
March 2024

ACHIEVEMENTS & ACCOLADES

Anton Nekrutenko Named Huck Chair in Genomics

Anton Nekrutenko, professor of biochemistry and molecular biology in the Eberly College of Science at Penn State, has been appointed as the first Dorothy Foher Huck and J. Lloyd Huck Chair in Genomics.

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Penn State Biologist David Toews Receives 2024 NSF CAREER Award

David Toews, assistant professor of biology, has been honored with a Faculty Early Career Development award from the U.S. National Science Foundation.

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Biology Postdoc Laurel Seemiller Awarded NIH Fellowship

Laurel Seemiller, a postdoctoral scholar in biology at Penn State, has been awarded a Ruth L. Kirschstein Postdoctoral Individual National Research Service Award from the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism of the U.S. National Institutes of Health.

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HUCK RESEARCH NEWS



Galaxy Data Analyzing and Sharing Tool Available to Penn State Researchers and Their Collaborators

Galaxy is a web-based platform for data-intensive biomedical research. The project is a landmark achievement that has forever changed the way scientists analyze and share data. [Galaxy PSU is available](#), with minimal data storage costs, to all Penn State researchers and their collaborators.

Galaxy PSU currently includes over 2,500 analysis tools that span many scientific disciplines (e.g., genomics, metagenomics, proteomics, metabolomics, chemistry, statistics, microscopy, imaging, etc.) and over 40 vetted analysis workflows for ChIP, mass spectrometry, metabolomics, microbiome, RNASeq, single-cell, and virology, among other categories.

The platform is hosted at Texas Advanced Computing Center (TACC) and has access to powerful HPC clusters for performing complex analyses. Galaxy PSU is fully supported by the Huck Institutes of the Life Sciences and is regularly updated with new tools and workflows.

Penn State researchers that are interested in using Galaxy PSU for their research can contact Greg Von Kuster at ghv2@psu.edu.



New Device Positions Penn State at the Forefront of University Research Reactors

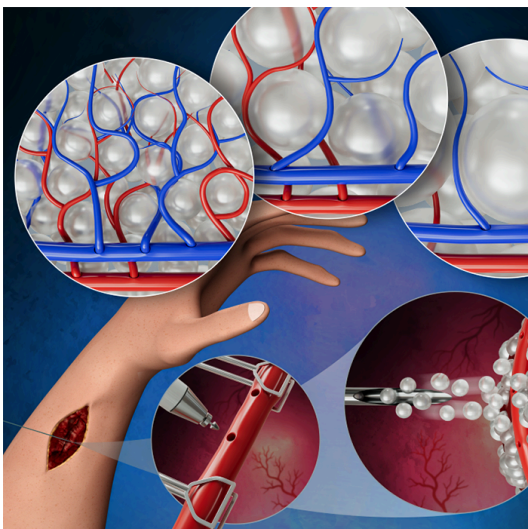
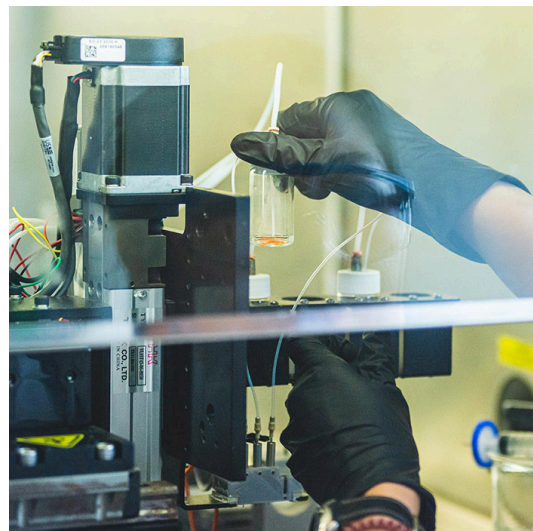
The Penn State Radiation Science and Engineering Center recently received a small angle neutron scattering device, a \$9.8 million equipment donation from Helmholtz Zentrum Berlin in Germany. The arrival of the equipment makes Penn State the first and only U.S. university research reactor to have SANS capability, according to RSEC researchers.

[Read more](#)

3D-printed Skin Closes Wounds and Contains Hair Follicle Precursors

Researchers who recently harnessed fat cells and supporting structures from clinically procured human tissue to precisely correct injuries in rats believe the advancement could have implications for reconstructive facial surgery and even hair growth treatments for humans.

[Read more](#)



Combining Novel Biomaterial and Microsurgery Might Enable Faster Tissue Recovery

For soft tissue to recover and regrow, it needs blood vessels to grow to deliver oxygen and nutrients. To speed up the formation and patterning of new blood vessels, Penn State researchers have combined a novel biomaterial with a microsurgical approach used in reconstructive surgery, enabling improved recovery of soft tissue.

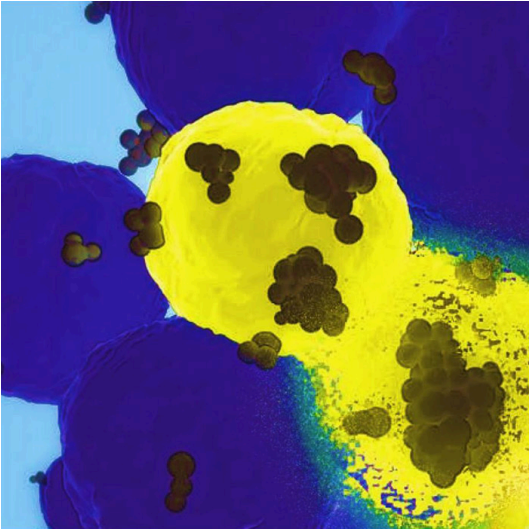
[Read more](#)

PlantVillage Announces New Initiative for Child Welfare

The PlantVillage project, building off a series of past successful initiatives in climate change and food security, recently announced its intention to take on yet another critical global issue: child welfare. The organization recently unveiled the Village Youth Fund, a charitable foundation aimed at preventing child marriage in the pastoralist communities of Northern Kenya.



[Read more](#)



GPS Nanoparticle Platform Precisely Delivers Therapeutic Payload to Cancer Cells

Penn State researchers found that a newly developed “GPS nanoparticle” injected intravenously can home in on cancer cells to deliver a genetic punch to the protein implicated in tumor growth and spread. This technique could potentially offer a more precise and effective treatment for notoriously hard-to-treat basal-like breast cancers.

[Read more](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS

Navigating STEM Careers as a PhD: From Global Trends and U.S. Pathways to Networking and Personal Branding

Graduate students, postdoctoral researchers, and early career research faculty are invited to attend this 90-minute seminar offered at four different times on May 22, 2024. Participants will gain firsthand expertise and benefit from focused discussion in small groups with Dr. Camelia-Maria Kantor of the Huck Institutes of the Life Sciences.



[Register now](#)



Undergraduate Exhibition Helps Students Prepare for Future Research

The 2024 Undergraduate Exhibition for Research, Inquiry, and Creative Activity will showcase a diverse range of student presentations with an in-person portion on April 17 and a virtual exhibition from April 15–17. The exhibition is a valuable opportunity for students to practice concise presentation and professional research procedures.

[Read more](#)

NEW MEDIA



Greenawalt Blends Novel Nanoplastics Research with his Passion for Student Leadership

Denver Greenawalt is a graduate student from the Huck's Molecular, Cellular, and Integrative Biosciences program. He's a scientist looking at the effects of tiny plastic particles on the central nervous system, as well as a mentor passing his expertise on to Penn State undergrads.

[Watch video](#)

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