



MSTP Newsletter

From the Director:



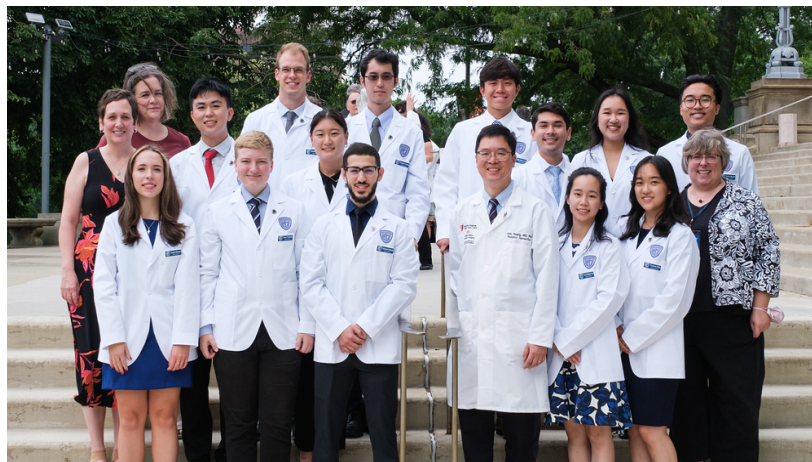
Alex Huang, MD, PhD

I am pleased to share exciting news, announcements and upcoming events through this quarterly newsletter, which we hope to enhance communication among MSTP stakeholders and broaden a sense of community across campuses and training phases. Thanks to the MSTP Student Council leadership for sharing the results of last Spring's MSTP Survey, which directly led to this new way of disseminating information across our beautiful campus. Here's to a successful and productive 2024-2025 academic year!

Welcome Newest MSTP M1 Class!

We are proud and excited to welcome 13 new MSTP students to the CWRU campus! They were introduced to the MSTP family during the MSTP Retreat in early July, and received their white coats at the CWRU SOM White Coat Ceremony in Severance Hall on July 14, 2024. Please extend a warm welcome when you meet them on campus!

Photo (left to right): Front row – Sophia Gavalas, Scout Osborne, Hamza Dahshi, Dr. Alex Huang (Director), Tsu-Ni “Mini” Sin, Yun Sun “Sunny” Eoh. Middle row – Dr. Kim McBennett (Assoc. Clinical Director), Skyler Hoang, Joyce Kim, Bryce Mashimo, Crista Moeller. Back row – Dr. Heather Broihier (Deputy Director), Alexander Levashkevich, Benjamin Huang, Matthew Liu, Uyen Mai, Tommy Nguyen





MSTP Annual Retreat

The MSTP Annual Retreat was a great success, thanks to the hard work by retreat organizers, Dani Streever and Sonny Caradonna in partnership with MSTP [administrative team](#) Katie Rockocy, Dr. Diane Dowd and Crista Moeller. We enjoyed the beautiful [Sawmill Creek Resort](#) and the outstanding programs, especially learning about exciting science and pearls of wisdom from our retreat speakers, Drs. [James Bayrer](#) (UCSF), [Analiz Rodriguez](#) (U. Arkansas) and [Pola Philippidou](#) (CWRU). Congratulations to Dr. [Arne Rietsch](#) (CWRU) who was presented with the 2024 MSTP Faculty Appreciation Award!



Graduate Studies White Coat Ceremony

After a long 2-year of preclinical studies (and STEP1), our G1 class is finally ready to embark on their PhD dissertation work in May! To mark this important milestone, the G1 students received their lab white coats in the Graduate Studies White Coat Ceremony in the Tinkham Veale Student Center on August 16, 2024. Best wishes to them for a successful graduate school career and we cannot wait to see the exciting discoveries they will make in the process!



BIG NEWS!

CWRU School of Medicine established the country's first combined MD-PhD program in 1956. Eight years later, the NIH created the MSTP. In 1975, CWRU School of Medicine received an NIH MSTP T32 and maintained continuous T32 funding for 48 years ([T32 GM007250](#))! In early 2023, under the leadership of former MSTP Director Dr. Cliff Harding, a new multi-PI MSTP T32 grant was submitted under the new RFA. Our program was rated “*Exceptional*” in the scientific review, and a new 5-year T32 grant began in July, 2024 ([T32 GM152319](#)). We are grateful to Dr. Harding's leadership through the grant application process and throughout his tenure as MSTP Director, and we look forward to establishing a strong track record of successes in producing outstanding and productive physician-scientists under the new award! Please remember to cite T32 support in your publication, posters and abstracts!

NEWEST ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR

We are excited to announce the newest addition of Dr. [Arne Rietsch](#) to the MSTP [leadership team](#) effective August 1, 2024. Dr. Rietsch is an Associate Professor in the [Department of Molecular Biology and Microbiology](#). He will assume the primary MSTP advising responsibilities for students currently under Director Alex Huang. So great to have you onboard, Dr. Rietsch!

EXPANDING MSTP STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

In an effort to enhance content area expertise and representation, we have added 8 new members to the MSTP [Steering Committee](#): Drs. [Stephen Carpenter](#) (Path/Immunol, SYBB), [Chris Flask](#) (BME), [Helen Miranda](#) (GGS), [Chris Nguyen](#) (MBM), [Corey Speers](#) (Path/Cancer Bio), [Julian Stelzer](#) (Phys. Biophys), [Lily Wang](#) (Path/Immunol, BME), [Rui Wang](#) (Path/MCBD). The newly elected MSTP Student Council President, Sofia Corella, will serve as Student Representative on the MSTP SC. We are also grateful for the service of the following individuals who will be rotating off the SC in August 2024: Dr. Bolu Ajiboye, Dr. Dan Ma and Dr. Jim Spilsbury, and former Student Council President, Sarah Barker.

A NEW MSTP STUDENT COUNCIL LEADERSHIP

Congratulations to Sofia Corella (President), Doug Wu (Vice President) and Sonny Caradonna (Secretary) for being elected the new MSTP Student Council leadership. Elections for Officers and Chairs were conducted during the August MSTP Council. A complete list of elected officers and chairs can be found [here](#). We also extend sincere gratitude for the exemplary leadership of Sarah Barker, Kate Letai and Jacob Ingber in the prior academic year.

LATEST FELLOWSHIP AWARDS!!

Newest F30 awards: Diana Chin (NCI); Stephen Wang (NCI); Himanshu Dashora (NCI)

Newest F31 awards: Sofia Corella

REMINDER:

1. Students should be meeting with their MSTP Advisor for the first semi-annual meeting for this academic year. Please reach out to your advisor to schedule a 30-min meeting before October 31, 2024.
2. Please discuss with your PI and MSTP Advisor before considering an application to either the MSTP-HDI or the Translational Fellowship Programs.

3. Please be sure to alert Diane Dowd at least 4 weeks in advance of the internal MSTP ARO submission deadline if you are contemplating an F30/F31 application. This is especially important for students in LRI laboratories.

UPCOMING EVENTS...

MSTP applicant interview session dates:

September 18-19, 2024

October 9-10, 2024

October 23-24, 2024

November 13-14, 2024

December 11-12, 2024

January 15-16, 2025

January 29-30, 2025