



Salus PCO grad named to Eagles Cheerleading Team

Cristina Rosano, OD '20, has always been a dancer. In fact, her dream as a young girl was to be a National Football League cheerleader.

For four years at Virginia Tech, she was on the dance team that would perform sideline routines at football games and halftime routines at basketball games.

But after graduating from Virginia Tech, Dr. Rosano took a gap year before enrolling in Salus University's Pennsylvania College of Optometry (PCO). Now not only did she want to be an NFL cheerleader, she wanted to be an optometrist as well.

Dr. Rosano graduated from Salus PCO in May of 2020 and just a few weeks later, both of her dreams would come true: She got a full-time job as an optometrist in the very same week she was chosen to be a cheerleader for the Philadelphia Eagles.

[Read more.](#)



BLVS Summer Residency Students Adjust to the New Normal

It's business as usual — almost — for the summer residency students in the Blindness and Low Vision Studies (BLVS) program at Salus University.

Of course, nothing is the same as it once was thanks to the COVID-19 pandemic, but the BLVS program has made it as close to business as usual for its students, primarily by utilizing existing technology to its fullest potential.

"We're going to tap into existing technology and put it to good use under the circumstances," said Dr. Fabiana Perla, chair of the Department of Blindness and Low Vision Studies.

[Read more.](#)

Research Continues to Yield Results, Even During Quarantine

Research never stopped at Salus University during the quarantine. In fact, researchers recently completed a large study that has been accepted for publication by the Journal of Biological Chemistry.

The study identified two clusters of surface-exposed amino acid residues that enable high-affinity binding of retinal degeneration-3 (RD3) protein to retinal guanylyl cyclase. Retinal degeneration causes various forms of congenital blindness.

The University's study of RD3 has been ongoing for the past nine years, which according to Alexander Dizhoor, PhD, Hafter chair professor of Pharmacology at the University's Pennsylvania College of Optometry (PCO), who along with Igor Peshenko, PhD, assistant professor at Salus PCO, authored the study. He added that is a relatively short period of time compared to studying other proteins involved in photoreceptor signaling.

"This is a relatively new protein for the field and only a handful of labs actually work with this protein at this time. So we were one of the first who studied biochemical properties of this protein," he said.

The information gathered is important because it gives researchers a general idea how RD3 and its target protein in photoreceptor cells, retinal guanylyl cyclase, interact.

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