

Current Research Faculty

- Christopher Schafer, Ph.D., Research Assistant Professor (2021-present)
 - Awards:
 - American Heart Association Second Century Early Faculty Independence Award (2023-2026)
 - American Lung Association Catalyst Award (2021-2023)

Current Postdoctoral Trainees

- Xiang (Eric) Ma, Ph.D. (2023-present)
 - Postdoc Awards:
 - OMRF Postdoc Travel Grant (2024)
 - American Heart Association Postdoctoral Fellowship (2024-2025)
 - ARVO Foundation for Eye Research and the Eye Bank Association of America EyeFind Research Grant (2023)
 - Ph.D. from University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center
- Charmain Fernando, Ph.D. (2018-present)
 - Postdoc Awards:
 - Outstanding Poster Award, NAVBO Vascular Biology 2023 (Newport, RI)
 - Selected for online seminar in the NAVBO InFocus session on “Vasculature Under Hypoxia” (2023)
 - Abstract selected for oral presentation, NAVBO Vascular Biology 2020 (online event)
 - American Heart Association Postdoctoral Fellowship (2020-2021)
 - Ph.D. from University of Missouri
- Melinda Wu, Ph.D (2017-present)
 - Postdoc Awards:
 - NAVBO Travel Award and abstract selected for oral presentation, Vasculata 2022 (Durham, NC)
 - Outstanding Poster Award in the Vascular Inflammation Workshop III, NAVBO Vascular Biology 2020 (online event)
 - American Heart Association Postdoctoral Fellowship (2019-2020)
 - Abstract selected for oral presentation, NAVBO Vascular Biology 2018 (Newport, RI)
 - OMRF Clinical Genomics Core Mini Grant recipient (2018)
 - Abstract selected for oral presentation, NAVBO Vascular Biology 2017: Pre-conference Meeting for Trainees (Pacific Grove, CA)
 - Ph.D. from National Tsing Hua University, Taiwan

Former Postdoctoral Trainees

- Matthew Menendez, Ph.D. (2015-2021)
 - Current Position: Owner/Operator of Empirical Web Solutions (Oklahoma City, OK)
 - Postdoc Awards:
 - Invited oral presentation, NAVBO Focus Sessions (online event; March 2021)

- Abstract selected for oral presentation, NAVBO Vascular Biology 2020: Pre-conference Meeting for Trainees (online event)
 - Abstract selected for poster discussion session, NAVBO Vascular Biology 2020 (online event)
 - Abstract selected for oral presentation, Lymphatic Forum 2017 (Chicago, IL)
 - Best OMRF Postdoc Fellowship (2017)
 - American Heart Association Postdoctoral Fellowship (2016-2018)
 - OMRF 2nd Place Postdoc Poster Award at the annual scientific retreat (2016)
 - Ph.D. from University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center
- Christopher Schafer, Ph.D. (2017-2021)
 - Current Position: Research Assistant Professor in the Griffin Lab
 - Postdoc Awards:
 - Robert Eugene Anderson Award for oral presentation at the 2019 OU Vision Workshop (2019)
 - Postdoc Poster Award at the Vascular Cell Biology Gordon Research Conference, Ventura, CA (2019)
 - Wei Cao Award for Innovation for oral presentation at the 2018 OU Vision Workshop (2018)
 - OMRF Postdoc Travel Award (2018)
 - Oklahoma Center for the Advancement of Science and Technology (OCAST) Postdoctoral Fellowship (2018-2020)
 - American Heart Association Postdoctoral Fellowship (2018-2020; *declined due to overlap with OCAST Fellowship*)
 - OMRF Postdoc Poster Award at the annual scientific retreat (2018)
 - Ph.D. from University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center
- Patrick Crosswhite, Ph.D. (2012-2016)
 - Current Position: Associate Professor and Chair; Department of Human Physiology; Gonzaga University (Spokane, WA)
 - Postdoc Awards:
 - OMRF 1st Place Postdoc Poster Award at the annual scientific retreat (2016)
 - Abstract selected for oral presentation, NAVBO Vascular Biology 2015 (Cape Cod, MA)
 - Lymphatic Education & Research Network (LE&RN) Travel Award (2015)
 - Paul W. Kincade Outstanding Grantsmanship Award (2015)
 - American Heart Association Postdoctoral Fellowship (2015-2017; terminated early due to initiating faculty position)
 - OMRF Travel Award for oral presentation at the annual scientific retreat (2015)
 - Ph.D. from University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center
- Mandi Wiley, Ph.D. (2011-2015)
 - Current Position: Associate Staff Scientist; OMRF; Laboratory of Dr. Christopher Lessard

- Ph.D. from University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center
- E-Ching Ong, Ph.D. (2013-2014)
 - Current Position: Senior Scientist, Process Development; Lyell Immunopharma (Seattle, WA)
 - Postdoc Awards:
 - NAVBO Travel Award for Vasculata Course (2014)
 - Outstanding Poster by a Postdoc in Vascular Biology, NAVBO Vascular Biology 2013 (Cape Cod, MA) and 2014 (Asilomar, CA)
 - Ph.D. from University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center
- Carol Curtis, Ph.D. (2009-2013)
 - Current Position: Founder and Managing Partner, C Square Consulting (Oklahoma City, OK)
 - Postdoc Awards:
 - OMRF Outstanding Postdoctoral Publication (2012)
 - OMRF Postdoctoral Travel Award for poster presentation at the annual scientific retreat (2011, 2013)
 - OMRF Outstanding Postdoctoral Publication, honorable mention (2011)
 - Ph.D. from University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign

Current Ph.D. Students

- Rahul Rajala, University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center (2020-present)
 - Predoc Awards:
 - 1st Place Travel Award for oral presentation at the 2023 Harold Hamm Diabetes Center Research Symposium (Oklahoma City, OK)
 - NAVBO Travel Award to Vascular Biology 2023 (Newport, RI)
 - OMRF Travel Award for poster presentation at the annual scientific retreat (2023)
 - American Heart Association Predoctoral Fellowship (2023-2024)
 - 1st Place Travel Award for oral presentation at the 2022 Harold Hamm Diabetes Center Research Symposium (Oklahoma City, OK)
 - NAVBO Travel Award to IVBM 2022 (Oakland, CA)
 - OMRF GREAT Symposium Travel Grant for oral presentation (2022)
 - Outstanding Platform Presentation Travel Award at the OUHSC Department of Cell Biology retreat (2022)
 - OMRF Predoctoral Fellowship (2021-2022)

Former Ph.D. Students

- Siqi Gao, University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center (2016-2020)
 - Current Position: Postdoctoral Trainee; University of Pennsylvania Perelman School of Medicine (Philadelphia, PA); Laboratory of Dr. Mark Kahn
 - Predoc Awards:

- Outstanding Poster by a Graduate Student in the Developmental Vascular Biology and Genetics Workshop VIII, NAVBO Vascular Biology 2019 (Asilomar, CA)
- American Heart Association Predoctoral Fellowship (2019-2021)
- Best Student Talk, 2017 OUHSC Cell Biology Retreat
- Abstract selected for oral presentation, NAVBO Vascular Biology 2017: Pre-conference Meeting for Trainees (Pacific Grove, CA)
- OMRF John and Mildred Carson Predoctoral Scholarship (2017)
- OMRF GREAT Symposium Travel Grant for oral presentation (2017)
- Sarah Colijn, University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center (2014-2019)
 - Current Position: Postdoctoral Trainee; Washington University School of Medicine (St. Louis, MO); Laboratory of Dr. Amber Stratman
 - Predoc Awards:
 - Abstract selected for oral presentation, NAVBO Vascular Biology 2018 (Newport, RI)
 - Travel Award and abstract selected for oral presentation, NAVBO Vascular Biology 2017 (Pacific Grove, CA)
 - OMRF GREAT Symposium Travel Grant for oral presentation (2016)
 - OMRF 3rd Place Predoc Poster Award (2016)
 - Abstract selected for oral presentation, NAVBO Vascular Biology 2015: Pre-conference Meeting for Trainees (Cape Cod, MA)
 - OMRF Barrett Fund Predoctoral Scholarship (2015)
 - NAVBO Travel Award for Vasculata Course (2015)
- Kyle Ingram, University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center, 2010-2015
 - After graduation: Postdoctoral Trainee with Drs. Joan and Ron Conaway (Stowers Institute for Medical Research) from 2015-2020
 - Current position: Student at University of Missouri-Kansas City School of Law (studying patent law)
 - Predoc Awards:
 - Cell Biology Nominee for OUHSC Outstanding Dissertation Award (2016)
 - OMRF Predoctoral Travel Award for oral presentation at the annual scientific retreat (2014)
 - Abstract selected for oral presentation, NAVBO Vascular Biology 2012 (Pacific Grove, CA)
 - OU Medical Center GREAT Symposium Travel Grant for oral presentation (2012)
 - OUHSC Graduate Student Association Travel Grant (2012)
 - OMRF Predoctoral Travel Award for poster presentation at the annual scientific retreat (2011)
 - OMRF GREAT Symposium Travel Grant for oral presentation (2011)
 - OMRF John and Mildred Carson Predoctoral Scholarship (2011)
 - Ronald E. McNair Graduate Fellowship (2009-2013)

- Reema Biswas Davis, University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center, 2009-2013
 - After graduation: Postdoctoral Trainee with Dr. Kathleen Caron (UNC-Chapel Hill) from 2013-2018
 - Current Position: Bioanalytical Project Manager / Manager I; BioAgilytix (Durham, NC)
 - Predoc Awards:
 - Cell Biology Nominee for OUHSC Outstanding Dissertation Award (2014)
 - OMRF Predoctoral Travel Award for Oral & Poster Presentations at the annual scientific retreat (2013)
 - Outstanding Graduate Student Poster Award, NAVBO Vascular Biology 2012 (Asilomar, CA)
 - OUHSC College of Medicine Graduate Student Association GREAT Symposium Travel Grant for oral presentation (2012)
 - OUHSC Graduate Student Association Travel Grant (2012)
 - OMRF Barrett Fund Predoctoral Scholarship (2010)
 - OUHSC GPIBS Scholar Award (2009)
 - NAVBO Travel Award for Vasculata Course (2009)

Former Master's Students

- Bridget Parrish, University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center (2020-2022)
 - Current Position: Project Manager; OMRF; Lab of Dr. Judith James
 - Graduate Student Awards:
 - OMRF Predoctoral Fellowship (2022-2023)
 - Invited speaker for the NAVBO In-Focus Webinar on Pathogenic Endothelial Cell Development (2022)
 - Outstanding Poster Award at NAVBO Vascular Biology 2021 (online event)
 - Abstract selected for oral presentation at the 2021 OU Vision Workshop
- Katarzyna Borawska, Jagiellonian University (Visiting Research Graduate Traineeship Program: 2019-2020)
- Katarzyna Kurylowicz, Jagiellonian University (Visiting Research Graduate Traineeship Program; 2018-2019; Research Technician: 2019-2020)
- Anna Drozd, Medical University of Lodz (Visiting Research Graduate Traineeship Program: 2016-2017)
 - Awards:
 - Best Poster among Visiting Research Graduate Traineeship Program students at OMRF Annual Retreat (2017) resulting in an invited talk at the University of Virginia VRGTP meeting (May 18, 2017)
- Joanna Podsiadlowska, University of Warsaw (Visiting Research Graduate Traineeship Program: 2014-2015)

Medical Students (part-time research)

- Cici Zhou, University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center (2016-2017)

Rotation Students

- Ujjwol Khatri (Winter 2020)
- Regun Karmoker (Fall 2019)
- Layne Rodden (Spring 2016)
- Brian Shepherd (Fall 2015)
- Stefano Tarantini (Winter 2013)
- Justin Gates (Fall 2012)

Undergraduate Students

- Jenna Chan, University of Tulsa (OMRF Fleming Scholar: Summer 2023)
- Srija Nuguri, University of Oklahoma (OMRF Fleming Scholar: Summer 2022)
- Menerva Racy, Langston University (OMRF Langston Scholar: Summer 2022)
- Andrianna Buxton, Langston University (OMRF Langston Scholar: Summer 2021)
- Erika Willis, U.S. Air Force Academy (OMRF Saxon Scholar: Summer 2021)
- Abby Williams, New York University (Summer 2019)
- Kate Wheeler, University of Oklahoma (OMRF Fleming Scholar: Summer 2019; term-time and summer research: 2020-present)
- Paige Miles, U.S. Naval Academy (OMRF Saxon Scholar: Summer 2018)
- Jocelyn Rodriguez, U.S. Naval Academy (OMRF Saxon Scholar: Summer 2017)
- Robert Pahissa, U.S. Air Force Academy (OMRF Saxon Scholar: Summer 2016)
- Tirzah Prince, U.S. Air Force Academy (OMRF Saxon Scholar: Summer 2015)
- Tanner Bowen, Oklahoma Christian University (OMRF Fleming Scholar: Summer 2014)
- Eileen Dilks, U.S. Naval Academy (OMRF Saxon Scholar: Summer 2013)
- Matthew Ward, U.S. Air Force Academy (OMRF Saxon Scholar: Summer 2011)
- Valerie Pack, University of Oklahoma (SURE Program: Summer 2009)

High School Students (part-time research)

- Laila Doyle, Francis Tuttle Technology Center (2022)
- Nadia Sirajuddin, Oklahoma School of Science and Mathematics (2015-2016)