

NEWS FROM



The Graduate College

Message From the Dean

We are living in amazing times of biomedical innovation. Human knowledge is growing at an unprecedented rate. At the same time, we have vast, intractable health care challenges relating to the aging of our society that are going to escalate in impact and severity.

These dynamics have great resonance in the Graduate College, the home of research education at Rush. Our faculty, and potentially many of our students, will commit their careers to the task of creative problem-solving that we call research. [Read the dean's entire message online.](#)



James L. Mulshine, MD

Upcoming Events

Recent & Upcoming Recruitment Events

June 19 – Clinical Research Information Session – Rush University, 438 AAC from 5:30-6:30 pm

August 29-30 – New Student Orientation – Rush University

October 11-13 – National Diversity of STEM Conference (SACNAS) – San Antonio, TX

November 11-17 – Annual Biomedical Research Conference for Minority Students (ABRCMS) – Indianapolis, IN

September – Welcome Back Week – Rush University and Select Locations around Chicago (details forthcoming)

TBD – Annual Fall Graduate College Open House – Rush University

Rush University Graduate College News

Student News & Events

David Marmion, a senior graduate in Dr. Jeff Kordower's laboratory in Neuroscience has been awarded numerous accolades between April 2017 and April 2018. The acknowledgements include Top Abstract from the American Society for Neural Therapy & Repair in both 2017 & 2018; Top MSA Young Investigator at the 6th International Multiple Sclerosis Systems Atrophy Congress; and Second Place in the Graduate Student competitions in the spring of 2018 by both the Rush Research Forum and the Society for Neuroscience-Chicago Chapter.

Fundraiser Update & Opportunity

Every year the Graduate College Student Council (GCSC) hosts a fundraiser to support graduate student success. This year was another prosperous event with funds totaling near \$19,000. The GCSC professional development fund mainly supports student success by providing travel awards for students to attend and present at conferences both nationally and internationally. In addition, the GCSC awards students at the Rush research forum and hosts inter-professional career development events. We have raised over \$200,000 in the past ten years to support these important awards and events. The fundraiser was held at Park Tavern just down the block from Rush. Many attendees gave laudable feedback and the GCSC is proud to host both a fun and essential fundraiser. On behalf of the entire GCSC, we would like to thank everyone who contributed and are truly grateful for your continued support for graduate student success at Rush.

The GCSC continues their fundraising efforts throughout the year, and if you are interested in donating to graduate student success please visit the following link: <http://rush.convio.net/gradstudentcouncil>.

Student Council Leaders for the 2018-19 Academic Year

President – **Matt Russo**

Vice President – **Diptaman “Neil” Chatterjee**

Secretary – **Aeja Jackson**

Treasurer – **Isadora “Daphne” Calma**

Fundraising Chair – **KaReisha Robinson**

Professional Relations Chair – **Natasha Ferguson**

Professional Development Chair – **Oscar Jimenez**

Graduation, Commencement & Kudos

On Friday, April 27th, the Graduate College hosted an awards dinner to celebrate the 2017-18 graduates and acknowledge extra-ordinary accomplishments:

- John E. Trufant, EdD award for Excellence in Research – **Andrew Cogswell** (IMM PhD)
- Luther Christman Unification Model Award for Excellence in Nursing Research – **Robyn Ward** (NUR PhD)
- Arthur V. Prancan, PhD Award for Excellence in Biotechnology – **Emilia Dellacecca** (BTN MS)
- Dean's Award for Leadership and Service – **Brittany Wilson** (ANA PhD) and **John Hamilton** (BCH PhD)
- Diversity & Inclusion Award – **Ricardo Perez** (ANA PhD)
- Jeff **Oswald**, DVM, received the 2018 Graduate College Student Choice Award for the Excellence in Teaching.
- Christopher **Forsyth**, PhD, received the 2018 Graduate College Student Choice Award for Exceptional Mentor.

April 28th, Rush University hosted the annual commencement ceremony. The 2018 University Marshal was the Graduate College's former Dean, **Paul Carvey, PhD**. He along with the four faculty hooders from the GC, **Drs. Edward Barker, Joanne O'Keefe, John Somberg and Tom Schmid** helped make the ceremony special for the College's 89 graduates.

Faculty News

- Abde **Abukhdeir**, PhD, accepted a position with the FDA in Maryland.
- Edward **Barker**, PhD, was promoted professor in the Department of Immunity and Emerging Pathogens.
- Linda **Baum**, PhD, is retiring after 17 combined years of service.
- Susan **Breitenstein**, PhD, accepted an appointment at The Ohio State University.
- Susan **Chubinskaya**, PhD, was elected to the presidential line of the Orthopedic Research Society. She will be president in 2020.
- Thomas E. **DeCoursey**, PhD, was awarded a five year Maximizing Investigators' Research Award (MIRA) grant from the National Institute of Health. This is a new format that is awarded to the investigator rather than the project.
- Sheila **Dugan**, MD, was promoted to professor in the Department of Neurological Surgery and with Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation.
- Hazel **Lum**, PhD, retired last year, but continued to assist the GC. She is now stepping away from all duties.
- Mike **Nelson**, PhD, is retiring after 40 years of service. He will be greatly missed by the GC Council and the Student Leaders.
- Gourang **Patel**, PharmD, was promoted to associate professor in the Department of Internal Medicine, with a joint appointment in the Department of Anesthesiology.
- Sanda **Predescu**, PhD, was promoted to professor in the Department of Internal Medicine.

- Marvin **Rossi**, MD, MS, received the Heroes Award from the Epilepsy Foundation of Greater Chicago. This award highlights his commitment to and impact upon the lives of people in Chicagoland area with epilepsy.

Alumni Spotlight



Teppei Shimasaki is a recent graduate from the Masters in Clinical Research program. We had a chance to speak with Teppei to ask him about the program and his overall experience at Rush University. See what he has to say....

Q: What led you to pursue a MS at Rush?

After 2 years of infectious disease (ID) fellowship, I had an opportunity to extend my training 1 more year as a CDC epicenter research fellow at Rush. I decided to join the Masters in Clinical Research program when I was a second year ID fellow, mainly to prepare as a research fellow and maximize the opportunity for research.

Q: What was your thesis project about?

I studied the association between a biomarker, which is widely used as pre-transplant screening for latent tuberculosis, and post-transplantation complication. I was able to go through all the processes including IRB approval, data collection and analysis under the supervision and support of my research mentor.

Q: Any fond memories from your time at Rush?

I enjoyed and learned a lot over three years of the ID training and Clinical Research program at Rush. I was lucky to have an opportunity to work with excellent faculty members.

Q: Where are you working now? Share an overall explanation.

As a research fellow, I was able to devote my entire time for clinical research without any other duties. I am finishing my 3rd year research fellowship now and when I move back to Japan, I would like to continue to be involved in current research projects.

Q: If you are still doing research, what is your current project focusing on?

I am currently studying the association between enteric microbiota and multidrug resistant (MDR) bacterial acquisition/infection.

Q: Where do you hope to be in 5 years?

I believe good clinical questions come from patient care at the bedside. Thus, I would like to keep a good balance between the duties of a clinician researcher and educator.

Q: What advice do you have for other Rush students?

At Rush, there are numerous opportunities for learning; make sure to utilize and maximize these opportunities.

**Call (312) 942-3589 or email
gc_admissions@rush.edu
for more information on program
admissions.**

Rush University Graduate College Programs

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- [Master of Science in Clinical Research](#)
- [PhD in Health Sciences](#)
- [PhD in Integrated Biomedical Sciences](#)
- [Master of Science in Integrated Biomedical Sciences](#)
- [PhD in Nursing Science](#)

Contribute to the Graduate College Student Professional Development Fund: rush.convio.net/gradstudentcouncil

Learn more: www.rushu.rush.edu/graduate-college