

Victoria Meola

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Education

PhD Student, Chemical Engineering

Aug 2023 – Present

Yale University

- Advisor: Professor Mingjiang Zhong

Bachelor of Chemical Engineering

Sept 2018 – Feb 2023

McGill University

- Dean's Honor List

Awards and Honors

- NSERC Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council Postgraduate Scholarship – Doctoral, \$120,000 (2024-2027)
- Yale Planetary Solutions Doctoral Fellowship, \$9,000 (2025)
- Yale Excellence in Service Award (2025)
- Yale Dodge Fellowship (2025)
- Yale Sheffield Fellowship, \$2,500 (2023)
- NSERC Undergraduate Research Award, \$18,000 (2021, 2020, 2019)
- FRQNT Fonds de recherche Québec, Nature and Technology Award, \$6,000 (2021, 2020, 2019)
- Inspirare Excellentia Scholarship, \$2,500 (2022)
- Dr. P.K. Ganguli Memorial Scholarship, \$432 (2020)
- Brian Cullen Memorial Scholarship, \$2,000 (2019)
- J W McConnel Scholarship, \$3,000 (2018)

Publications

- Alrefai, M., **Meola, V.**, and Maric, M., ARGET ATRP of Ethylene Glycol Dicyclopentenyl Ether Methacrylate with Vegetable Oil and Terpene-derived Methacrylic Monomers. *J. Polym. Sci.* 2022, 1-15.
- Matthews, S., Xu, E., Dumont, E., **Meola, V.**, Pikuda, O., Cheong, R., Guo, M., Tahsara, R., Larsson, H., and Tufenkji, N., Polystyrene micro- and nanoplastics affect locomotion and daily activity of *Drosophila melanogaster*. *Environ. Sci.: Nano*, 2021, 8, 110-121.

Research Experience

PhD Research (Yale University – Prof. Mingjiang Zhong & Prof. Meny Elimelech)

Aug 2023 – Present

- Designing, synthesizing, and analyzing the performance of bio-inspired polymers to inhibit silica scaling on membranes.

Undergraduate Research (McGill University – Prof. Milan Marić)

May 2021 – Apr 2022

- Synthesized and characterized sustainable polymers. Optimized the light-activated curing of polymers to create environmentally sustainable UV-curable wood coatings with thiol-ene clicking.

Undergraduate Research (McGill University – Prof. Pierre-Luc Girard-Lauriault)

May 2020 – Aug 2020

- Designed a plasma water purifier to sanitize contaminated water using plasma activation.

Undergraduate Research (McGill University – Prof. Nathalie Tufenkji)

May 2019 – Aug 2019

- Investigated the impacts of microplastics and nanoplastics in water contamination to the activity, mobility, and fertility of *Drosophila melanogaster* (fruit fly) as a model of humans.
- Awarded first place in Advanced Materials and Nanotechnology Poster Presentation.

Teaching and Mentoring Experience

Teaching Fellow (Yale University)

Sept 2024 – May 2025

- Appointed as a teaching fellow for ENAS 500 Mathematical Methods and CENG 300 Chemical Engineering Thermodynamics.
- Designed and taught several lectures, held recitation sessions and office hours, and graded problem sets and exams.

Mentoring (Yale University)

June 2024 – Aug 2025

- Mentored one high school summer intern and one undergraduate summer intern in the lab.

Undergraduate TA for CHEM 120 and CHEM 212 (McGill University)

Jan 2020 – Dec 2020

- Led weekly tutorials to groups of 15 students in CHEM 120 general chemistry and CHEM 212 organic chemistry.
- Awarded the Tomlinson Engagement Award for Mentoring in Chemistry, \$600 (2019).