



# Faculty Forum

## Departmental Spotlight

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Department of Microbiology & Immunology  
Nejat Egilmez, Ph.D.

# Department of Microbiology & Immunology

## Description and Demographics

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- **One of 5 basic science Departments in the SOM.**
- **M.S. and Ph.D. degrees in Microbiology and Immunology.**  
**New MS concentration in Clinical Microbiology in the works.**
- **21 primary Faculty and 35 Associate Faculty.**
- **Currently home to 40 Graduate Students**
- **Chair: Nejat Egilmez, Vice Chair: Hari Bodduluri**
- **Department Contact: Ms. Crystal Dick**  
**([crystal.dick@louisville.edu](mailto:crystal.dick@louisville.edu)).**

# Department of Microbiology & Immunology

## Department Contribution to the SOM four planning pillars

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### Education

- Training Master's and Ph.D. students.
- Participating in the Cancer Biology summer undergraduate program.
- Departmental summer High School research fellows program.
- Our faculty teach in the first and second years of the Medical curriculum, the Dental School curriculum, at the undergraduate campus and participate in the basic science graduate program curricula.

## Department of Microbiology & Immunology

### Department Contribution to the SOM four planning pillars

#### Research

- Over \$6.2M in grant support annually.
- 16 active laboratories producing ~50 publications/year.
- Research areas include microbial pathogenesis (Legionella, Burkholderia, Pseudomonas, Yersinia pestis, Klebsiella, RNA viruses, malaria), vaccine adjuvants, autoimmune disease (diabetes, Lupus, MS, psoriasis), transplantation, role of microbiota in immune/inflammatory disease, tumor immunity.
- Collaborations with multiple centers (ICT, CPM, BCC, CII).

## Department of Microbiology & Immunology

### Department Contribution to the SOM four planning pillars

#### **Clinical Care**

- **Collaborative clinical trials through the recent internal RFP on Metagenomics and Health to study the link between social determinants, microbiota and disease susceptibility.**
- **Anti-cancer therapeutics developed by M&I faculty being tested in clinical trials at BCC.**

# Department of Microbiology & Immunology

## Department Contribution to the SOM four planning pillars

### **Community Engagement**

- **Leading the new IRFP Metagenomics and Health Project to investigate the role of social determinants in Microbiome and Health.**
- **Summer High School Program involving paid laboratory internships.**
- **UofL Science Policy and Outreach Group co-founded by one of our M&I graduate students.**
- **Faculty participation in High School/community college lectures.**

# Department of Microbiology & Immunology

## Interesting Facts about the Department

- M&I traces its origin to the Department of Public Health and Bacteriology which was officially formed in 1933 with Dr. George McLean Lawson as the first Chair.
- M&I graduated its first Ph.D. student in 1962.
- M&I increased its research ranking in NIH funding by 26 positions (out of a total of 97 Departments nationally) between 2013 and 2016.

