

## MMI 291 Seminar Series

Current Theme: Interdisciplinary Research  
Fall Quarter 2025 – CRN 38614

Friday Seminar at 12:10-1 p.m.  
GBSF Auditorium, Room 1005

“Microtubule cartography: the role of  
microtubule-associated proteins in  
defining the cellular landscape.”

### Research Bio

**Kassandra Ori-McKenney** is an Associate Professor of Molecular and Cellular Biology at the University of California, Davis. Kassandra performed her graduate work on the microtubule motor, cytoplasmic dynein in the lab of Richard Vallee at Columbia University. After receiving her Ph.D., she pursued her postdoctoral work with Yuh Nung Jan at UCSF, where she focused on the organization and regulation of the microtubule cytoskeleton during neuronal development. In January 2016, she joined UC Davis, and her lab uses a combination of biochemical, single-molecule, and cell biology techniques to study how microtubule-associated proteins contribute to cellular health. Kassandra has most recently received the Presidential Early Career Award for Science and Engineering (PECASE) and was named a Chancellor's Fellow.

### Publications

Yusheng Shen, **Kassandra M. Ori-McKenney**. “Microtubule-associated protein MAP7 promotes tubulin posttranslational modifications and cargo transport to enable osmotic adaptation”. *Elsevier Inc.* 2024 June.

<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.devcel.2024.03.022>

V. Siahna, R. Tan, T. Humhalova, L. Libusova, S. E. Lacey, T. Tan, M. Dacy, **Kassandra M. Ori-McKenney**, R.J. McKenney, M. Braun and Z. Lansky. “Microtubule lattice spacing governs cohesive envelope formation of tau family proteins”. *Nature Chemical Biology*. 2022 Nov.

<https://doi.org/10.1038/s41589-022-01096-2>

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**Kassandra Ori-McKenney, Ph.D.**  
Associate Professor  
Molecular and Cellular Biology  
College of Biological Sciences  
University of California, Davis

Sep. 26, 2025  
12:10 – 1 p.m.  
GBSF Auditorium  
Room 1005  
In-person presentation

Medical Microbiology  
and Immunology  
School of Medicine

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We hope to see you there!