

Diversity, equity & inclusion in the Bunnik lab

The Bunnik lab is committed to maintaining and promoting an inclusive working and learning environment where people—and service dogs—feel safe, supported, and comfortable to be themselves, irrespective of their race, ethnicity, cultural background, gender (identity), sexual orientation, health, age, place of birth, etc. Of our past and current trainees, 75% (9/12) are members of groups underrepresented in STEM, and 67% (8/12) identify as women. We try to lead by example to improve diversity and inclusion in our own lab, but also in the department and institution.

- We promote a better representation of seminar speakers from underrepresented groups in science to provide our diverse student population with more role models and networking opportunities with potential mentors.

In the spring 2022 semester, Dr. Bunnik invited parasitologists Dr. Heather Painter and Dr. Regina Joice Cordy. In the spring 2021 and fall 2020 semesters, Dr. Bunnik invited immunologist Dr. Marion Pepper and immunoparasitologist Dr. De'Broski Herbert.

- As a member of the Admissions Committee of the IBMS Ph.D. program, Dr. Bunnik often advocates to offer interviews and acceptances to students from groups underrepresented in STEM. In the past two years, she has also nominated three Black applicants for a \$5,000 Dean's award for accepting our offer to enroll into the IBMS Ph.D. program.
- Dr. Bunnik has advocated for inviting female speakers to local conferences and symposia, such as cancer immunologist Dr. Stephanie Watowich who will be a keynote speaker at the upcoming Annual Conference of the Vaccine Development Center of San Antonio in November 2023.