

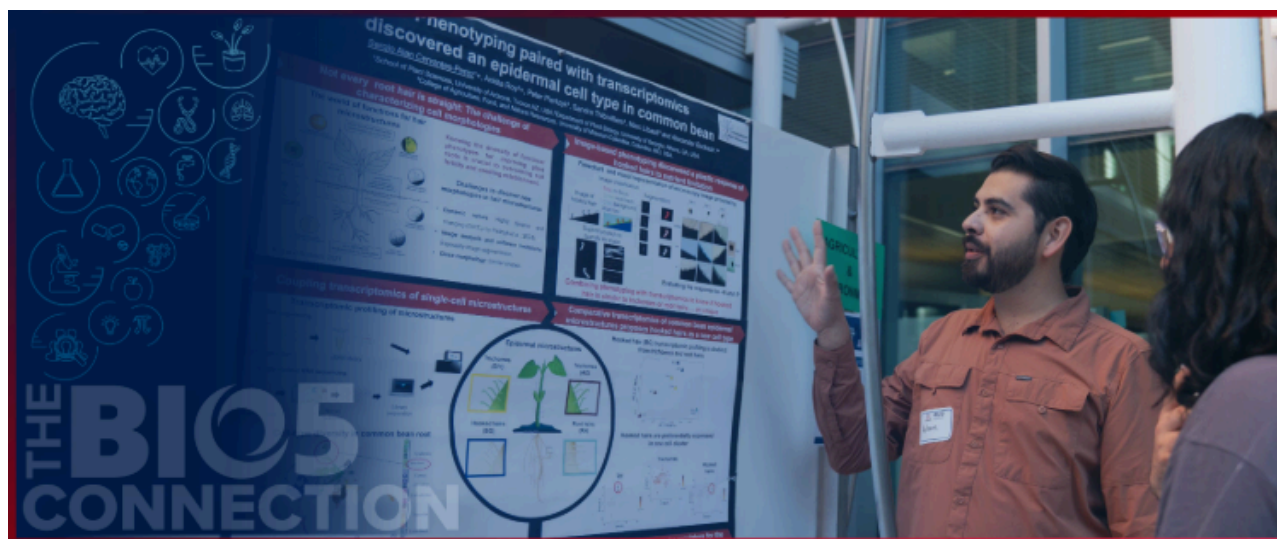
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THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA



October 2025

All treats, no tricks — see what's been happening at BIO5!



Hello Caroline,

This Halloween season, BIO5 has been serving up all treats — from welcoming new team members to celebrating the creativity and collaboration that make our community thrive.

We're thrilled to **welcome Gina Compitello as our new director of communications, marketing, and public affairs**. With more than 15 years of experience, Gina will help elevate BIO5's voice and expand the reach of our interdisciplinary research and impact.

Throughout October, we've opened our doors to the community with five tours, welcoming visitors ranging from high school students to industry leaders and government officials. We also **celebrated innovation at our 2025 BIO5 Research and Innovation Showcase**, where more than 50 presenters shared their discoveries, and at the 6th annual Faculty Industry Networking Event in partnership with the Bioindustry Organization of Southern Arizona (BIOSA).

To top it all off, our **KEYS Research Internship alumni impressed at the 2025 AZBio Awards**, showcasing the next generation of scientific talent.

And there's more to look forward to... 2026 marks the 25th anniversary of the BIO5 Institute! Don't be spooked — we're already planning exciting ways to celebrate this milestone year.

Stay tuned for what's next!

Featured Stories



BIO5 Research and Innovation Showcase brings campus scientists together for sixth year

From first-time presenters to experienced investigators, this annual BIO5 event on Oct. 14 offered a space to exchange ideas across disciplines.

[READ MORE](#)



Gina Compitello named director of communications, marketing, and public affairs for the BIO5 Institute

BIO5 welcomed Gina Compitello as its new director of communications, marketing, and public affairs on Oct. 13, bringing more than 15 years of experience in strategic communications and leadership to advance the institute's mission.

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Integrating tumor modeling & diagnostics to improve patient outcomes

Dr. **Swarna Ganesh** wants to use her expertise in tumor modeling to develop innovative and non-invasive methods for early cancer detection.

[Listen to Science Talks](#)



The gut sense: Sensory neurobiology and food perception

Dr. **Maya Kaelberer** and her research group focus on understanding how the gut senses and responds to the complex composition of food.

[Listen to Science Talks](#)

Upcoming

A big year ahead: BIO5's 25th anniversary

Next year, BIO5 turns 25! We'll be sharing more details soon about the events and celebrations we're planning for 2026.

We're so proud of everything we've accomplished together — and even more excited about what's ahead. Here's to the next 25 years of discovery, collaboration, and community. We can't wait to celebrate with you!

In The News



Three U of A faculty honored by American College of Medical Informatics

Interim BIO5 director **Vignesh Subbian** and BIO5 member **Justin Starren** were honored by the American College of Medical



Falloscope cancer screening tool testing advances to next steps

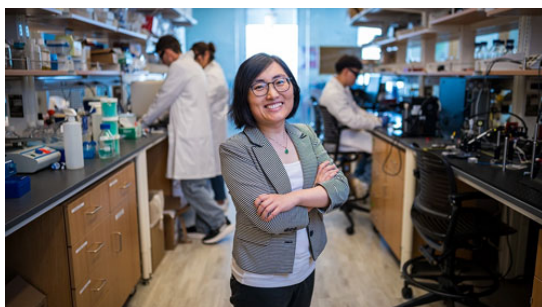
BIO5 member **Jennifer Barton** is leading an interdisciplinary team combining engineering, medicine, and imaging science to advance

Informatics for their leadership in biomedical informatics and health data science, along with **Jose Fernando Florez-Arango**.

[Read in Research & Partnerships](#)

testing of the falloposcope, a device designed to detect ovarian cancer earlier and improve outcomes for high-risk patients.

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



NIH grants Shang Song \$2.32M for spinal cord bioimplant

BIO5 member **Shang Song** received a \$2.32 million NIH Director's New Innovator Award to develop a biodegradable bioimplant that uses electrical stimulation to restore movement and improve quality of life after spinal cord injury.

[Read in College of Engineering](#)



U of A-led research team will study how soil microbes could make or break hydrogen's clean energy promise

BIO5 member **Laura Meredith** is leading a team, supported by a \$1.7 million NSF grant, to study how soil microbes may influence hydrogen's role as a clean energy source and its impact on climate and air quality.

[Read in College of Agriculture, Life & Environmental Sciences](#)

Behind-the-Scenes



KEYS alumni take their science to the AZBio Awards

This month, 28 alumni from the BIO5 Institute's KEYS Research Internship were selected to present their research at the 2025 AZBio Awards in Phoenix.

Hosted by the Arizona Bioindustry Association, the event celebrates Arizona's life science community and gives students the chance to share their work with industry leaders in the Student Discovery Zone.

Two KEYS alumni earned special recognition. Adrian Perez-Martinez (KEYS '25) placed third in the high school research category, and Jack Douglass (KEYS '22) placed third in the university research category.

Watching our KEYS alumni present their work and earn recognition at the AZBio Awards reminds us how this program sparks curiosity and helps young scientists keep discovery moving forward.

[See more photos from the event.](#)

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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.