

Berkeley Bioengineering

December 2020



Dear Friends and Colleagues,

As this incredibly challenging year draws to a close, I'd like to take this opportunity to express my gratitude for our entire bioengineering community, both here at UC Berkeley and across the globe.

In a wildly unpredictable year, one rock-steady constant has been the determination, creativity, and compassion shown by our students, staff, faculty, alumni, and friends. It's been truly wonderful to see how members of our community have supported one another through it all, including our transition to online instruction, research shutdown and restart, and a renewed commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion. We have never been stronger or more resilient.

And how our community has answered society's call for help! The Berkeley Bioengineering family has played leadership roles in developing new rapid testing devices (both [faculty](#) and [alumni](#)), addressing [PPE shortages](#), standardizing [antibody tests](#), and much more. We have also harnessed the power of cutting-edge tools such as [genome sequencing](#) and [genome editing](#) to create new COVID-19 technologies. The same is true in the classroom, where Berkeley bioengineers have pioneered new approaches to [online learning](#). I'm so proud to be part of a department that is making an impact when the world needs us most.

All the while, research, education, and service proceed at the highest level. We're particularly pleased to report that our US News & World Report rankings reached all-time highs this year for both our PhD ([#4](#)) and undergraduate ([#7](#)) programs. We saw one new faculty member (Patrick Hsu) join our department and three of our continuing faculty receive tenure and/or promotion. In 2020 we also celebrated the investiture of Professor Moriel Vandsburger as the inaugural [Timothy and Karen Guertin Chair](#), and Professor Amy Herr appointed to the prestigious [MacArthur Professorship](#).

We're looking forward to great things in 2021, including welcoming two new faculty members to our department: [Derfogail Delcassian](#) and [Iain Clark](#). While both bring their own unique excellence and perspective, they share a common interest in leveraging the tools of engineering to understand, model, and control the immune system. In a world where infection, immunity, and vaccination increasingly dominate the headlines, we are thrilled to establish this new foundation for leadership in immunoengineering.

On behalf of the entire department, I wish you all a happy and healthy holiday season. If you are able, please consider [making a year-end gift](#) to the Department of Bioengineering. Your support allows us to continue to grow, innovate, and support our amazing students and faculty.

Best wishes, and Go Bears!

Sanjay Kumar
Chair, Department of Bioengineering



The holiday view of Hearst Memorial Mining Circle in [Blockeley University](#), the student-run virtual campus in Minecraft.

There's always so much going on at Berkeley BioE!
Check out the latest news on [RESEARCH](#), [ALUMNI](#), and [MORE](#) on our website.

Ready to give back?
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