UNIVERSITY of WASHINGTON

Molecular Engineering & Sciences Institute

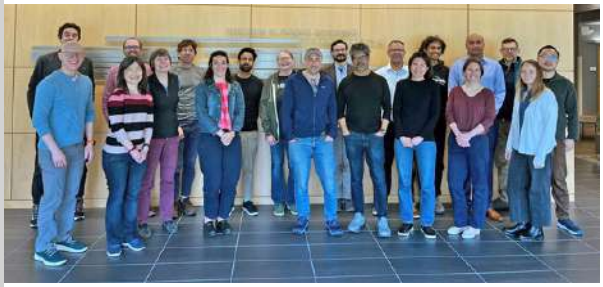
Spring 2026

MolES student profile: Daniel Mendoza

Molecular Engineering and Sciences (MolES) student Daniel Mendoza believes in fully embracing new ideas and opportunities — from lab rotations to dance classes to volunteering at the Seattle Aquarium. In this Q&A, he reflected on his experience as a first-year PhD student within the University of Washington community and beyond.

A mentor's support turns curiosity into courage, doubt into discovery

MolES faculty member Ayọ̀kúnlé Ọlánrewájú's commitment to access connects students to meaningful research opportunities. Learn how his mentorship and philosophy shapes research skills and professional confidence in undergraduates.



MolES' Scientific Exchange sparks microbial engineering collaborations

MolES hosted a Scientific Exchange on Microbial Engineering to catalyze new collaborations, share tools and expertise, and seed pilot projects.

How gut bacteria survive viral attack

Members of the Kuchina lab discuss new findings on how *Bacteroides fragilis* responds to bacteriophage infection at the single-cell level.

Meet Suzie H. Pun, the New Editor-in-Chief of *ACS Nano Medicine*

In this interview, Washington Research Foundation Professor of Bioengineering and MolES Director Suzie Pun shares her vision for the journal, her passion for research, and her thoughts on how young researchers might approach their careers.

CONGRATULATIONS

NIH-funded team Led by Berndt lab aims to supercharge protein sensor engineering

Three MolES Faculty Researchers named AAAS Fellows

Shijie Cao's PRIME lab receives NSF CAREER Award

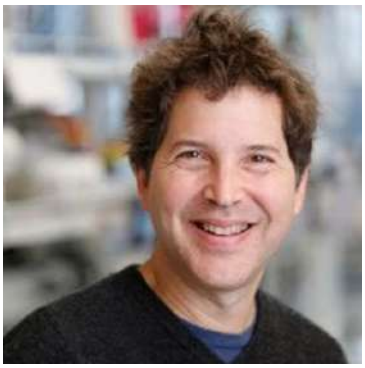
An $11 million grant from the NIH BRAIN Initiative will enable the Berndt lab, in collaboration with researchers from multiple institutions, to enhance protein sensor technology.

The American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) named MolES faculty members David Baker, Maitreya Dunham and David J. Masiello AAAS Fellows.

Led by MolES faculty member Shijie Cao, PRIME (Pharmaceutical Research in Immune & Microbiome Engineering) lab's research on the gut microbiome and the compounds it produces was recently recognized with a National Science Foundation (NSF) CAREER Award.

AIMBE Recognizes Leader in Cytometry and Biomedical Engineering: Daniel T. Chiu

MolES faculty member Daniel Chiu was recognized by the American Institute for Medical and Biological Engineering (AIMBE) College of Fellows for developing nanomaterials that have transformed single-molecule detection—an achievement that speaks to his exceptional leadership and scientific impact.



David Baker elected to National Academy of Engineering

Election to the National Academy of Engineering (NAE) is among the highest professional distinctions accorded to an engineer. MolEs faculty member David Baker was recognized by NAE for developing computational methods to engineer novel proteins and predict protein three-dimensional structures.

Matthew Golder named 2026 Sloan Fellow

MolES faculty member Matthew Golder was selected as a 2026 Alfred P. Sloan Research Fellow in Chemistry. These fellowships are awarded yearly to early-career researchers in recognition of distinguished performance and a unique potential to make substantial contributions to their field.

PUBLICATIONS

Effect of Vapor Phase Infiltration on Mechanical and Chemical Properties of Polyethersulfone Membranes
Yuri Choe, Alyssa Hicks, Seancarlos Gonzalez, David S. Bergsman
ACS Publications

Vapor Phase Infiltration for Membrane Modification
Seancarlos Gonzalez, Yuri Choe, Prasi Desai, Bezawit A Getachew, David S Bergsman
ACS Publications

Using Experimental Evolution to Correct Mother-Daughter Separation Defects in Brewing Yeast
Lauren M Ackermann, Amanda Ro, Barbara Dunn, Ryan Moore, Greg Doss, Joseph O Armstrong, and Maitreya J Dunham
microPublication Biology

Dynamics of phage-host interactions in Bacteroides fragilis resolved by single-cell transcriptomics
Anika Gupta, Norma Morella, Dmitry Sutormin, Naisi Li, Karl Gaisser, Alexander Robertson, Yaroslav Ispolatov, Georg Seelig, Neelendu Dey & Anna Kuchina
Nature Communications

Host oxidative stress primes mycobacteria for rapid antibiotic resistance evolution
Evan Pepper-Tunick, Vivek Srinivas, Fred D. Mast, Song Li, Sagan Russ, Weston Hanson, Amy D. Zamora, Wei-Ju Wu, Matthew Silcocks, Dang Thi Minh Ha, Sarah J. Dunstan, Thuong Nguyen Thuy Thuong, Serdar Turkarslan, John D. Aitchison, Mario L. Arrieta-Ortiz & Nitin S. Baliga
Nature Communications

Organic electro-optic materials: theory and experiment, devices, and applications [Invited]
Larry R. Dalton
Optical Materials Express

An automated sampling workflow for parallel long-term membrane diffusion cell testing
Claire Benstead, Maria Politi, David S. Bergsman and Lilo D. Pozzo
Royal Society of Chemistry

MolES SEMINAR SERIES

Tuesdays 1–2 p.m.

Nano Engineering and Sciences (NAN 181)

May 19: Jason Fontana | Founder & CEO | *Wayfinder Biosciences*

May 26: Arjun Khakar | Assistant Professor of Biology | *Cornell University*

June 2: Anika Gupta | Molecular Engineering PhD Candidate, Scientific Achievement Award Recipient | *University of Washington/Institute for Systems Biology*

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