THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA

BIO5 Institute

January 2026

Ready for a busy year of events and celebrations

Hello Caroline,

We hope you've been settling into 2026 and getting as excited for BIO5's 25th anniversary as we are. **See our 25th anniversary hub** for upcoming events and news.

This month's newsletter **explores the impact of the BIO5 Postdoctoral Fellowship program** through the lens of one of this year's cohort, Alba Filella, and **celebrates a new publication in women's health research** with a special contribution from a 2025 KEYS intern.

January is also a great time to **catch up on Science Talk podcasts** you may have missed from the end of last year and read the latest on BIO5 members in the news.

Soon we'll also be sharing details of our new public tour schedule and Behind BIO5 2026 (save the date for Thursday, April 9).

This year's University of Arizona Giving Day will be February 11 - 12. This is a

wonderful opportunity to **support our KEYS Research Internship** and the next generation of Arizona's bioscience workforce. Your generous support allows this program to continue to thrive - thank you!

Sincerely,

Vignesh Subbian
Interim Director, BIO5 Institute

Featured Stories

BIO5 Fellowship moves marine research forward in the desert

The postdoctoral award through the BIO5 Institute supported international collaboration, new methods, and interdisciplinary conversations that advanced a University of Arizona researcher's ocean microbiology research far from the coast.

READ MORE

KEYS intern contributes to published work in women's health research

A KEYS intern helped move a women's health project forward this year, contributing to work that fed into a short report in the American Society of Microbiology describing the first known uterine isolate of Schaalia turicensis.

READ MORE

The evolution of influential mentorship and gene cloning

Dr. **Teodora Georgieva** and the GEMM Core Facility at the BIO5 Institute design models for science to advance the discovery of novel therapeutics.

Listen to Science Talks

Upcoming

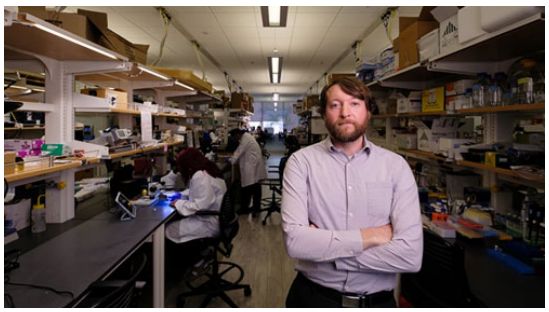
Celebrating 25 Years of BIO5

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.

Stay tuned to our anniversary webpage for all upcoming events and stories in 2026.

VISIT THE ANNIVERSARY HUB

In The News



AI-powered wearable boosts preventative care for elderly

BIO5 member **Philipp Gutruf** is part of a U of A research developing an

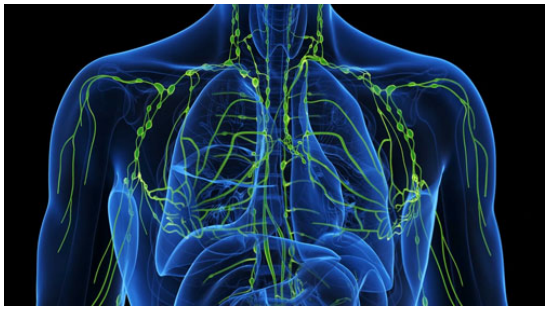
University of Arizona lab uses innovative data approaches to study biodiversity and climate change

artificial intelligence-powered wearable designed to support preventative care for older adults by monitoring health changes and enabling earlier intervention.

Read in UA News

BIO5 member **Cristian Román-Palacios** leads University of Arizona research using innovative data-driven approaches to study biodiversity and a changing climate.

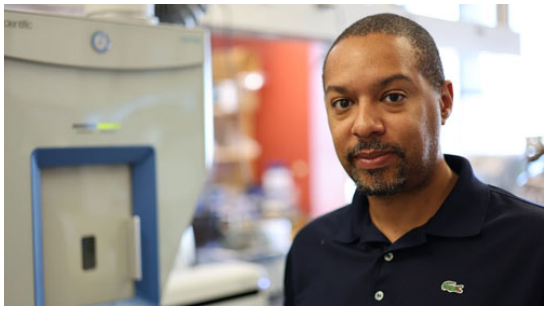
Read in The Daily Wildcat



ARPA-H award will fund creation of portable lymphatic imaging scanner

BIO5 members **Russell Witte, Marlys Witte** and **Ali Bilgin** are part of a U of A team awarded up to $1.8 million from the Advanced Research Projects Agency for Health to develop a portable lymphatic imaging scanner, with the BIO5 Institute also providing funding to upgrade its Translational Biomedical Imaging Resource Core Facility.

Read in UA News



Trojan horse' may deliver toxic dose of copper to bacterial colonies, including drug-resistant MRSA infections

BIO5 members **Michael D. L. Johnson** and **Kenneth W. Liechty** are collaborating on a U of A project to develop a “Trojan horse” compound that delivers toxic copper into bacterial biofilms to kill drug-resistant infections such as methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus (MRSA).

Read in UA News

Behind-the-Scenes

Touring the microbiological media facility

Students from Mica Mountain High School got a behind-the-scenes look at the BIO5 Institute's Media Facility this month. 👄

The facility prepares many of the basic materials University of Arizona researchers rely on for their work—from the liquids cells need to grow (media), to chemical solutions (buffers), to custom mixes made for specific experiments.

Because research depends on precise and consistent materials, this team produces dependable batches used by hundreds of labs across the U of A campus.

We appreciate the chance to share what we do with students and others in our community.

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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Land Acknowledgment