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Department of
BIOMEDICAL ENGINEERING

JOHN AND MARCIA PRICE COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING
THE UNIVERSITY OF UTAH

A Message from the Chair



Welcome to our Spring 2024 BME newsletter! Mid-term Spring semester is always an interesting perspective for me as Chair. Campus-wide preparations for the annual commencement and graduation ritual are underway: undergraduate senior award selections, honors, and accolades are increasingly revealed, admissions (and rejections) to next Fall's graduate and professional schools are trickling in, and company interviewing for new careers beyond May graduation is active. Spring campus athletics are emerging from winter hibernation while winter sports still reign supreme in our legendary Utah winters. Mid-term exams bookend each side of the semester's "spring break", and many students and faculty feel the remaining semester schedule pulling them towards a

finish that always seems to come on sooner than we expect. Some students will enjoy this ride to semester completion while others will spend the next 8 weeks addressing mistakes made in the first 8 weeks. Our graduate students might remember their similar undergraduate rhythms from their time, but are generally distanced from this annual Spring campus pulse. Those BME students working on their PhD in our Health Sciences campus with our adjunct faculty (nearly 50% of our BME graduate students) march to a completely different Spring routine, absent the notable undergraduate campus influence, and finishing schedule in their medical enclave.

Utah's Biomedical Engineering program occupies a unique strategic niche in our campus: academically, historically, physically and intellectually. In 1973, Utah's Bioengineering program truly emerged when pieces of Homer Warner's original Department of Biophysics and Bioengineering left their Engineering home in MEB to form the new Department of Biomedical Informatics in the School of Medicine. The remaining Bioengineering elements, under then-new Chair, Curtis Johnson, embarked on a mission of identity, inclusion and purpose, collecting biomedical resources and relevant people and programming broadly across campus under the banner of a new Utah bioengineering. Over 50 years later, while Utah BME has a distinctly different academic program addressing new challenges, a different faculty profile, and new physical home, the BME emphasis on unifying and coordinating broad cross-campus programming, personnel and resources for collective synergy remains. BME boasts the most diversified faculty of any Utah department, with nearly 100 adjunct and affiliate faculty from non-BME campus programs participating in BME educational and research activities. The breadth of BME mission is complex and diverse, seeking to cover essential components of modern bioengineering in medical practice and technology as the field continually expands.

This rich diversity and broad scope is evident in content in this new BME newsletter. We include a story about BME alumna and Orthocare CEO, Teri Chou, Ph.D.; naming of BME assistant Professor

Tamara Bidone, as a 2024 National Academy of Sciences Kavli Fellow; our new joint BME-Pharmaceutics faculty hire, Dr. Taslim Al-Hilal, and the research area he brings to campus; the new headset device for multifocal delivery of ultrasound into deep brain regions in humans from BME's Jan Kubanek; the compelling personal story of BME grad student, Nejra Mujkanović; annual department participation at the national meeting of the Biomedical Engineering Society; how University of Utah is now the [highest-ranked public college in the West](#), according to the Wall Street Journal's latest round of rankings of U.S. universities; the new National Visionary Statement on BME's Future "Grand Challenges", co-authored by BME faculty, Rick Rabbitt, and BME Adjunct faculty, Chris Johnson; a brief Chair's perspective on new technology dimensions for BME's mission; a story on the new Utah Bionic Leg, a motorized prosthetic for lower-limb amputees developed by BME adjunct faculty Tommaso Lenzi's group; BME's new Regulatory Affairs certificate options for students, and the recent appointment of the next Dean, Price College of Engineering, Dr. Charles Musgrave, from CU-Boulder.

Wow - that's a lot of interesting material! For all this and more, I invite you to read on!!

David W. Grainger, Ph.D.
University Distinguished Professor
Chair, Department of Biomedical Engineering
Department of Molecular Pharmaceutics
Ole and Marty Jensen Endowed Chair
University of Utah



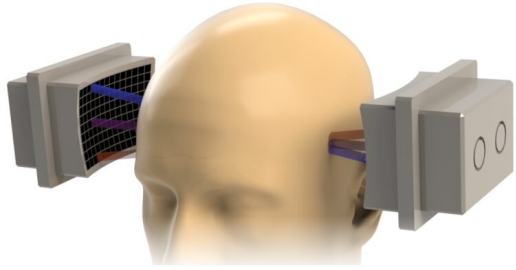
An Interview with BME Alumnus and Modus Health CEO, Teri Chou, Ph.D.

[Read more here](#)



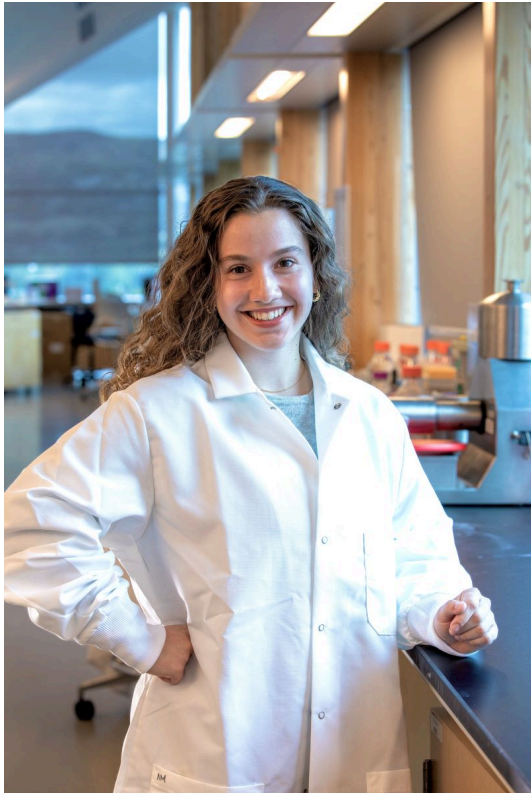
Faculty Taslim Al-
Hilal strives to
understand complex
pathways of the
progression of
vascular/cancer
diseases.

[Read more here.](#)



Kubanek Lab research on the cover of IEEE TMBE Journal

[Read the article here](#)



BME Community Spotlight: Nejra Mujkanović

[Read more here](#)



Graduate Students attend annual Biomedical Engineering Society Conference in Seattle, WA

[Read more here](#)



BME hosts annual Graduate Visitation Weekend

[Read more here](#)



REGULATORY AFFAIRS CERTIFICATE

for Undergrad and Graduate Students

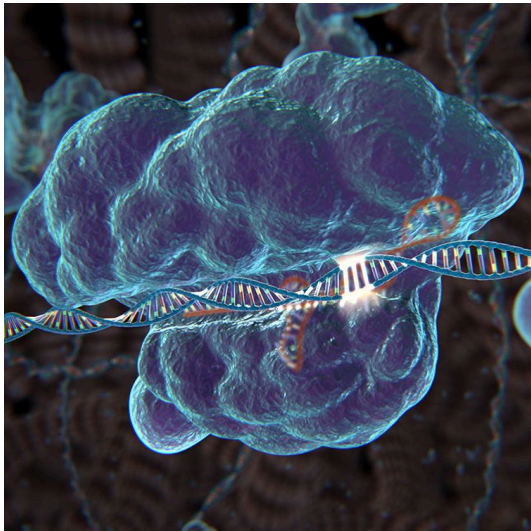
THE DEVELOPMENT AND USE OF MEDICAL DEVICES, PHARMACEUTICALS, BIOLOGICS, AND COMBINATION PRODUCTS IS HIGHLY REGULATED IN THE UNITED STATES BY THE US FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION AND GLOBALLY BY REGIONAL REGULATORY AGENCIES. REGULATORY AFFAIRS PROFESSIONALS ARE INCREASINGLY BECOMING INTEGRAL MEMBERS OF RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT, MANUFACTURING, AND MARKETING TEAMS IN THE BIOMEDICAL INDUSTRY, AND ACADEMIC AND CLINICAL RESEARCH. THE BIOMEDICAL AND PHARMACEUTICAL INDUSTRY DEMAND FOR GRADUATES WITH PRACTICAL KNOWLEDGE OF REGULATORY AFFAIRS IS GROWING. UNDERSTANDING OF THE REGULATORY LANDSCAPE AND PRACTICES AND THE ABILITY TO APPLY THESE PRINCIPLES AND POLICIES IN A REAL INDUSTRIAL ENVIRONMENT ARE INCREASINGLY IMPORTANT TO FUTURE BIOMEDICAL ENGINEERS. THE BME CERTIFICATES IN REGULATORY AFFAIRS PROVIDE STUDENTS WITH FOUNDATIONAL SKILLS IN APPLYING MEDICAL DEVICES, DRUGS, BIOLOGICS, AND COMBINATION PRODUCT REGULATIONS IN THE UNITED STATES, AS WELL AS AN OVERVIEW OF GLOBAL REGULATORY SYSTEMS IN HEALTHCARE.

PROGRAM ELIGIBILITY AND COMPLETION REQUIREMENTS WILL BE LISTED AT BME.UTAH.EDU

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT DR. TOMASZ PETELENCZ, EMAIL: TOMASZ.PETELENCZ@UTAH.EDU

THIS CERTIFICATE WAS APPROVED BY THE UNIVERSITY BOARD OF TRUSTEES AND WILL BE AVAILABLE TO BME STUDENTS STARTING FALL SEMESTER 2024.





BME faculty, Rick Rabbitt, and BME adjunct faculty, Chris Johnson, co-author national visionary statement on BME's future "Grand Challenges"

[Read more here](#)



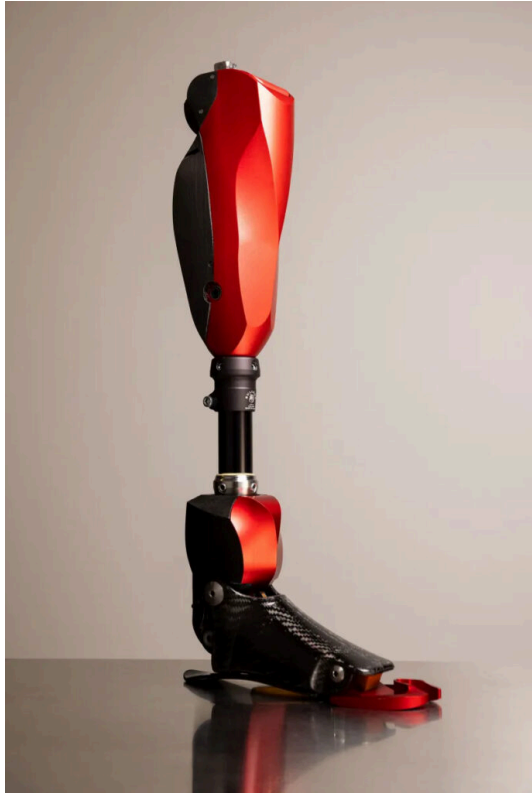
**National Academy
of Sciences names
BME Faculty
Tamara Bidone a
2024 Kavli Fellow**

[Read more here](#)



**Biomedical
Engineering Chair
David Grainger on
how the biomedical
engineering field is
accommodating
new advances in
technology**

[Read the full interview here](#)



BME adjunct faculty member gives Science Robotics Magazine a leg to stand on

**Dr. Tommaso Lenzi's
creation was featured on the
cover of Science Robotics
Magazine, and recognized in
TIME's "The Best Inventions
of 2023" list.**

[Read more here](#)



Price College of Engineering finds new Dean

**Charles Musgrave announced
as the new Dean of the John
and Marcia Price College of
Engineering**

[Read more here](#)



U tops the charts as the highest- ranked public college in the West

[Read more here](#)

EXPLORE UofU BME

Give to Utah BME



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