Cell Biology and Neuroscience

The Department of Cell Biology and Neuroscience offers exciting opportunities to work with nationally and internationally recognized faculty on a wide range of research topics, including cognitive neuroscience, neurophysiology, neuroinformatics, developmental biology, cell biology, biophysics and computational neuroscience. It is the goal of the faculty to prepare our students for successful careers in academic research, government, and/or the biotechnology industry.

We offer Ph.D. or M.S. degrees in Neuroscience or Biological Science to our graduate students. The Ph.D. Degree Program is designed for students who are committed to a scientific research career and are willing to commit an average of 5 to 6 years in pursuit of the training that is necessary to qualify for this degree. The M.S. degree is for students who wish to increase their knowledge base in basic research through an intensive 2- to 3-year training period.

Successful applicants to the program will have already established a commitment to excellence through academic achievements and prior research experience. Students must identify a faculty sponsor prior to application to the CBN Graduate Program. Individuals accepted into the graduate program will be considered for financial support as a Graduate Research Assistant or Graduate Teaching Assistant.

EXCELLENCE IN RESEARCH

Research in CBN uncovers new knowledge and develops innovative technologies in several key areas of cell biology and neuroscience. Our labs cultivate a new generation of biologists equipped to pioneer advanced experimental and computational approaches to investigate complex biological systems.

DEGREES OFFERED

- M.S. in Neuroscience
- Ph.D. in Neuroscience
- M.S. in Biological Sciences
- Ph.D. in Biological Sciences
Extensive collaborations across campus and beyond provide graduate students with the interdisciplinary approach required for success and innovation. Collaborative partners in Montana include faculty in the Departments of Physics, Chemistry and Biochemistry, Mechanical and Industrial Engineering, Math, and Psychology at MSU as well as The University of Montana. The faculty of the McLaughlin Research Institute for Biomedical Sciences all have joint appoints in our department, and there are a number of vibrant collaborations with local biotechnology companies.

APPLICATION PROCEDURES

Prospective graduate students should apply through the Molecular BIOSciences Program at MSU.

CBN faculty affiliated with the Molecular Biosciences Program includes Roger Bradley, Charles Gray, Gwen Jacobs, Frances Lefcort, Thomas Hughes, Christa Merzdorf and Steve Stowers. Students interested in working with any of these faculty to pursue a Ph.D. in CBN may apply to the Molecular BIOSciences Program at http://mbprogram.montana.edu or contact Stephanie Cunningham, program director, via email at mbprogram@montana.edu for additional information. The application deadline for the Molecular BIOSciences Program is January 20th of each year.

If a professor in the department has agreed to be your graduate mentor, you may apply directly to CBN at any time. Only applicants who have confirmed a faculty mentor for their graduate program may submit applications directly to CBN.

DEPARTMENT HEAD

Frances Lefcort, WWAMI medical education program, Molecular and cellular neural development, lefcort@montana.edu

DIRECTOR OF GRADUATE STUDIES

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Rodrigo F. Salazar, Working memory and the fronto-parietal network, rsalazar@cns.montana.edu
Steve Stowers, Genetic analysis of neural circuits, sstowers@montana.edu

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