

# PHYSIO NEWS

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Call us for advice or assistance.

## PHYSIOLOGY FACULTY RECEIVE 2024 TILL AWARDS

The department would like to congratulate **Drs. Cynthia Metz, Michael Metz, and Jeff Falcone** who were awarded the **2024 TILL Award** on February 7th, 2025 at the Celebration of Teaching and Learning Conference for their work related to “Dental Physiology, a foundational subject area for first-year DMD students, combines a systems-based approach with innovative strategies to enhance student success on national board exams and in clinical practice.” The TILL Teaching Innovation Award highlights the TILL’s goals of (1) implementation and promotion of evidence-based teaching practices and (2) fostering student engagement, learning, and success. Up to three instructors from any of UofL’s campuses receive this award each year.

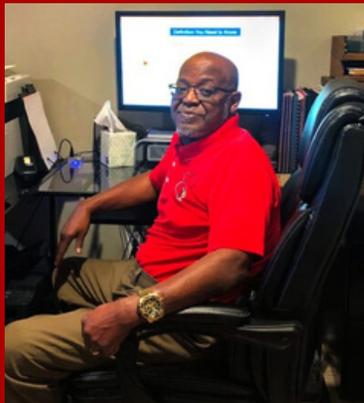


Drs. Cynthia Metz, Michael Metz, and Jeff Falcone were presented with the 2024 TILL Award by a representative from the Delphi Center for Teaching and Learning.

## FACULTY RSVP FOR SPRING 2025 COMMENCEMENT

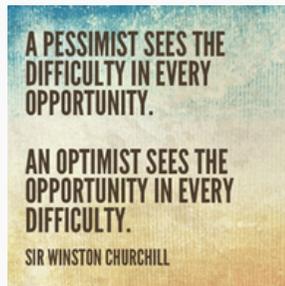
The university-wide commencement ceremony for spring 2025 bachelor’s, master’s, doctoral and certificate candidates will take place **Saturday, May 10**, at the KFC YUM! Center, 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. Faculty who plan to attend commencement must submit a faculty **RSVP form by Monday, March 10**. The regalia order form is included in the RSVP. Faculty orders will ship to the commencement staff and will be available for pick-up in the Red Barn on Thursday, May 8, 12-6 p.m., and on Friday, May 9, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. See the [Commencement website](#) for more information and to RSVP. For questions, email [commence@louisville.edu](mailto:commence@louisville.edu) or call 852-6528.

**CHAIRMAN OF THE  
DEPARTMENT OF  
PHYSIOLOGY  
DR. IRVING JOSHUA**



**HSC BLOOD DRIVE  
MARCH 5**

The Schools of Dentistry and Medicine will co-sponsor a blood drive on **Wednesday, March 5, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.**, in the Cardiovascular Innovation Institute, 302 E. Muhammad Ali Blvd., Louisville, 40202, HSC Campus. Schedule your appointment at [RedCrossBlood.org](https://RedCrossBlood.org); use sponsor code UofLHSC. If you are well and can help replenish our life-saving blood supply, please schedule an appointment. It is a quick process and can make a difference in the health care community's ability to treat patients in need. Give in March for a \$10 gift card by email and successful donations get A1C testing - [rcblood.org/March](https://rcblood.org/March).



**FROM THE CHAIRMAN'S DESK**

**THE OPPORTUNITY IN EVERY DIFFICULTY:  
AN INSPIRING TALE**

An old farmer sighed as he looked over his ruined crops. A terrible storm had swept through the valley the night before, and his once lush and verdant fields were now battered and muddy. His neighbor, a kind young man

named Thomas, came by to offer his help. "This is a calamity," the farmer said. "My family has always been able to survive on the yield of this harvest. I don't know what we will do now." Thomas thought for a moment. "I see this not as a calamity but as an opportunity," he said gently.

The farmer looked at him in disbelief. "How can this be an opportunity?" he asked. Thomas smiled. "Now you have a chance to try something new. You've always grown beans and squash. Why not try planting different crops that will thrive in this soil? You can diversify and strengthen your farm." The farmer considered this. Thomas was right—he had become set in his ways. This disaster could push him to make his farm sustainable in new ways.

"You have given me hope again," the farmer said. He clapped Thomas on the back. "Thank you for showing this old man the opportunity in this difficulty. My farm will be better for it." And so the farmer planted new, hearty crops and introduced more diversity to his farm. Though the storm ruined one harvest, it ended up saving many more. For in every difficulty lies an opportunity, if only we dare to see it.

**2025 TRUSTEES AWARD NOMINATIONS**

The University of Louisville established the Trustees Award in 1989 to honor faculty who impact the future of our students. The award recognizes faculty (full- or part-time; undergraduate, graduate or professional; even groups of faculty) who have had, currently or in the past, an extraordinary impact on students. The recipient will receive a commemorative plaque and a \$5,000 award. The Trustees Award will be presented to the recipient at the Annual Faculty & Staff Excellence Awards reception in April. Nominations will be accepted from any member of the university community until **5 p.m., Friday, March 7**.

For more details and to submit a nomination, visit the [webpage](#). For questions, email [Jake Beamer](#).

**INVITATION FROM THE INDIANA PHYSIOLOGICAL SOCIETY**

This year's meeting of the Indiana Physiological Society will be held **Saturday, March 29th, 2025**, at the University of Southern Indiana in Evansville. We hope you'll join us to present your research or simply learn about the scope of physiological research in the state of Indiana! If you'd like your presentation to be considered for an oral presentation, please [submit your abstract here](#) by next Friday, February 28th. Abstracts for poster presentations are due March 14th. [Register Here](#) by February 28th to take advantage of special early-bird pricing!

For more information about the meeting, please see the attached flyer and check our website at [apsindiana.org](https://apsindiana.org). We will continue to update our website with more information, including recommendations for travel and accommodations for those of you traveling from out of town.



## SPRING 2025 PHYSIOLOGY SEMINAR SERIES

BAXTER I AUDITORIUM  
11:45 A.M. TO 12:45 P.M.

### March 18

#### **Mamata Chaudhari - Ph.D. Student**

Mentor: Dr. Shahid Baba  
Center for Cardiometabolic Science  
University of Louisville

### April 1

#### **Daniel Nguyen - Ph.D. Student**

Mentor: Dr. Brad Hill  
Center for Cardiometabolic Science  
University of Louisville

### March 25

#### **Jerry Yu, Ph.D.**

Professor  
Department of Medicine  
Division of Pulmonary, Critical Care,  
and Sleep Disorders Medicine  
University of Louisville

### April 8

#### **Daniela Terson de Paleville, Ph.D.**

Professor  
Department Physiology  
University of Louisville

## RESPONSE OF THE UNIVERSITY TO POTENTIAL IMPACT OF CAP ON INDIRECT COSTS FROM NIH

In response to concern about the Presidential executive order to place a cap for “indirect costs” at 15 percent for all existing and new NIH contract awards the University has issues the following directives to address the potential reduction in annual funding to support UofL’s research activities by \$20 million to \$23 million.

First, UofL will place an immediate pause on all permanent and temporary full-time faculty and staff positions from now until July 15 except for those where verbal or written commitments have been made prior to the date of this directive. A prior commitment is defined as permission by Human Resources to extend a verbal or written communication through Workday. Faculty exceptions to this directive must be approved by the Office of the Executive Vice President & University Provost. Staff exceptions must be approved by the Office of the Executive Vice President for Finance and Administration. Second, the university will suspend expenditures of departmental research incentive funds (D-RIF) and encourage faculty to limit expenditures of individual research incentive funds (I-RIF).

In applying this directive, special exceptions may be made for direct classroom instruction expenses, federal and state compliance activities and emergency situations related to health and public safety. Any request for exception from these fiscal management measures must be accompanied by a written justification and will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis.

Given the volatility, uncertainty and potential impact on UofL’s financial situation, the university is being proactive in implementing strategic fiscal management measures to ensure a balanced budget. Many peer universities have announced similar measures to cope with the uncertainty.

## DR. PETER LAUF - IN MEMORIAM



Our Department has recently experienced the loss of **Dr. Peter K. Lauf**, an Adjunct Professor in our Department of Physiology since 2020. Dr. Lauf passed away on February 3, 2025. Before joining our Department, Dr. Lauf was a Professor and Chair of the Department of Physiology and Biophysics at Wright State University, Dayton, Ohio for 18 years. He was also an accomplished scientist in the area of cellular physiology and biophysics of membrane transport processes and cell signaling, publishing over 160 scientific papers and books and book chapters. We will miss his lively discussions of research at our department seminars, encouraging discussion with department faculty, students and trainees and his warm, engaging smile.

## DR. ANDREW M. ROBERTS MEMORIAL AWARD PRESENTED TO DENTAL STUDENT



**The Andrew M. Roberts Ph.D. Memorial Award for Excellence in Physiology** was awarded to **Dylan Blevins**, a student at the UofL School of Dentistry. The award rewards academic achievement and encourages cooperative learning of physiology among dental students. It is given in memory of Andrew M. Roberts, a Department of Physiology faculty member for nearly 4 decades and a nationally recognized researcher and educator in the area of physiology. He taught physiological concepts to dental students with distinction for more than 20 years. Congratulations, Dylan!

## RESEARCH CORE VALUE PROGRAM

The Office of Research and Innovation is accepting applications for the last FY 2025 competition of the Louisville Research Core (LRC) Voucher Program. The program, funded by the Jewish Heritage Fund (JHF) and Office of Research and Innovation, awards UofL researchers with up to \$10,000 to use designated or pending LRC facilities. The goal is to facilitate the generation of preliminary data for grant applications and for which UofL investigators do not have current funding.

The deadline to apply for this round of the program is **March 31, 2025**. More information can be found on their website.

**ELIGIBILITY:** This internal competition is open to full-time, active-status research faculty, trainees (research graduate students and postdocs), and doctoral-level research staff under the supervision of a qualified faculty researcher from any UofL school or college. The program assists investigators in gathering preliminary data for grant applications (new and enhanced resubmissions) and drives increased usage of the university's premier research cores.

## STUDENT COMMUNITY IMPACT & SERVICE AWARD

Established in 2003, this prestigious award is presented annually to a student in recognition of their extraordinary contributions to medical education and their commitment to community service, impact, and the promotion of healthcare among the diverse, underrepresented populations in our community. The award honors individuals who demonstrate personal commitment and make significant, positive contributions toward addressing the educational, societal, and healthcare needs of underrepresented groups through teaching, research, and service. The honor includes a cash prize of \$500 and an engraved plaque.

### THE NOMINATION PROCESS

Nominations may be made by any U of L School of Medicine faculty or staff member, or by any medical student or resident trainee in good standing. Nominations must include the following:

- A completed Nomination form
- A statement of evidence in justification of the nomination; not to exceed 500 words, prepared by person submitting the nomination
- Nominee's curriculum vitae
- One Recommendation Form completed by a person other than the Nominator with supporting statements of recommendation

Thank you for your support in recognizing and celebrating the outstanding efforts of our students. Your input is invaluable to ensuring we honor those who make a significant difference in our community. The deadline to submit your nominations is **March 25, 2025**.

## LETTER TO PHYSIOLOGY INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS & TRAINEES FROM OUR COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT DIRECTOR

We live in rapidly changing times that can present many challenges to our community and department, particularly for international students/trainees/scholars. Additionally, the changes in NIH and other agencies create uncertainty and confusion for all of us. I aim to serve as a liaison or nexus to share any information provided by the International Center and the university and be a contact point for anyone needing assistance. I do not have all (or many) answers, but I am willing to find them as they arise. Thus, here I am compiling some resources:

### Counseling Center

Students and trainees can receive FREE, high-quality, confidential counseling at the Counseling Center. Use this [link](#) to explore more and schedule an appointment.

The counseling center is for everyone! In addition to international students, many students are also stressed out about the new policies affecting DEI, NIH, NSF, and many other policies. Those concerns are real. Please consider finding help as needed. Any heavy load is lighter when someone helps you carry it!

### Regarding immigration issues

Coordinators at the International Center are here to help! Please contact Kayla Martin ([kayla.martin.4@louisville.edu](mailto:kayla.martin.4@louisville.edu)) and Dewaker Dhandapani ([dewaker.dhandapani@louisville.edu](mailto:dewaker.dhandapani@louisville.edu)) and they will assist you. Additionally, you can contact Dr. Martinez-Mayshack, Associate Director, International Student & Scholar Services ([maria.martinez@louisville.edu](mailto:maria.martinez@louisville.edu)) Dr. Martinez Mayshack shared with me the following advice:

“We encourage the students/scholars to obtain the real ID and have a digital copy of their documents in their phone: I-20 or DS2019; I-94, passport, visa.”

Use this signed form [2Application Driver's license.docx](#) to obtain your real ID. The instructions are found in this form: [Drivers License Instructions.docx](#). There are two sections, one for F students and the second for J students/scholars. If the dependent needs the form, add the form at the end in the blank space: F2 Dependent: (name) or J2 Dependent (name). The form is valid only for 30 days after the date.

### Other advice for immigrants and non-immigrants international students and trainees:

You have rights! Particularly about your immigration status, you are not obligated to disclose your immigration status to anyone! You do not need to respond anything to anyone, but you need to know that everyone has rights!

“The fundamental constitutional protections of due process and equal protection embodied in our Constitution and Bill of Rights apply to every person, regardless of immigration status.” (ACLU).

Use this [link](#) to learn more about your rights or the rights of loved ones regarding immigration.

### My personal advice as an Immigrant and former international student:

- Know your rights!
- Make copies of all your legal documents and your green card. Although many people advise you to bring your green card, I believe it is safer to carry a copy. This is NOT a good time to lose or misplace your immigration documents! Keep them safe and carry a copy with you.
- Avoid traveling abroad without talking first with the advisors at the International Center. They will always look out for your best interest and well-being!
- Do not engage with aggressive or intimidating people! It is not worth it! Yes, it is frustrating, constant, and insulting, but it is better (for you) to take the high road and move on!
- Finally, KNOW THAT YOU ARE NOT ALONE! The Department of Physiology is well-known on campus for being compassionate and always putting our students and trainees first! Any of our faculty members will be happy to talk to you. Do not be shy; we are here for you!

Respectfully,

Daniela Terson de Paleville, PhD  
Professor  
Community Engagement Director  
Department of Physiology