

Adjunct Faculty Excellence Award for Research

Marilyn Rampersad Mackiewicz Ph.D.



MARILYN RAMPERSAD MACKIEWICZ is a research assistant professor in the Department of Chemistry at Portland State University. Professor Mackiewicz's research bridges concepts in inorganic, analytical, medicinal, and nanomaterials chemistry for applications that relate to human health. She received a Ph.D. in chemistry from Texas A&M University. Her research has garnered support from the Oregon Health and Science University Foundation's Medical Research Foundation, the Collins Medical Trust, and the National Science Foundation. She joined PSU in 2008.

A research faculty member, Professor Mackiewicz built and leads the only all-undergraduate research lab at PSU. As director of the Mackiewicz Research Group, she mentors a passionate and talented team of undergraduate researchers who envision that the fundamental chemistry developed in the lab will deepen our understanding of major diseases such as cancer, macular degeneration, glaucoma, and Alzheimer's disease, thus improving clinical outcomes and patients' quality of life. She is the co-author of 17 peer-reviewed publications, and a book chapter published by Springer. With her research group, Professor Mackiewicz has developed patented nanomaterial platforms used in medical research.

In addition to her outstanding work with undergraduate students from the BUILD EXITO, Ronald McNair, and Louis Stokes Alliance for Minority Participation in Science programs at PSU, Professor Mackiewicz serves as a faculty advisor for the Portland State Women in STEM group. Through this group and the capstone class she designed to empower and advance women and other underrepresented students in STEM fields, she is elevating the leadership, communication, networking, and negotiation skills of students at Portland State. For this work, she was honored in 2017 with a President's Diversity Award for distinguished faculty service.

"Working with Dr. Mackiewicz, I realized my true passion was for working in the lab," says former student and Texas A&M doctoral candidate Tan Pham-Duy Nguyen. "It was Dr. Mackiewicz's enthusiasm during my time under her mentorship that ignited the fire for research in my heart."

The Adjunct Faculty Excellence Award for Research recognizes and honors the outstanding teaching and research contributions of adjunct faculty.