BEST Phase I Panel Presenters

October 2-6, 2017, 4-6 pm
Margherio Family Conference Center
3125 Scott Hall
Wayne State University

To register for a panel:
https://wayne.edu/gradschool/best/events
Research Administration: Oct. 2, 2017, 4-6 pm  
Margherio Family Conference Center, School of Medicine

Name: Phil Cunningham, Ph.D.  
Affiliation: Wayne State University  
Email: philc@wayne.edu

Dr. Phil Cunningham is the Associate Vice President for Research Integrity for Wayne State University's Research Integrity Office. He oversees all areas of research compliance including research that utilizes humans, animals, rDNA, as well as radiation safety and chemical safety. In addition, he oversees the university's conflict of interest policy, export controls and investigations on research misconduct. Dr. Cunningham joined the faculty of WSU's Department of Biological Sciences in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences in 1991. He has received numerous honors and awards including WSU's Career Development Chair award, WSU's President's Award for Excellence in Teaching and the National Academies Education Fellow in the Life Sciences, and was appointed an American Society for Microbiology Branch Lecturer from 2008-2010.

Name: Patrick Gossman, Ph.D.  
Affiliation: Wayne State University  
Email: ac8456@wayne.edu

Dr. Patrick Gossman is the Deputy Chief Information Officer at Wayne State University. In this role, he serves as a liaison and catalyst between central IT, university researchers and the business community with an emphasis on high performance computing, advanced networks and big data. He also serves as Executive Director of the Community Telecommunications Network (CTN) which manages the EBS licenses and associated services for its six member institutions -- WSU, Detroit Public Schools, Detroit Public Television and the intermediate school districts of Wayne, Oakland and Macomb counties. CTN provides grants for basic access to the Internet and for innovative use of technology to improve education, health, and public safety. Dr. Gossman has more than 45 years of experience in computing and networking going back to the days of minicomputers and mainframe computers. He has a Ph.D. in psychology with minors in computer science, statistics and measurement from Wayne State University.
Name: Paulina Karwowska-Desaulniers, Ph.D.  
Affiliation: Lassonde School of Engineering at York University (Canada)  
Email: pkd@york.ca

Dr. Paulina Karwowska-Desaulniers received her Ph.D. in chemistry from Wayne State University, specializing in the characterization of post-translational modifications on proteins using both biological and bio-organic techniques. She continued to her postdoctoral position where she studied epigenetic modification of the genome. Currently, she is the Director of Research Priorities and Partnerships at the Lassonde School of Engineering at York University in Canada. In her role, she manages research services for the school including areas of research funding, partnership and strategic initiatives. Her career in the Research Administration started with a role as the Research Officer for Faculty of Science at York, progressing to the Strategic and Institutional Research Specialist and Research Officer in the Faculty of Science.

Name: Jodi Wesemann, Ph.D.  
Affiliation: American Chemical Society  
Email: j_wesemann@acs.org

Dr. Jodi L. Wesemann is the Assistant Director for Educational Research at the American Chemical Society, a position she assumed in 2013. She served eleven years as Assistant Director for Higher Education, working with the Undergraduate Programs Office, the Graduate & Postdoctoral Scholars Office, and the Office of Two-Year Colleges. Prior to joining ACS staff in 2002, Dr. Wesemann was Associate Professor of Chemistry at Saint Mary’s College of California. She earned her B.A. in chemistry from Augustana College in Rock Island, IL and Ph.D. in inorganic chemistry from Indiana University-Bloomington. She was a Fulbright Fellow at Universität Braunschweig, Germany and a postdoctoral fellow at Harvey Mudd College supported by the Camille and Henry Dreyfus Foundation Scholar/Fellow Program for Undergraduate Institutions.
**Teaching:** Oct. 3, 2017, 4-6 pm
Margherio Family Conference Center, School of Medicine

**Name:** Jeanne Andreoli, Ph.D.  
**Affiliation:** Marygrove College  
**Email:** jandreoli@marygrove.edu  

Dr. Jeanne M. Andreoli received her B.S. in biology and communications from the University of Michigan in 1987. She received her Ph.D. in molecular biology and genetics from Wayne State University School of Medicine in 1994 and completed her postdoctoral training at the National Institutes of Health in Bethesda, Maryland. She began her career at Marygrove in 1997 and was most recently chair of the Division of Natural Sciences and Mathematics at that college. Dr. Andreoli has been a faculty pioneer in undergraduate science and math transformation efforts as evidenced through her participation in Chatauqua Short Courses, Human Genome Ethics Institutes, and workshops in interdisciplinary science, technology, facilities planning, scientific literacy, and undergraduate research. She has led Marygrove’s engagement with the science-oriented architectural firm Lord Aeck & Sargent in the planning of new science facilities at Marygrove.

**Name:** Marcus Dickson, Ph.D.  
**Affiliation:** Wayne State University  
**Email:** marcus.dickson@wayne.edu  

Dr. Marcus Dickson is Professor of Industrial/Organizational Psychology at Wayne State University. His research focuses primarily on issues of leadership, especially as it relates to organizational culture and societal culture. He served for several years as a member of the Coordinating Team of Project GLOBE, the largest cross-cultural study of leadership and culture conducted to date. Along with his business partner, Paul Hanges of the University of Maryland’s Industrial/Organizational Psychology program, Dr. Dickson has formed the PHI Group, LLC, which provides organizational consulting, primarily in the areas of personnel selection, job analysis, performance appraisal interview systems, and organizational surveys. In 2015, he won the Outstanding Graduate Mentor Award at Wayne State University. In 2016, Dr. Dickson was elected a Fellow of the Society for Industrial Organizational Psychology, a division of the American Psychology Association. Dr. Dickson obtained his M.A. and Ph.D. in industrial/organizational psychology from University of Maryland.
Name: Sheila Smith, Ph.D.  
Affiliation: University of Michigan  
Email: sheilars@umich.edu

Dr. Sheila R. Smith is an Associate Professor of Chemistry at the University of Michigan-Dearborn in the Department of Natural Sciences. She received her Ph.D. in inorganic chemistry from the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill in 1997. She received her B.S. in chemistry from North Carolina State University in 1992. She was a Post-Doctoral Research Associate in chemistry at Amherst College from 1997-1998. She was also a Post-Doctoral Research Associate in chemistry at Michigan State University from 1998-2001. She recently completed a one-year sabbatical in the laboratory of Professor Timothy Stemmler of Wayne State University College of Pharmaceutical Sciences.

Name: Tonya Whitehead  
Affiliation: Wayne State University  
Email: en5364@wayne.edu

Tonya Whitehead is a Ph.D. candidate in biomedical engineering and part-time faculty in the College of Engineering at Wayne State University. She also is a Graduate Student Assistant at the Office for Teaching and Learning, where she focuses on STEM Pedagogy and teaching development programs for graduate students. Ms. Whitehead began her training as an instructor while she was a King-Chavez-Parks Future Faculty Fellow. In this capacity, she attended active learning and problem-based learning bootcamps at Lawrence Technological University. Before coming to Wayne State, she received a M.S. in manufacturing and engineering management and a B.S. in computer engineering at Michigan State University. She is an active member of the American Society of Engineering Education, the Biomedical Engineering Society, the Society for Women Engineers, and Tau Beta Pi, the Engineering Honor Society.
Name: Jaime Curtis-Fisk, Ph.D.
Affiliation: The Dow Chemical Company
Email: jlcurtisfisk@dow.com

Dr. Jaime Curtis-Fisk is a research and development scientist and STEM educate advocate for the Dow Chemical Company. Her primary focus area in education outreach was developing the Dow STEM Ambassadors, an employee engagement program that focuses on unique approaches to connect the passion of STEM professionals to opportunities for impact in their local communities and through partner universities. Dr. Curtis-Fisk’s role involves leading the internal program structure, developing STEM resources to enable employee volunteers to connect classroom concepts to real-world technology, and managing collaborations with Dow’s external partners. Along with employee volunteerism, she is also very passionate about building the pipeline of future women scientists. She is involved with several initiatives that support the role of women in STEM, including serving on the American Chemical Society’s Women Chemist Committee. Dr. Curtis-Fisk received her B.S. in chemistry from Grand Valley State University and her Ph.D. in chemistry with certification in College Teaching from Michigan State University.

Name: Kelly George, Ph.D.
Affiliation: L’Oreal USA Research & Innovation
Email: kgeorge@rd.us.orel.com

Dr. Kelly George is a principal scientist at L’Oreal USA Research & Innovation, where she currently leads open innovation projects in advanced research. Prior to this position, she spent three years working in skincare developing novel formulations for the L’Oreal Beauty Device Division for several Clarisonic product launches. Dr. George joined L’Oreal in 2012 following four years at Hoffman-La Roche, where she managed teams and Discovery Chemistry projects as a Section Head and Lead Chemist for Oncology and Diabetes programs. Dr. George graduated from Washington & Jefferson College with a B.A. in chemistry and English. She completed her Ph.D. in organic chemistry from the University of Pennsylvania. She was awarded the Bristol-Myers Squibb Graduate Fellowship and was one of five women recognized as a L’Oreal USA For Women in Science Fellow.
Name: John SantaLucia, Ph.D.
Affiliation: Wayne State University
Email: jsl@chem.wayne.edu

Dr. John SantaLucia is Professor of Chemistry at Wayne State University. He received his B.S. from Clarkson University in 1987, his Ph.D. from the University of Rochester in 1991, and was an NIH Postdoctoral Fellow at the University of California, Berkeley from 1991-1994. Dr. Santalucia is also the President, CEO and Co-founder of DNA Software, Inc., a company that offers solutions to some of the most difficult problems in DNA diagnostic design and analysis.

Name: Ashesh Saraiya, Ph.D.
Affiliation: NuGEN
Email: asaraiya@nugen.com

Dr. Ashesh Saraiya is a Product Manager for NuGEN. His responsibilities include determining customer requirements for new products, product commercialization, and product line maintenance. Dr. Saraiya earned his Ph.D. in molecular biology at Wayne State University and served a postdoctoral fellowship at the University of California - San Francisco.
Government: Oct. 5, 2017, 4-6 pm
Margherio Family Conference Center, School of Medicine

Name: Daniel Acosta, Ph.D.
Affiliation: U.S. Food and Drug Administration
Email: Daniel.Acosta@fda.hhs.gov

Dr. Daniel Acosta is currently the Deputy Director for the National Center for Toxicology Research with the U.S. Food and Drug Administration. He graduated first in his class at the University of Texas - College of Pharmacy for his B.S. degree in pharmacy. He then pursued a graduate degree in pharmacology and toxicology at the University of Kansas and was awarded a four-year National Science Foundation Traineeship. Dr. Acosta received his Ph.D. in pharmacology and toxicology from the University of Kansas - School of Pharmacy. He has mentored over 30 Ph.D., Masters, and postdoctoral fellows while he was a professor at UT. In addition, he worked with over 50 pharmacy, undergraduate, and high school students in his laboratory during his tenure in the College of Pharmacy. Dr. Acosta was elected president of the International Union of Toxicology, a federation of over 60 countries and their national toxicology organizations. Through his leadership, several new societies have been established in Africa and Asia.

Name: Ken Massey, Ph.D.
Affiliation: Wayne State University/City of Farmington Hills
Email: cq0728@wayne.edu

Dr. Ken Massey is the Senior Director of Venture Development in the Office of Technology Commercialization at Wayne State University. He has a combined 28 years of biomedical research and business experience in the academic, pharmaceutical, and biotech arenas. In his current role, he identifies start-up opportunities and facilitates the efforts of WSU entrepreneurs in creating companies to develop and license technology. Before joining Wayne State, Dr. Massey was managing director of MicroDose Life Sciences and its associated venture capital fund, LifeLine Ventures, and also worked at Pfizer where he was responsible for the scientific and operational aspects of several drug development programs. Dr. Massey was Assistant Professor of Anesthesiology and Pharmacology at the University of Michigan after obtaining his Ph.D. from the University of Texas Southwestern. Dr. Massey is also the Mayor of Farmington Hills, Michigan.
Name: Irina Pala, Ph.D.
Affiliation: United States Navy
Email: irina.pala.ctr@navy.mil

Dr. Irina Pala is a Senior Policy Analyst in the Office of Naval Research (ONR), the Discovery and Invention (D&I) division. In this position, she supports the ONR Director of Research and the Deputy Director for Discovery and Invention in the development of naval D&I policy for implementing a cohesive strategy that results in high caliber research for the Navy and Marine Corps. Dr. Pala obtained a B.S. in chemistry in 2006 from the University of Michigan and a Ph.D. in chemistry in 2012 from Wayne State University. She was the recipient of a National Research Council Postdoctoral Fellowship to conduct research at the U.S. Naval Research Laboratory, where she investigated novel thin film transparent conductive materials and new recharging battery chemistries and architectures. Dr. Pala’s research has involved collaborations with international partners and has included field work with U.S. and international students.

Name: James Williams
Affiliation: Wayne State University
Email: james.williams24@wayne.edu

James Williams is the Director of Federal Affairs in the Office of Government and Community Affairs at Wayne State University. In his more than 20 years in Washington, D.C., Mr. Williams has worked with six members of Congress, and has extensive experience addressing issues affecting Michigan. He has an broad list of legislative achievements, including playing a valuable role in helping to get two reauthorizations of the Higher Education Act signed into law; serving as one of principal individuals who drafted language in the Civil Rights Act of 1991; and helping to secure more than $700 million in appropriations funding earmarked for academic, defense, health care and transportation needs of the state of Michigan. A native of Washington, D.C., Mr. Williams holds a degree in public administration and history from Fisk University.
Name: Karen Cheng  
Affiliation: University of Washington  
Email: kcheng@uw.edu

Karen Cheng is professor of Visual Communication Design at the University of Washington, where she teaches information design and data visualization. Her research, which has been supported by grants from the National Science Foundation, examines how visual design can enhance functional and technical communications such as maps, forms, charts and diagrams. Prof. Cheng has a B.S. from Penn State University in chemical engineering and a M.A. from the University of Cincinnati College of Design, Art, Architecture and Planning.

Name: Laura Pechta, Ph.D.  
Affiliation: Center for Disease Control  
Email: vya9@cdc.gov

Dr. Laura Pechta is a Health Communication Specialist with the Emergency Risk Communication Branch in the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). For the past five years, she has been a member of the research and evaluation team conducting real-time communication surveillance of news and social media and special research and evaluation tasks for fourteen CDC emergency responses, such as the Multi-state Fungal Meningitis Outbreak, Hurricane Sandy, Ebola, and Zika. She has also deployed twice as the Health Communication Lead for the Ebola response in Liberia, doing everything from risk communication technical assistance to public affairs and media support for Liberia’s Ministry of Health Incident Management staff and CDC response teams. Dr. Pechta received her Ph.D. in risk and crisis Communication at Wayne State University and M.A. in organizational communication from Purdue University.
Name: Donnie Sackey, Ph.D.
Affiliation: Wayne State University
Email: donnie.sackey@wayne.edu

Dr. Donnie Sackey is an Assistant Professor of Rhetoric & Composition at Wayne State University. He is a senior researcher with Detroit Integrated Vision for Environmental Research through Science and Engagement (D•VERSE) and an affiliated researcher in the Writing, Information, and Digital Experience (WIDE) Research Center. He also serves as an executive board member of the Michigan Environmental Justice Coalition. His research centers on the dynamics of environmental public policy deliberation, environmental justice, and environmental cultural history. Dr. Sackey received dual B.A. degrees, one in Latin and the other in English, from the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga in 2006. In 2009 he received a M.A. in critical studies in literacy & pedagogy from Michigan State University. He received his Ph.D. in rhetoric and writing from Michigan State University in 2013.