

2017 CCST SCIENCE FELLOWS



Back Row, Left to Right: Julianne McCall, Mikel Shybut, Mike Peterson, Jen Chase
Front Row, Left to Right: Bao Nguyen, Anna Reade, Bish Paul, Laura McWilliams, Kristin Warren

Jen Chase (Assembly Committee on Privacy and Consumer Protection) received her PhD in Cellular and Molecular Biology from the University of Michigan, studying the genes which instruct stem cells to form blood cells in humans. Chase completed her BS in Biochemistry and BA in Spanish at South Dakota State University.

Julianne McCall (Senate Office of Research) received her PhD in Neuroscience from Ruprecht-Karls-Universität Heidelberg in Germany, where she studied methods to stimulate nerve cell regeneration to treat spinal cord injuries. McCall completed her MS in Biomedical Sciences at UC San Diego and her BS in Neuroscience at Denison University in Ohio.

Laura McWilliams (Assembly Committee on Utilities and Energy) received her PhD and MS in Chemistry from the University of Oregon, where she studied how gases interact with liquids at industrial and atmospheric surfaces. McWilliams completed a master's certificate at Banaras Hindu University in India, and her BS in Chemistry at Lyon College in Arkansas.

Bao-Ngoc Nguyen (Senate Committee on Health) received her PhD in Bioengineering from the University of Maryland, College Park, where she studied methods to generate human bone tissue using adult stem cells. Nguyen also received her BS in Bioengineering from the University of Maryland.

Biswajit (Bish) Paul (Assembly Committee on Elections and Redistricting) received his PhD in Cell and Molecular Biology from the University of Washington, where he studied the use of gene editing to create HIV-resistant white blood cells. Paul also completed his BS in Cell and Molecular Biology at the University of Washington.

Mike Peterson (Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Water) received his PhD in Environmental Science, Policy, and Management at UC Berkeley, where he studied the biodiversity of rivers and the accumulation of toxic pollutants in wildlife. Peterson completed his MS in Environmental Science at Western Washington University, and his BA in Biology and Environmental Studies at Whitman College in Washington.

Anna Reade (Senate Standing Committee on Environmental Quality) received her PhD in Developmental Biology from UC San Francisco, where she used laser microscopes to study molecular signaling critical to proper embryo growth and formation. Reade completed her BS in Cell and Developmental Biology at UC Santa Barbara.

Mikel Shybut (Senate Committee on Transportation and Housing) received his PhD in Plant Biology from UC Berkeley, where he studied the molecular mechanisms of cassava bacterial blight, a disease of agricultural significance in the tropics. Shybut completed his BA in Biological Chemistry and in Russian at Grinnell College in Iowa.

Kristin Warren (California Legislative Black Caucus) received her PhD in Mechanical Engineering from Carnegie Mellon University, where she studied how microalgae responded to physical stimulus, which has implications for designing biofuel processing techniques. Warren completed her BS in Mechanical Engineering at Kettering University in Michigan.

