

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

To the Prospective Graduate Student:

Thank you for your interest in our Biochemistry and Molecular Biology graduate program. Michigan State University has organized several of the biological sciences graduate units under one umbrella, designated as the BioMolecular Sciences (BMS) Program. The Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology is a participating unit in this BMS Program, along with Cell and Molecular Biology, Genetics, Microbiology and Molecular Genetics, Pharmacology and Toxicology, and Physiology. Although each student will still earn the doctoral degree in one of the participating units, the BMS will offer students the programmatic flexibility to experience a wide range of opportunities in terms of diversity and depth of training. For more information on the workings of the BMS Program, please visit their website at <http://www.biomolecular.msu.edu>.

Admission into the graduate programs of the six participating units will be administered through the central office of the BMS Program, which plans to provide full financial support to a class of about 50 students in its initial year. Instructions for filing an application electronically can be found at the above website. For students planning to begin in Fall Semester, 2014, the application deadline is December 1, 2013.



Thomas D. Sharkey
Professor and Chair

Department of
**Biochemistry and
Molecular Biology**

College of Natural Science

Colleges of Human
and Osteopathic Medicine

MSUAgBioResearch

Michigan State University
603 Wilson Rd, Rm. 201
East Lansing, MI
48824-6473
USA

Admin. Ofc. (517) 353-0804

Res. Ofc. (517) 353-3257

email: tsharkey@msu.edu

Web: <http://www.bmb.msu.edu>

As a student interested in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, the BMS program offers you several options: (a) you are welcome to declare this interest in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology and upon admission, you will follow the course requirements of the Departmental program, which consists of about 7 semester hours of course work during each semester of the first year; (b) you can be admitted into the BMS Program and pursue a "biochemistry/physiology/pharmacology track," with formal course work mainly along the lines of the Departmental requirements supplemented by two additional courses (one in physiology and one in pharmacology); or (c) you can be admitted into the BMS Program and pursue a "cell biology/genetics/microbiology track," with course work in our department and in Microbiology.

During the first year in the BMS Program, all students gain research experience under a laboratory rotation system that complements the formal course work. These rotations enable the student to gain first-hand experience in the laboratories of several faculty members, providing the basis for an informed choice of a major professor and a specific degree program at the end of the first year. Students initiating a research project can usually complete the requirements for the Ph.D. degree in about five years.

The research interests of the faculty in the Department span a wide range but three areas in particular highlight some of our strengths: (a) structural and computational biology; (b) genes and signaling; and (c) plant biochemistry. For the most updated information on the research of our faculty, please visit the Departmental website at <http://www.bmb.msu.edu>. If you have any questions regarding our Department, please do not hesitate to contact Jessica Lawrence at bmbgrad@cns.msu.edu.

We look forward to receiving from you an application to the BMS Program.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Tom D. Sharkey", is written over a horizontal line.

Thomas D. (Tom) Sharkey
Professor and Chair