

## Questions for Panelists

- Please describe a memorable or impactful experience you've had as a mentee. Why has this experience, in particular, stuck with you?
- Describe your mentoring relationships with one other? Trainees, what practices does your mentor apply that you find particularly constructive/effective? Mentors, how do you approach mentoring your trainees at various career stages?
- You all are related through research advisor–trainee mentoring relationships. However, many other types of mentoring support personal growth, professional development, and advancement in STEM fields. Where do you turn to seek mentorship outside of your research advising relationship? What resources would you recommend to others?
- It may often be the case that your mentor or mentee does not share your racial, ethnic, and/or gender identity, socioeconomic background, and lived experience. How do you go about fostering authentic mentoring connections despite your individual differences?

## Panelist Biosketches

**Professor Danielle Benoit** (*Dan-yell Ben-oi; she/her*) is the James P. Wilmot Distinguished Professor within the Department of Biomedical Engineering with appointments also in chemical engineering and the Center for Musculoskeletal Research. She also serves as the director of the Materials Science program. Professor Benoit hails from Milford, Maine and completed a BS in Biological Engineering from the University of Maine before earning her PhD in Chemical Engineering as an NSF Graduate Research Fellow at the University of Colorado, Boulder. She then completed a postdoctoral fellowship at the University of Washington as a Merck Fellow of the Damon Runyon Cancer Research Foundation before launching her independent career here at the University of Rochester in 2010, where she has since risen through the ranks. Professor Benoit's research specializes in the rational design of polymeric materials for regenerative medicine and drug delivery applications. Her research has earned her numerous publications, grants, and prestigious accolades, and she has also earned distinction as a research advisor and mentor. She is joined on the panel today by two of her current trainees.

**Aly March** (*Al-ee March; she/her*) is finishing up her second year in the PhD Program in the Biomedical Engineering Department. Aly left her hometown is Delran, NJ to earn her BS in Biomedical Engineering with a minor in Materials Science and Engineering from the University of Connecticut in 2019, and she conducted research on biomaterials and hydrogels as an undergraduate. She now works in Dr. Danielle Benoit's lab on a tissue engineered periosteum, focusing on therapeutic biomaterials to improve bone allograft healing.

**Tracey Moyston** (*Tray-see Moy-ston; she/her*) is currently a BS Candidate in Biomedical Engineering and an undergraduate research assistant in the Benoit Lab. Tracey hails from Vieux Fort, Saint Lucia and has been a student at the University of Rochester since 2018.

**Professor Albert Uy** (*Al-bert We; he/him*) is an Associate Professor in the Department of Biology. He was born and raised in the Philippines before moving to the U.S. and earning an undergraduate degree in Integrative Biology from the University of California, Berkeley. He then earned his PhD at the University of Maryland, College Park before completing an NSF Bioinformatics Postdoctoral Fellowship at the University of California, Santa Barbara. In 2002, Professor Uy accepted a faculty position at San Francisco State University and then moved to Syracuse University in 2004. From 2011–2019, he was the Aresty Chair in Tropical Ecology at the University of Miami before joining the faculty of the University of Rochester in 2020. Professor Uy's research program explores the origin of biological species, using tropical birds as the primary study organism. He has published numerous articles and earned distinction as a scholar, mentor and educator. He is joined on the panel today by two of his current trainees.

**Dr. Elsie Shogren** (*El-see Show-gren; she/her*) is currently an NSF Postdoctoral Fellow in Biology studying hybridization and drivers of reproductive isolation in *Myzomela* honeyeaters of the Solomon Islands. Dr. Shogren hails from Herman, Nebraska and graduated from Cornell University with a BS in 2012. She took three years to work as a field technician on various research projects, and in 2015, she started a PhD at Kansas State University studying behavioral ecology and evolution of a Neotropical bird, the white-ruffed manakin. Dr. Shogren defended her dissertation in the summer of 2020 and was thrilled to receive an NSF postdoctoral fellowship to join the TropBio lab, working with Professor Uy, and expanding her research topics to speciation and hybridization of birds.

**María Castaño** (*Mar-ee-ah Cast-ahn-yo; she/her*) is currently a PhD Student in Biology and a member of the TropBio Lab (Uy Lab). She is a Colombian biologist and Ornithologist, broadly interested in the role of behavior as a driver of population differentiation. María earned her BS at Universidad de los Andes, and since started exploring the fascinating world of birds. She founded her own birdwatching company in Colombia called Amazona Tropical Birding ([www.atbirding.com](http://www.atbirding.com)), before moving to the US to begin graduate studies at the University of Rochester in 2020.