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THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA



April 2025

Opening our doors to the community



Hello Caroline,

We're still riding the excitement from our open house event earlier this month! A big thank you to everyone who joined us—whether you explored the labs, asked thoughtful questions, or helped bring the day to life. If you couldn't make it, don't worry. You can still [check out photos](#) and [meet a few of the scientists](#).

We're also excited to share highlights from the [latest analysis of Arizona's bioscience ecosystem](#), commissioned by the Flinn Foundation. The report shows how the bioscience industry continues to grow as a major economic force in Arizona. We're proud that BIO5 is part of that momentum, helping to drive innovation and improve health outcomes.

In this issue, you'll get a behind-the-scenes look at BIO5, meet a researcher studying the science of sleep, and find a few summer events to add to your calendar.

Featured Stories



Community members go behind-the-scenes at the BIO5 Institute

Dozens of Arizona community members attended Behind BIO5 on April 3 to tour innovative research spaces, hear from passionate researchers, and engage in conversations about their work.

[READ MORE](#)



Meet the scientists Behind BIO5

BIO5 members **Alexander Bucksch**, **Leslie Farland**, **Nirav Merchant**, **Lee Ryan**, and **Judith Su** shared insights into their work and the paths that led them to their research fields during a series of intimate fireside chats at the annual community event, Behind BIO5.

[READ MORE](#)



Waking up to the interdisciplinary science of sleep

2025 BIO5 Postdoctoral Fellow **Kat Kennedy** in the lab of BIO5 member **William "Scott" Killgore** blends an interdisciplinary background to explore how sleep affects health, cognition, and society.

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From engineering dreams to virology breakthroughs

Pierce Longmire is a molecular virologist passionate about studying pathogens and sharing his science with the community.

[Listen to Science Talks](#)



Studying desert environments for water conservation

Vanessa Buzzard works on green infrastructure management and mentors the next generation of sustainability-minded innovators.

[Listen to Science Talks](#)

Upcoming



Women in STEM 2025

July 12, 11:30 p.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Thomas W. Keating Building Room 103 & Zoom

Come listen to a panel of inspiring women from cross-disciplinary STEM fields share their unique journeys. All are welcome!

[More Information](#)



KEYS Internship Showcase 2025

July 18, 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Health Sciences Innovation Building

Join us in celebrating the 2025 KEYS interns from across Arizona, including the inaugural Phoenix cohort, and exploring the research projects they've conducted alongside top scientists in University of Arizona labs.

[More Information](#)



Research & Innovation Showcase 2025

October 14, 2:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Thomas W. Keating Building Lobby & Room 103

We welcome all University of Arizona faculty, students, and staff to present their research to promote interdisciplinary research collaboration across the university.

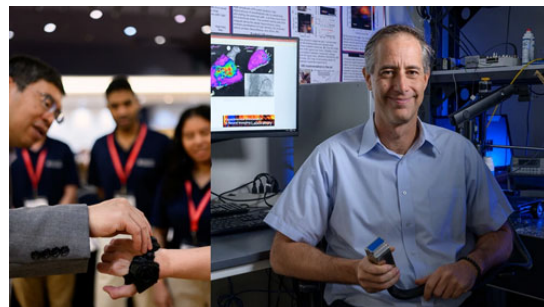
[More Information](#)

In The News



Researchers launch startup to bring novel treatments to patients with asthma and COPD

BIO5 members **Stefano Guerra**, **Michael D.L. Johnson**, **Julie Ledford**, and **Josef Vagner** co-developed an innovative inhaled



Biomedical engineering faculty win grants to advance research to market

BIO5 members **Zong-Ming Li** and **Russell Witte**, both in the U of A Department of Biomedical Engineering, each won \$100,000 from the Flinn Foundation to move

asthma/COPD therapy licensed to Aspiro Therapeutics, a U of A biotech startup advancing accessible respiratory treatments.

their respective health care products closer to market.

[Read in College of Engineering](#)

[Read in U of A Health Sciences](#)



Improving veterans' health through biomedical innovation, AI and implementation science

BIO5 member **Sairam Parthasarathy** spoke to Congress on modernizing VA healthcare, highlighting the need to harness biomedical innovations like AI to improve sleep disorder treatment and overall health outcomes for veterans and the wider community.

[Read in U of A Health Sciences](#)

A tale of two cities and a health mystery

BIO5 members **Tara Carr, Fernando Martinez, Donata Vercelli, and Paloma Beamer** are part of the study Binational Early Asthma and Microbiome Study (BEAMS) that aims to understand how early-life exposure to environmental factors places some children at an increased risk for asthma.

[Read in U of A Health Sciences](#)

Behind-the-Scenes



Come for the donuts, stay for the science

Our researchers were craving donuts and collaboration at our April Meet Your Neighbor! 🍩 ⚡

Over 40 researchers and staff gathered in the Thomas W. Keating Building lobby for our monthly community-building event. These events are all about helping folks in our Tucson tri-building complex reconnect with old friends and make new ones.

Whether it's bonding over donuts or sparking new ideas, we love bringing people together. Can't wait for the next one!

Share with a friend!

Like this newsletter? Forward to a friend and follow us on social media to see more news, events, and behind-the-scenes.

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This email was sent to: BIO5 Connection Newsletter subscribers and BIO5 members.

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Land Acknowledgment

We respectfully acknowledge the University of Arizona is on the land and territories of Indigenous peoples. Today, Arizona is home to 22 federally recognized tribes, with Tucson being home to the O'odham and the Yaqui. The university strives to build sustainable relationships with sovereign Native Nations and Indigenous communities through education offerings, partnerships, and community service.