McKelvey School of Engineering

No. 10
best BME degree program (College Choice)

21
FULL-TIME FACULTY

43%
OF BME STUDENTS ARE WOMEN

100%
OF PhD STUDENTS ARE FULLY FUNDED

WashU BME

No. 14
U.S. News ranking for graduate programs

63%
of undergraduate BME students are involved in research

No. 8
WashU School of Medicine ranking in U.S. News

252
UNDERGRADUATE

31
MASTER’S

123
PHD

29%
of PhD students received an external fellowship in 2018

Students
FALL 2018

Degree programs

BS in Biomedical Engineering
MEng in Biomedical Innovation
MS in Biomedical Engineering
PhD in Biomedical Engineering

123
NUMBER OF PUBLICATIONS IN 2018

McKelvey Engineering

In January 2019 the school was renamed the James McKelvey School of Engineering. This will allow the school to expand endowed scholarships and professorships, and to create educational and research programs that integrate computing with the humanities, social sciences, arts and other disciplines. The commitment will support the school’s effort to enhance the region’s innovation and entrepreneurial ecosystem.
Research areas

95
AFFILIATE FACULTY MEMBERS FROM ACROSS THE UNIVERSITY

Top departments for BME student research:
» Biomedical Engineering
» Cell Biology & Physiology
» Computer Science & Engineering
» Electrical & Systems Engineering
» Genetics
» Mechanical Engineering & Materials Science
» Neurology
» Neuroscience
» Neurosurgery
» Obstetrics/Gynecology
» Orthopaedic Surgery
» Pathology & Immunology
» Radiation Oncology
» Radiology

Undergraduate research opportunities at WashU:
» Center for Innovation in Neuroscience and Technology Fellowship
» McKelvey Undergraduate Research Scholars
» Summer Undergraduate Research Award (SURA)
» WashU Biology Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowship Program (BioSURF)
» WashU Summer Engineering Fellowship (WUSEF)

Biomedical & Biological Imaging
Cardiovascular Engineering
Molecular & Cellular Systems Engineering
Neural Engineering
Orthopedic Engineering
Regenerative Engineering in Medicine

WashU research centers for biomedical research collaboration
Cardiac Bioelectricity & Arrhythmia Center (CB&AC)
Center for Cyborg and Bio-robotics Research
Center for Engineering MechanoBiology (CEMB)
Center for High Performance Computing (CHiPC)
Center for Human Immunology & Immunotherapy Programs (CHiPS)
Center for Innovation in Neuroscience and Technology (CINT)
Center for the Investigation of Membrane Excitability Diseases (CIMED)
Center for Regenerative Medicine (CRM)
Center for Science and Engineering of Living Systems (CSELS)
Children’s Discovery Institute Genome Engineering & iPSC Center (GEiC)
Hope Center for Neurological Disorders
Institute of Clinical and Translational Sciences (ICTS)
Institute for Materials Science and Engineering (IMSE)
McDonnell Center for Systems Neuroscience
McDonnell Genome Institute (MGI)
Musculoskeletal Research Center (MRC)
Siteman Cancer Center

Research news

Engineering treatments for the opioid epidemic
A biomedical engineer is developing a therapeutic option that would prevent the opiates from crossing the blood-brain barrier, preventing the high abusers seek.
Jai Rudra, assistant professor of biomedical engineering, is developing nanovaccines to combat opioid misuse with a two-year, $373,068 grant from the National Institutes of Health’s National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) through its Cutting Edge Basic Science Research award program.
“We are developing a therapy that will generate an anti-opioid antibody that will arrest the drug in circulation and prevent it from getting to the brain,” he said. “While this immunotherapy does not directly address the underlying neurobiological mechanism behind drug abuse, it is intended to treat a person in recovery in the event of a relapse. The patient will obtain no pleasure from taking the drug and will be further motivated to continue toward recovery.”

Seeking to reduce biopsies for breast tumors through novel imaging technology
A team of scientists at Washington University is evaluating a noninvasive imaging technique that could help radiologists differentiate cancer from benign tumors and thereby significantly reduce unnecessary biopsies, health care costs and stress for patients. Qing Zhu, professor of biomedical engineering and of radiology in the School of Medicine, and Steven Poplack, MD, professor of radiology at the School of Medicine’s Mallinckrodt Institute of Radiology and a breast-imaging radiologist at the Siteman Cancer Center at Barnes-Jewish Hospital and the School of Medicine, received nearly $2 million from the National Cancer Institute at the National Institutes of Health (NIH) to investigate the technique and its effectiveness over the next five years.
Zhu uses ultrasound-guided diffuse light tomography, an imaging method that relies on near-infrared light to get a better look at the blood vessels within the suspicious mass.
Flu’s clues: A new approach to studying influenza

Scientists have known for decades that a flu virus in a human body can be a lot different than viruses grown in a lab. It has been difficult however, to study the exact number and location of these proteins on any individual virus. The go-to method in cell biology involves attaching a fluorescent protein to the area of interest; the light makes the area easier to image and study.

A paper by Michael Vahey, assistant professor, and Daniel A. Fletcher, the Purnendu Chatterjee Chair in Engineering Biological Systems and chair of bioengineering at the University of California, Berkeley, demonstrates that flu proteins can be tagged using a different method. The process has already yielded information that hints to one advantage at minimum for having so many flu phenotypes, that is, various shapes and configurations found in genetically identical flu particles.

Sticky proteins help plants know when — and where — to grow

An interdisciplinary team comprising members of Arts & Sciences and the McKelvey School of Engineering has uncovered a mechanism by which a plant can be affected in a myriad of ways based on the presence of the hormone auxin.

Researchers found that a region of ARFs, a protein that responds to auxin, was disposed to sticking to itself, forming clumps, in some areas of the plant. The long, clumped proteins weren’t able to enter the plant’s cell nuclei, and instead remained stuck in the cytoplasm. When ARFs are stuck in the cytoplasm, they cannot initiate DNA transcription.

“It is that simple,” said Rohit Pappu, the Edwin H. Murty Professor of Engineering. “What is fascinating is the level of control afforded to the localization of ARF proteins by making cytoplasmic depots, the condensates, via sticky IDRs in older cells. The depot making apparatus, comprising of molecules with sticky IDRs can tell older from younger cells. Being able to replicate this type of molecular control to make active matter would be a dream for bioengineers.”

Master of Engineering in Biomedical Innovation

The MEng is a 12-month intensive, hands-on program for students seeking to hone their engineering skills and acquire the entrepreneurial skills necessary to convert ideas into innovative products.
Faculty awards & honors

Setton named Fellow of ASME
Lori A. Setton, the Lucy & Stanley Lapata Distinguished Professor and chair of Biomedical Engineering, has been elected a Fellow of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME). Setton is now one of about 3,500 Fellows out of more than 95,000 ASME members. Fellows are elected to be the essential resource for mechanical engineers and other technical professionals worldwide for solutions that benefit humankind.

Huebsch earns AHA Career Development Award
Nate Huebsch, an assistant professor of biomedical engineering, has received the 2019 Career Development Award from the American Heart Association (AHA).
He’ll receive more than $230,000 over three years in support of his project studying a how exercise leads to sudden death in patients with arrhythmogenic cardiomyopathy, a genetic disease that is one of the most common causes of sudden cardiac death in young athletes.

Silva named fellow of the American Heart Association
Jon Silva, associate professor of biomedical engineering, has been named a fellow of the American Heart Association (AHA).
His labs noninvasive, painless cardiac imaging technology, electrophysiological imaging and related technologies. Together, these innovations work to provide more detailed heart rhythm information than standard lead EKGs without the need for — or risks associated with — catheter placement.

Pappu awarded Mercator Fellowship from DFG
Rohit Pappu, the Edwin H. Hurty Professor of Engineering, has been named a recipient of the prestigious Mercator Fellowship from the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (DFG).
The DFG is the leading independent research funding organization in Germany with members from more than 100 universities and research institutions.

Imoukhuede wins the 2018 Young Innovator in Nanobiotechnology
Princess Imoukhuede, associate professor of biomedical engineering, received a Young Innovator award in Nanobiotech by NanoResearch for her work generating novel biomarkers of angiogenesis.

Silva earns national mentoring award from ORS
Matthew Silva was recently awarded the Outstanding Achievement in Mentoring Award by the Orthopaedic Research Society (ORS). Silva is the Julia and Walter R. Peterson Orthopaedic Research Professor at the School of Medicine and an affiliate faculty member with the Department of Biomedical Engineering at the McKelvey School of Engineering. The award honored Silva’s excellence in promoting the scientific and professional development, as well as the advancement to independent research careers, of new investigators.

Achilefu inducted into AIMBE College of Fellows
Samuel Achilefu, an affiliated faculty member with the Department of Biomedical Engineering and the Michel M. Ter-Pogossian Professor of Radiology in the School of Medicine, has been inducted into the American Institute for Medical and Biological Engineering’s (AIMBE) College of Fellows. He joins 156 colleagues who make up the class of 2019.

Rudy named to National Academy of Inventors
Rudy’s inventions have changed the way cardiologists measure deadly irregular heartbeats. His labs noninvasive, painless cardiac imaging technology, electrophysiological imaging and related technologies. Together, these innovations work to provide more detailed heart rhythm information than standard lead EKGs without the need for — or risks associated with — catheter placement.

NSF names Thoroughman director of CogNeuro program
As a program director, Kurt Thoroughman will oversee the NSF’s merit review process and help define new funding opportunities.
He’ll also have the opportunity to be involved with national scientific programs and initiatives that raise intellectual awareness and enhance the growth of the industry.

Students & alumni

McKelvey Engineering student Xu receives prestigious Goldwater Scholarship
A McKelvey Engineering student has received the prestigious Barry Goldwater Scholarship, which honors students who conduct research in the natural sciences, mathematics and engineering.
Lily Xu, a biomedical engineering major, is a research intern at the School of Medicine, where she studies virus proteins and the Zika virus. Xu wants to conduct research in biomedical engineering with a focus on virology.
More than 5,000 college sophomores and juniors applied for the scholarship, which was established by Congress in 1986 to honor the legacy of U.S. Sen. Barry Goldwater. Scholars receive a $7,500 award.

PhD students from the Department of Biomedical Engineering in the McKelvey School of Engineering hosted the department’s first student-led research retreat in 2019.
All of the department’s PhD students were invited to take part in the retreat, which included keynote talks from faculty, presentations from senior PhD candidates, table-top sessions with faculty members and students, and several poster sessions.
The event aimed to bring together students and faculty to discuss achievements in their respective fields while encouraging collaboration. It also served as an opportunity to introduce incoming graduate students to the biomedical engineering community at Washington University in St. Louis.

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Biomedical Engineering Faculty

**Dennis Barbour**
Associate Professor and Director of Master’s Studies
Research interests: Auditory processing, cognitive neuroscience, machine learning and medical diagnostics

**Jianmin Cui**
Professor
Research interests: Molecular basis of biologic and related diseases in nervous and cardiovascular systems; ion channel function and modulation; discovery of drugs that target ion channels; electrophysiology; fluorescence measurements, molecular biology, biophysics

**Song Hu**
Assistant Professor
Research interests: Photomacromolecular technologies for high resolution, structural, functional, metabolic and molecular imaging in vivo and their applications in research of a variety of diseases, such as neurovascular disorders, cancer, wound healing and cardiovascular diseases

**Nathaniel Huebsch**
Assistant Professor
Research interests: Molecular basis of biologic and related diseases in nervous and cardiovascular systems; ion channel function and modulation; discovery of drugs that target ion channels; electrophysiology; fluorescence measurements, molecular biology, biophysics

**Jai Rodra**
Assistant Professor
Research interests: Design and synthesis of amyloid-inspired supramolecular biomaterials for applications in vaccine development and immunotherapy. His research has been supported by multiple awards from the NIH

**Yoram Rudy**
Fred Soug Distinguished Professor of Engineering
Research interests: Cardiac electrophysiology and arrhythmias; molecular dynamics of ion channels; computational biology and mathematical modeling; imaging and mapping of cardiac electrical activity

**Lori Setton**
Department Chair and Lucy & Stanley Lopata Distinguished Professor of Biomedical Engineering
Research interests: Mechanics of osteoarthritis and intervertebral disk disorders, tissue regeneration and drug delivery in musculoskeletal disease

**Jonathan Silva**
Associate Professor and Director of Master's Studies
Research interests: Virtual and augmented reality, Electrophysiology. Molecular spectroscopy, Mathematical modeling, Cardiac arrhythmia

**Abhinav Jha**
Assistant Professor
Research interests: Pioneers quantitative biological measurements and computational biological models to delineate ligand-receptor binding, receptor and effector phosphorylation, and spatiotemporal hallmarks in disease processes

**Daniel Moran**
Professor and Director of Undergraduate Studies
Research interests: Motor control, brain-computer interfaces

**Rohit Pappu**
Edwin H. Marty Professor of Engineering
Research interests: Prostate aggression and its effects on neurodegeneration; biophysics of intracellularly disordered proteins; protein-nuclear acid interactions and modeling of transcriptional regulation; phase transitions in cell biology

**Barani Raman**
Dennis & Barbara Kessler Career Development Associate Professor
Research interests: Computational and systems neuroscience, neurorobotic engineering, pattern recognition, sensor-based machine oction, and bio-robotics

**Joseph Klaesner**
Professor of Physical Therapy & Biomedical Engineering
Research interests: Psychological processes in disease

**Noah Ledbetter**
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Research interests: Physical therapy education; human motor control and learning, computational neuroscience

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Research interests: Optical coherence tomography, a growing technology used to perform sectional imaging using light and sound, utilizing diffusion optical tomography, photothermal tomography, optical coherence tomography and ultrasound

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WashU BME outcomes
What do recent BS graduates do after graduation?

Leadership
Lori Setton
Department Chair and Lucy & Stanley Lopata Distinguished Professor of Biomedical Engineering
setton@wustl.edu

Salary ranges among the full-time positions who reported starting salary:

- $30-$40K — 14%
- $50-$60K — 29%
- $70-$80K — 29%
- $80-$100K — 29%

TOP COMPANIES:
Abbott
Accenture
bioMérieux
Cellatrix LLC
Epic
Ethicon Endo-Surgery Inc.
General Dynamics
Landauer Medical Physics
Medline Industries Inc.
MilliporeSigma
Shumaker & Sieffert PA
Smiths Medical
St. Jude Medical Inc.
Teach For America
ZS Associates

TOP GRADUATE SCHOOLS:
Columbia University
Johns Hopkins University
Massachusetts Institute of Technology
New York University
Northwestern University
Ohio State University
Tufts University
University of California, Los Angeles
University of California, San Diego
University of Illinois at Chicago
University of Iowa
University of North Carolina
University of Pennsylvania
UT Southwestern
Vanderbilt University
Washington University in St. Louis

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