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THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA



## April 2026

Bringing research to life



### Hello Caroline,

There are many things that I am proud of at BIO5, but one of my favorites is the in-depth research opportunities we provide for students.

One of those opportunities is the BIO5 Flinn Scholar Research experience, where first year Flinn Scholars at the University of Arizona pair with a mentor and begin their research during their first year in college. [You can read about this year's cohort in this piece.](#) I'm also very pleased to announce that next year's competitive Flinn Scholar cohort includes three alumni of our KEYS Research Internship program.

If you missed our last community tours, there's another upcoming opportunity to get an up-close view of research with our June 23 tour of the Plant-Soil-Environment Lab. [Space is still available — we just ask that you sign up.](#)

Sincerely,

**Vignesh Subbian**

Interim Director, BIO5 Institute

## Featured Stories



### How BIO5 is changing the questions scientists can ask

From cells to systems to a lifetime, BIO5 faculty members are changing how health and disease are studied. (Left to right) Zeliann Craig, Swarna Ganesh, Alex McGhee, Ross Buchan and Elise Erickson are part of emerging BIO5 Scientific Interest Groups focused on bioprinting organoids, ALS research and women's health across the lifespan.

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# BIO5 Flinn Scholar Research Experience



## For Flinn Scholars, college begins with research

The BIO5 Flinn Scholar Research Experience connects nine first-year students with mentors across the University of Arizona to pursue scientific projects shaped by their interests.

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## Upcoming



### Community Tours 2026: Plant-Soil-Environment Lab

**June 23, 4:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.**

**Thomas W. Keating Building**

Jump into the science on BIO5 community tour! These themed tours offer the opportunity to see the research in action by visiting laboratories, collaborative centers, and core support facilities.

**[More Information & Registration](#)**



## KEYS Internship Showcase 2026

July 17, 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Health Sciences Innovation Building

Join us in celebrating the 20th year of the KEYS Research Internship and the 2026 KEYS interns from across Arizona! Explore the research projects they've conducted alongside top scientists in University of Arizona labs.

[More Information](#)

## In The News



### The U of A Office of Research and Partnerships honors inaugural Convergence Awards winners

Five BIO5 members, **Paloma Beamer, Roberta Brinton, Jeff Burgess, Robert Sandoval** and **Marvin Slepian**, were among seven University of Arizona faculty and staff honored with 2026 Convergence Awards for interdisciplinary research excellence.

[Read in Research & Partnerships](#)



### U of A, Banner Health perform Tucson's first robotic kidney donation surgery

BIO5 member **Geoffrey Gurtner** helped lead a milestone as faculty from the University of Arizona and Banner Health completed Tucson's first robotic living donor kidney surgery, expanding access to minimally invasive transplant care in Southern Arizona.

[Read in UA News](#)



**Seven Arizona research projects earn \$100K grants from Flinn Foundation**

BIO5 members **Melissa Herbst-Kralovetz**, **Geoffrey Gurtner**, **Amelia Gallitano** and **Tobias Jakobi** are part of University of Arizona-led teams awarded \$100,000 grants from the Flinn Foundation to advance research in health and science.

[Read in Flinn Foundation](#)

**Health care powered by AI, guided by human and community insight**

BIO5 members **Tyson Swetnam** and **Vignesh Subbian** are part of a team of 14 University of Arizona researchers designing medical kiosks – powered by artificial intelligence – for rapid deployment in accessible locations such as pharmacies and community centers.

[Read in Research & Partnerships](#)

Behind-the-Scenes



## Connecting community with discovery

More than 110 attendees joined us for Behind BIO5 2026, an interactive event earlier this month that opened the doors to discovery at the University of Arizona.

With 15 demonstration tables and engaging fireside chats, guests connected directly with the people, ideas and technologies driving research at BIO5. From hands-on science to open conversations with researchers, the event highlighted how collaboration and community engagement strengthen discovery.

It was an evening full of curiosity, connection and shared exploration across the BIO5 community. 🧐

## Share with a friend!

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