



VAIGS Alumni Newsletter September 2016

Save the Date

- [Grand Challenges in Parkinson's Disease](#)
 - Sept. 26-27, 2016
- [Hope on the Hill Gala](#)
 - October 27, 2016
- [West Michigan Regional Undergraduate Science Research Conference](#)
 - November 5, 2016
- [A Conversation About Women's Health hosted by Carol Van Andel](#)
 - November 16, 2016

The 2016-2017 Incoming class

- **Maggie Chassé**, who's originally from Alaska, received her Master's in biochemistry from Colorado State University.
- **Wooyoung Choi**, VAIGS' first international student from South Korea, received his Master's from Tsinghua University in 2012.
- **Minge Du** comes to VAIGS from Stony Brook University and received her Master's in genetics from Southeast University in China.
- **Guillermo Flores** is an M.D.-Ph.D. candidate who is currently completing his second year of medical school at MSU.
- **Katie Krajnak**, who earned her Master's in biological sciences from Purdue University Calumet.
- **Alexis Weber** graduated from MSU in 2014 with a B.S. in genomics and molecular genetics, with an additional major in microbiology.

VAIGS Recent Publications

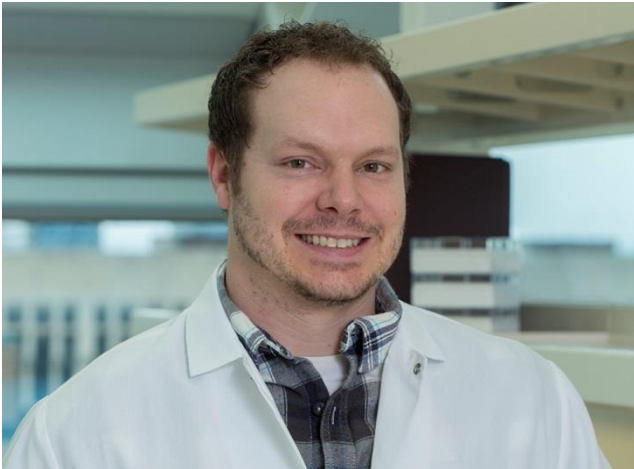
- Andersen, N.J., E.A. Boguslawski, **A.S. Naidu**, C. Szot, J.L. Bromberg-White, K. Kits, **C.Y. Kuk**, L.E. Holton, B. St. Croix, C.M. Chambers, and N.S. Duesbery. 2016. Anthrax toxin receptor 1 is essential for arteriogenesis in a mouse model of hindlimb ischemia. *PLoS One* 11(1): e0146586.
- Zhou, X. E., **Parker de Waal**, **H. Eric Xu**, et al. X-ray laser diffraction for structure determination of the rhodopsin-arrestin complex. *Sci. Data* 3:160021 doi: 10.1038/sdata.2016.21 (2016).

Staying Connected

- Join the [Graduate Student Association \(GSA\) Student & Alumni Group](#) on LinkedIn! The GSA provides a peer-based organization to support and aid in the development of scientific careers, fosters camaraderie among graduate students, facilitates scientific outreach to the local community, and promotes professional collaborations beyond VAI.
- For more information regarding opportunities to stay involved with Van Andel Institute and our mission, please don't hesitate to contact the following:
 - Nancy.schaperkotter@vai.org, Student Affairs
 - Teresa.reid@vai.org, Development



Meet Our 2016 Graduates

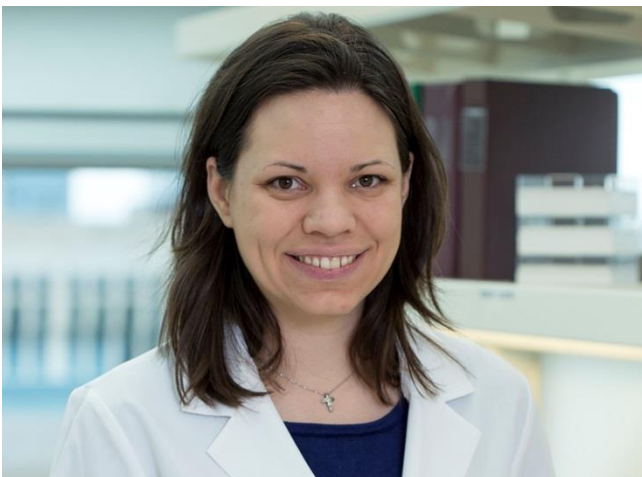


Casey Droscha successfully defended his dissertation this spring. After graduation, Dr. Droscha began working as a Research Scientist with NorthStar Cooperative Incorporated, an agricultural biotech company in the Lansing area.

Undergraduate University: Central Michigan University (B.S.)

Thesis: Characterizing mechanisms of gene transcription in models of bone development

Mentor: [Bart Williams, Ph.D.](#)



Marie Mooney successfully defended her dissertation in January. In April, Dr. Mooney began a postdoctoral position with Dr. Andre Bachmann in the Department of Pediatrics and Human Development at the College of Human Medicine, Michigan State University (MSU).

Undergraduate University: Michigan Technological University (B.S. bioinformatics, summa cum laude)

Graduate University: University of Cincinnati (M.S. biomedical engineering)

Thesis: Modeling glioma-derived growth factor signal transduction in pediatric glioblastoma

Mentor: [Matt Steensma, M.D.](#)