYNECOLOGY, THE WARREN
ALPERT MEDICAL SCHOOL



FRIDAY
10 | 03 | 2025



1:00 - 2:00 PM



SFH, MARCUVITZ
AUDITORIUM

**“Novel
immunomodulatory
approaches to
improve therapeutic
options for high
grade serous ovarian
cancer.”**

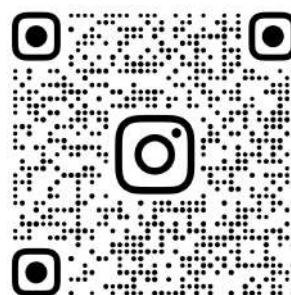


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Anything else you want to add for future issues of our Newsletter? Any photos to post to our Instagram page? Email Program Coordinator, Gregg Casazza for more information.

Gregg_Casazza@Brown.edu



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