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THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA



## May 2025

Season of change with leadership, graduation, and incoming high school interns



### Hello Caroline,

It's been a month of transition at the BIO5 Institute. We welcomed new leadership as the University of Arizona named [\*\*Vignesh Subbian interim director of the BIO5 Institute\*\*](#), effective May 12. We extend our deep gratitude to **Jennifer Barton**, who steps down after a decade of transformative leadership to serve as interim vice provost for health programs at the U of A.

As we celebrate our 2025 University of Arizona graduates, we are also gearing up to welcome the [\*\*largest KEYS Research Internship cohort\*\*](#) in early June, including the inaugural Phoenix cohort. Looking ahead, we're excited to host two events: [\*\*BIO5 Inspiring Women in STEM on July 12\*\*](#) and the [\*\*KEYS Research Internship Showcase on July 18\*\*](#). Both are free and open to the public—we hope to see you there!

In this issue, explore how our BIO5 Ambassadors program inspires students, learn about innovative cancer drug development, and discover research that's pushing the boundaries of computing.

## Featured Stories



### Vignesh Subbian appointed interim director of BIO5 Institute

In mid-May, **Vignesh Subbian** succeeded **Jennifer Barton**, who stepped down after a decade of transformative leadership to serve as interim vice provost for health programs at the University of Arizona.

[READ MORE](#)

## Building confidence and communication skills through the BIO5 Ambassadors program

**Hanami Inagaki**, a 2025 University of Arizona alumna, reflects on how the BIO5 Ambassadors program helped her grow as a science communicator, leader, and aspiring researcher in green chemistry.

[READ MORE](#)

### 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!

[Registration & 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](#)

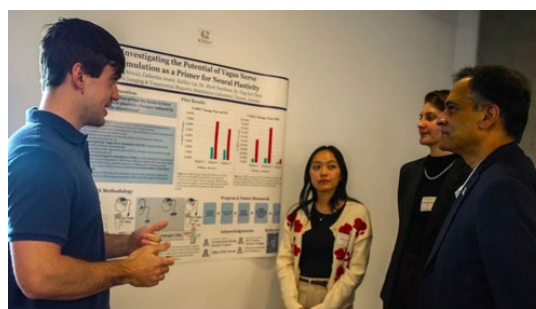
## In The News



### \$2.4M grant will fund imaging for chemotherapy-induced peripheral neuropathy

BIO5 members **Dongkyun Kang** and **Clara Curiel-Lewandrowski** are part of a team that hope to image nerve endings and create objective, quantitative biomarkers for chemotherapy-induced peripheral neuropathy, a common and painful side effect of chemotherapy drugs.

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



### Student researchers confront the realities of cognitive decline

Biochemistry major **Gavin Arnold** is taking advantage of undergraduate University of Arizona research opportunities by conducting research with BIO5 member **Ying-Hui Chou** on using brain stimulation treatment to improve patients' cognitive abilities.

[Read in Research & Partnerships](#)





### Drug discovery startup based on UA research receives \$4 million seed funding

BIO5 members **Christopher Hulme** and **Curtis Thorne** are co-founders of Branch Therapeutics which seeks to develop drugs that are orally bioavailable, well-tolerated, and can treat multiple cancer types.

[Read in Tech Launch Arizona](#)



### U of A researchers developing world's first petahertz-speed phototransistor in ambient conditions

BIO5 member **Mohammed Hassan** is working on a commercial transistor that could lead to processing times over 1,000 times faster than modern computer chips.

[Read in U of A News](#)

## Behind-the-Scenes



With gratitude to our amazing graduates

Big congratulations to our incredible 2025 graduates—you're off to do amazing things around the world! 🌍 🎓

We're so thankful for all our students who help keep BIO5 running, whether it's in administration, operations, facilities, community engagement, outreach, and so much more.

We truly appreciate everything you've done. 💙 💙

## Share with a friend!

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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.*