

# Welcome to the 2024 Graduate Research Annual Forum

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Published 22 May 2024

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I would like to personally welcome you to the 2024 Graduate Research Annual Forum (GRAF 2024)! The Council of Biomedical Graduate Students (CBGS) has been organizing GRAF in collaboration with the College of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences over the last four decades. This event is great time for students to present their work and get invaluable feedback from expert post-docs and faculty. GRAF also gives all of our research tracks a chance to learn about the other research projects taking place at the University of Toledo, helping foster interdisciplinary collaborations. Our students are very excited for this year's forum, including 39 poster and oral presentation and 15 volunteer judges from faculty and postdoctoral fellows. We are also thankful for the moderators who will be leading each poster and oral session. We want GRAF to benefit scientists and trainees at all levels, whether that is in the form of presenting to a new audience, organizing the event, or evaluating the presentations. We are excited to have this year's keynote speech delivered by Dr. Joshua Starmer. Dr. Starmer was an Assistant Professor at the University of North Carolina Chapel Hill when he founded the StatQuest YouTube channel. The channel's original purpose was to help educate his colleagues on statistics, but has since evolved to be a massive, freely available educational resource on math and statistics that has garnered over 1 million subscribers. Beyond being the Founder and CEO of StatQuest, Dr. Starmer also holds the title of Lead AI Educator at Lightning AI. I would like to thank all the Council members who helped plan this event, with a special thanks to those on the executive committee for their diligent planning and effort. I would also like to thank Drs. Kandace Williams and David Giovannucci for guiding the Council and providing us with their advice. This event would not be possible without the support of the UT COMLS Foundation, the COMLS Alumni Affiliation, and ThermoFisher, and we are very grateful for their contributions. Further, we cannot thank our departments enough for their support, with their donations to GRAF and all the resources they provide that allow us to host this event year after year. I hope all attendees enjoy the forum and walk away richer for the experience!