

MARCH 2020

# TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

The Department of Biochemistry and Biophysics Newsletter



## The Battle with COVID-19

The once busy and bustling BCBP lobby is now so empty, one could hear a pin drop. With the spread of COVID-19, the university is taking extra precautions to make sure everyone is healthy and safe. Now that everything has been switched over online, there will always be confusion and uncertainty moving forward. The university continues to update daily of any new information about COVID-19, whether it is about how it directly affects the teaching system, how to effectively stay on top of your hygiene, or about COVID-19 in general.

The following links are good resources to follow if you have any further questions or concerns about all these new changes happening. Faculty and staff can visit the following links to learn more about the [libraries' coronavirus updates and resources](#) and the "[keep teaching](#)" site from the Provost. If you need any support document help, contact [aihelp@tamu.edu](mailto:aihelp@tamu.edu). All COALS faculty, staff and students can visit [COALS COVID-19 Resources](#) to seek answers to any of your questions and concerns.

Everyone, please stay vigilant with washing your hands, not touching your face and practicing safe distancing from others. This is a difficult time that we're all going through, but as long as we stay persistent and optimistic, we can all fight this virus together. Please, stay safe and healthy! To learn more information about COVID-19 and how it's affecting the rest of the world, visit: <https://coronavirus.jhu.edu/map.html>.

# Myths About COVID-19

## COVID-19 MYTH

Gargling with bleach, using essential oils, and taking steroids will protect you from COVID-19.



## FACT

These proposed preventative measures may be dangerous and cannot protect a person from COVID-19.

Source: Johns Hopkins

FWI

## COVID-19 MYTH

A vaccine to cure COVID-19 is available.



## FACT

There is no vaccine for COVID-19. Developing a new vaccine can take months and scientists are currently working on a vaccine.

Source: Johns Hopkins

FWI

## COVID-19 MYTH

You do not have COVID-19 if you have a runny nose.



## FACT

A runny nose can mean you have another illness, but has also been seen in patients with COVID-19.

Source: CNN

FWI

## COVID-19 MYTH

Spraying alcohol or chlorine all over your body kills COVID-19.



## FACT

Spraying alcohol or chlorine on your body can be dangerous and does not kill COVID-19.

Source: WHO

FWI

## COVID-19 MYTH

There are specific medicines to treat and prevent COVID-19.



## FACT

There are no specific medicines to prevent and treat COVID-19. Medicines can be used to relieve symptoms of COVID-19.

Source: WHO

FWI

## COVID-19 MYTH

You do not have COVID-19 if you can hold your breath for 10 seconds without discomfort or coughing.



## FACT

"Most young patients with COVID-19 will be able to hold their breaths for much longer than 10 seconds. And many elderly without the virus won't be able to do it."

Source: CNN

FWI

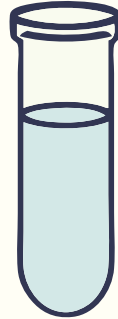
# Research Publications

Congratulations to those who have published their research in the month of February! If you would like to read more on their research, please click on the link below:

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed>

## Graduate Students/ Research Staff

Donna Iadarola  
Sachin Katti  
Lee Sanchez  
Prachi Trivedi

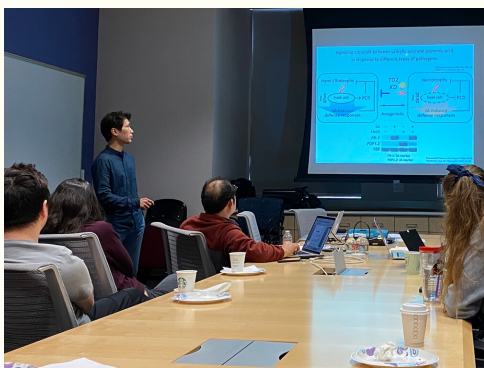
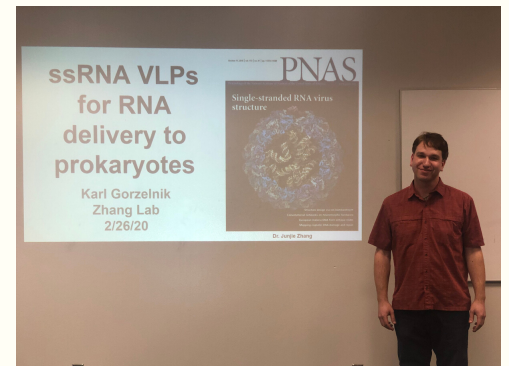


## Faculty

Dr. Robert Chapkin  
Dr. Vishal Gohil  
Dr. Magnus Höök  
Dr. Tatyana Igumenova  
Dr. Dmitry Kourouski  
Dr. Stephen Safe  
Dr. Dorothy Shippen  
Dr. David Threadgill  
Dr. Lanying Zeng  
Dr. Xiuren Zhang

## In Defense...

Congratulations to Dr. Karl Gorzelnik, from the lab of Dr. Junjie Zhang, for successfully defending his Ph.D. thesis on February 26th! His dissertation defense was on the topic of: Structure of the ssRNA Phage Q $\beta$  Enables Design of Virus-like Particles for RNA Delivery.



Congratulations to Dr. Incheol Yeo, from the lab of Dr. Tim Devarenne, for successfully defending his Ph.D. thesis on March 2nd! His dissertation defense was on the topic of: A functional role for tomato threonine deaminase 2 in host defense against bacterial infection.

# Upcoming Events

All seminars, symposiums, sports, or large events are cancelled/postponed until further notice.

## General

**April 9, 16, 23, 30**

Zoom Faculty Thursday Talks

**April 10**

Reading Day- NO CLASSES

**April 28**

Redefined Day- Friday Classes

**April 29**

Reading Day- NO CLASSES

**April 30-May 5**

Final Exams

### Thursday Talks

**April 9:** Josh Wand

**April 16:** Vlad Panin

**April 23:** Lanying Zeng

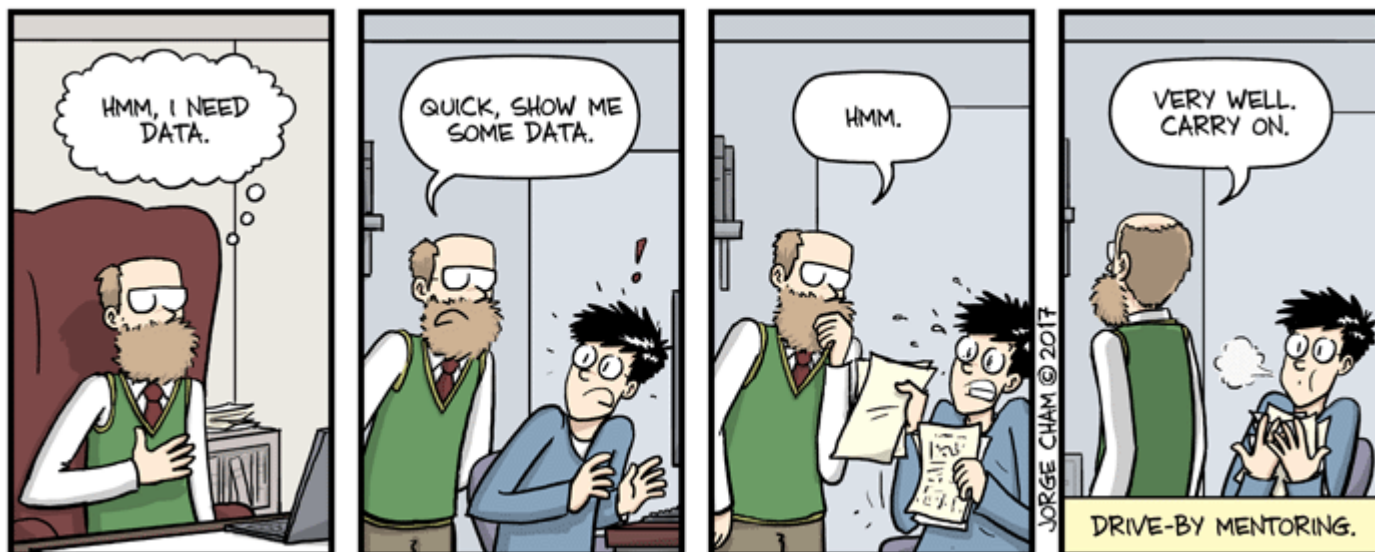
**April 30:** Jean-Philippe Pellois

## WHAT DO YOU CALL AN ACID WITH AN ATTITUDE?

gimme ur lunch



**A-mean-oh acid.**



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