Dear Friends of UA Biomedical Engineering:

Hello from the Hill! This last year found us returning to campus but still adapting to a “new normal.” Students returned to in-person learning, wearing masks and socially distancing. Zoom meetings still continued to be the norm with only small in-person group gatherings and safety guidelines for research still in place. By clicking on the story links throughout the newsletter, you can see that, even with all the restrictions, our work continued! I encourage you to read how faculty members carried on with their research activities and received new grants, including a $10.8M NIH grant to establish a new research center. Students received fellowships, designed projects for real-world applications, stretched their entrepreneurial wings, and received research grants to explore areas of their interests. And several of our alumni demonstrated success with their young, startup companies. Through a full year of COVID-19 restrictions, our team found ways to thrive.

Reflecting on our mission of promoting and training future diverse biomedical engineers while promoting experiential learning opportunities at all levels, I am very pleased to say that mission continued. I hope you’ll join me in recognizing the accomplishments of our students and faculty. I am thankful for the resilience they showed through another difficult year. Please do not hesitate to call (479-575-8610), email (rajrao@uark.edu) or visit us. We would love to hear from you.

Best regards,
Raj Rao
Professor and Department Head

If you are interested in making a donation to the Department of Biomedical Engineering, please visit our online giving page.
Faculty Activities

$10.8M NIH Grant to establish Metabolic Research Center awarded

Kyle Quinn gives virtual seminar on Metabolic Imaging of Skin Wound Healing

L to R: Kyle Quinn and Kartik Balachandran

Young Hye Song receives $10,000 from WGC for pancreatic cancer research project

Young Hye Song (back left) takes a break with some of her students.

Song receives NIH grant for Tissue Engineering research

PhRMA Foundation awards $100,000 for drug delivery system for spinal cord injuries
Faculty Activities

Click links to read full articles.

Morten Jensen gives ARA inaugural Project Scope presentation

$480K NSF grant awarded to improve cellular therapies

NIH grant supporting BMEG Curriculum received
Senior design project creates tool for use in clinical settings

Post-doc Asya Ozkizilcik receives AHA Fellowship

NSF Graduate Research Fellowships awarded

Activities in the Classroom and Beyond

Click links to read full articles.
Graduate startup team wins high growth/technology division in Governor’s Cup

Noah Tull earns 2nd Lt Commission in Army ROTC

Senior entrepreneur team wins seed funding for mobile medical storage idea

Smit Patel named outstanding BMEG senior

Danielle Cagna, Nathalie Cedeno de Gracia, Ashley Fernandez Chiru and Taylor Williams receive undergrad summer research grants
Jared Greer’s startup: Lapovations receives $100,000 matching grant from AEDC

Medical device company reaches 2 major milestones

Rex Hearn, other startup founders sell company: MORE Technologies
50 For Our Future drive raises $379,000 to help support students during COVID pandemic

Rao President-elect for Institute for Biological Engineering
BMEG by the Numbers

Female: 55%
Ethnic Minority: 21%
First Generation Undergraduate: 14%
Placement1: 68%

1Self-reported percentage of students graduating in the past two years who were employed as engineers or attending graduate school within six months of graduating.

Department of Biomedical Engineering

46% Male
54% Female

13 Total Faculty
222 Undergraduate Students
44 Graduate Students

* Numbers are based on fall 2020 data reported by the Office of Institutional Research and Assessment (cir.uark.edu).
BMEG by the Numbers

Lucrative fellowships available to supplement graduate stipends:

Doctoral Academy Fellowship offers an additional

$12,000 per year for four years

Distinguished Doctoral Academy Fellowship offers an additional

$22,000 per year for four years