

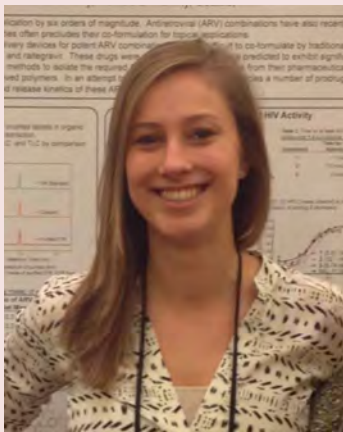
# STUDENT DIRECTORY



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HARVARD-AMGEN | SCHOLARS | PROGRAM



### **ALAINA BEVER**

Seattle University | Mechanical Engineering and Biology

Hometown: Seattle, WA

Research Interest/Area: Bioengineering and Immunology

"I grew up in Seattle and chose to attend a small, undergraduate university in my hometown because of the biomedical opportunities found among Seattle's many research institutions and hospitals. I am interested in pursuing biomedical research, specifically the application of bioengineering to understanding autoimmune disease. During my time at Seattle University, I have worked for the student newspaper as a writer and editor, and conduct research on campus in a mechanical engineering lab and an organic chemistry lab. I am looking forward to working on Harvard's campus and exploring Cambridge and Boston this summer."



### **ALEXI CHOUERI**

Arizona State University | Biochemistry, Economics and Biological Sciences

Hometown: Chandler, AZ

Research Interest/Area: Neuroscience and Cancer Biology

"I am originally from Beirut, Lebanon where I was immersed in a mosaic of cultures before coming to the U.S. as a political refugee in 2006. My constant exposure to eclectic ideologies in the Middle East cultivated my curiosity at a young age and evidently drove me into the sciences. I have been conducting brain cancer research since 2011 at Barrow Neurological Institute in Phoenix and spent a summer at MD Anderson Cancer Center in Texas. I also have a strong passion for economic development and founded the Global Microfinance Brigades at ASU, which sends students each year to rural South America to promote financial literacy and establish microenterprises that stimulate the local economies. "



### **JENNIFER GRIBBLE**

Iowa State University | Biochemistry

Hometown: Cedar Rapids, IA

Research Interest/Area: Molecular Cell Biology and Control of Cell Behavior

"As a student at Iowa State University, I have gained a deep knowledge of the molecular biosciences at the crossroads of biochemistry, virology, immunology, molecular signaling, and genetics. I currently study the effects of Drosophila JIL-1 kinase heterochromatin reorganization on obesity. My laboratory and academic experiences have inspired me to focus on the molecular basis of cellular behavior in the context of infection, development, or pathology. When I am not in the laboratory, I enjoy painting, reading, and playing with my three golden retrievers."



### **AILON HAILEYESUS**

University of Arkansas – Fayetteville | Biomedical Engineering, Spanish Minor

Hometown: Springdale, AR

Research Interest/Area: Point-of-care diagnostic devices and Microfluidic Technology

"As an Ethiopian American, I was born and raised in the suburbs of Philadelphia. Due to my parents' job relocation, my family and I recently moved to Arkansas. I am involved in many activities within my college campus and enjoy meeting new people. I enjoy playing tennis, going on adventures, and singing worship songs in different languages. My ethnic background, international travels, and volunteer experiences motivate me to research biomedical devices and techniques geared toward advancing the medical field in developing countries."



### **BENJAMIN HOEMANN**

Valparaiso University | Biochemistry and Humanities

Hometown: Washington, MO

Research Interest/Area: Allostatic Load, Critical Periods, and Neural Circuitry

“I was raised in a small town about forty miles outside of St. Louis, MO. During my time at Valparaiso University, I have had the luxury of pursuing my interest in organ and voice in addition to my coursework. As an aspiring physician-scientist, I am confident that my vocation lies in higher education. My experience as a Residential Assistant at VU has given me the satisfaction of helping young college students succeed in new environments.”



### **LOUIS HOLLINGSWORTH**

Virginia Tech | Chemical Engineering, Biochemistry, and Chemistry

Hometown: Springfield, VA

Research Interest/Area: Drug Design and Disease Pathways

“I am from the DC-area of Virginia, but I have lived all over the world due to my father’s work in the State Department. I am currently a rising junior at Virginia Tech where I conduct organic synthesis research. Outside of academics, I play IM soccer and try to help others find their passions in my living-learning community. I aspire to become a researcher at a university or the NIH, where I both will conduct translational research on diseases such as cancer and HIV and mentor students.”



### **JOY ROSA JACKSON**

Howard University | Biology

Hometown: Birmingham, AL

Research Interest/Area: Cardiovascular System and Neuroscience

“I was born and raised in Birmingham, Alabama, and I am the baby of six children. It was a big step for me to steer away from the norm, and go to school out of state, in Washington, DC. But being courageous and taking that step has blessed me with more opportunities and experiences than I could ever imagine. In the future, I plan on graduating from college, and going on to medical school to become a cardiothoracic surgeon. I have also always had a heart for my community and serving the community around me. So, I also plan on giving back to the community by opening free health clinics at home and across the country, in an effort to eliminate preventable illnesses. I also have plans to go abroad on medical missions to service the global community that surrounds me. I know my dreams seem big, but they are definitely attainable.”



### **HUY LAM**

Washington University in St. Louis | Biomedical Engineering

Hometown: Germantown, MD

Research Interest/Area: Tissue Engineering/Biomechanics

“I grew up in Germantown, MD which is 30 minutes outside Washington DC. I’m a junior at Washington University studying biomedical engineering. For the last three years, ‘ve been working closely with my PI on the Parkinson’s disease protein. Using a newly discovered drug, we’ve worked towards determining the mechanisms of how this drug could be an alternative technique to combat the disease. My grandfather recently passed away from Alzheimer’s disease, and my dream is to develop biomechanical models for these neurological disorders to accelerate the development of cures to them.”



### **JAMES LAWNICZAK**

University of Michigan | Chemistry, Mathematics  
Hometown: Shelby Township, MI  
Research Interest/Area: Organometallic Chemistry

“I am a University of Michigan undergraduate student studying Chemistry and Mathematics, who enjoys discussing philosophy of science, playing Clair de Lune and Chopin, and watching Polish television shows. As a researcher in the Martin Lab, I am developing new algorithms to analyze proteomic mass spectrometry data for the de novo sequencing of peptides. In the Sanford Lab, I am researching novel palladium (IV) organometallic catalytic cycles facilitating C-H activation for the synthesis of pharmaceutically relevant benzocyclobutenes. I plan to complete a Ph.D. in organometallic chemistry and to lead a research group as an inorganic chemistry professor.”



### **JAIME LISACK**

Ithaca College | Biochemistry  
Hometown: Goshen, NY  
Research Interest/Area: Genetics and Molecular Biology

“I grew up in a small town in southern NY and am currently a junior at Ithaca College. My research includes using genome editing techniques (TALENs and CRISPR) to investigate the heat shock response in *C. elegans*. When not in lab I am often running on trails or hiking. I’m fairly laid back and love adventure. In the future I hope to enter the biotechnology industry to discover new treatments and potential cures for genetic diseases.”



### **ANGELA MADIRA**

California State University, Los Angeles | Biochemistry  
Hometown: Dallas, TX  
Research Interest/Area: Neuroscience and Pediatric Neurology

“I was born and brought up in Dallas, TX and moved to Los Angeles in 2012. Currently, I am a research assistant in Dr. Russo’s Neuroscience/Behavioral Science Lab, where I discovered my growing passion in neurology. In the future, I hope to explore neurological disorders in children. Aside from the STEM fields, I also greatly enjoy Philosophy and English, particularly the work of Kant and Descartes. Among my favorite novels are Fahrenheit 451, Mayor of Casterbridge, and The Iliad.”



### **ARYA MCCARTHY**

Southern Methodist University | Computer Science, Mathematics  
Hometown: Dallas, TX  
Research Interest/Area: Computation, Cognition, Biologically Inspired Techniques

“I am a computer scientist because I believe its techniques and tools benefit every other field. Computation in the mind and brain particularly intrigues me. I didn’t stray from Dallas most of my life, but this question is vaster than can be answered by one person or with the thoughts of one place. I’ve studied across the country and across oceans to add to my patchwork understanding. This summer, I intend to investigate the ways computation and biology influence each other.”



### **JADE MOON**

Harvard College | Integrative Biology  
Hometown: Madison, WI  
Research Interest/Area: Genetics/ Infectious Diseases

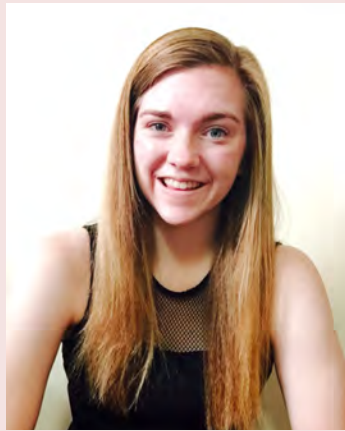
"I grew up in Madison, WI but went to a boarding school in Massachusetts. At Harvard, I grew fascinated by the intersection between the science and humanities and try to juggle a nice balance between the two. I hope to gain both a scientific understanding of infectious diseases as well as a humanistic and societal understanding and dream use both facets in my career. In my free time, I love to write, jog, and hunt for good food."



### **KAHIRA SAÉZ-TORRES**

Inter American University of Puerto Rico | Biotechnology  
Hometown: Camuy, PR  
Research Interest/Area: Genetics and Microbiology

"I was born in Arecibo, PR and now I currently live in Camuy, PR with my family. In the university, I am a member of the Honors Program and the Association of "Exito Estudiantil". Also, I work as an Algebra tutor in one of the centers in the university. Some of my hobbies are reading, and listening to music as well as singing and dancing. But aside from my somewhat artistic side, I hope that this internship will help me develop new skills in my field of study and that it will give me the chance to be of help to others as well."



### **EMILY SMAIL**

Clemson University | Genetics & Psychology  
Hometown: Augusta, GA  
Research Interest/Area: Genetic and Environmental causes of Psychiatric Disorders

"I am a sophomore at Clemson University and enjoy spending time in my studies, playing intramurals, and serving the community. After watching some close friends struggle with mental health disorders, I came to realize that I am passionate about others' happiness. With that, I hope to eventually find a career in genetic and psychological research of mental health disorders (possibly through Genetic Counseling). I am excited to continue learning and pursuing opportunities while I work towards a future career!"



### **KATERINA SOLTERO**

University of Texas at El Paso | Biomedical Engineering  
Hometown: El Paso, TX  
Research Interest/Area: Biomechanics

"I am a Biomedical Engineering student at the University of Texas at El Paso. My pursuit of this career has been motivated by my empathy for others and my desire to utilize creativity for the betterment of amputees. My goal is to incorporate technology to design and manufacture cutting edge prosthetics and implants at a low cost. As a peer mentor on campus, I enjoy working with incoming freshman to be more involved on campus and succeed in their academic careers."



### **JORDAN TODD**

University of California, San Diego | Biochemistry and Cellular Biology  
Hometown: Coalinga, CA  
Research Interest/Area: Cancer Biology and Metabolism Alterations

“My 2011 high school graduation class was 12 students and is a testament to the small community in which I grew up. I attended community college during high school and continued after my high school graduation until I transferred to UC San Diego in 2013. At UC San Diego, I developed interest in biomedical research and undertook a project studying group A Streptococcus interactions with the innate immune system. I also have a passion for teaching through my teaching experience as both an undergraduate tutor and teacher’s assistant. Therefore, I am motivated to pursue a biomedical research career that incorporates student mentorship and academic teaching. In my free time I really enjoy traveling, going on adventures, cooking, trying new foods, and exercising.”



### **NICHOLAS WATTERS**

Harvard College | Mathematics/Computer Science  
Hometown: Mamaroneck, NY  
Research Interest/Area: Biological Algorithms and Computational Neuroscience

“I grew up in the suburbs of NYC and went to high school in Brooklyn, where I was primarily interested in pure math. Not long after beginning college, my interests diversified to include computational neuroscience, computer science, and artificial intelligence. Aside from academics, I play jazz piano, enjoy various sports (particularly frisbee and squash), am an avid foosball player, and routinely watch David Attenborough’s wildlife films.”



### **KRISTEN WITT**

Harvard College | Molecular and Cellular Biology  
Hometown: Boulder, CO  
Research Interest/Area: Virology and Immunology

“I grew up in a very science-oriented family in a small town outside of Boulder, Colorado. I enjoy the outdoors, hiking, sushi and long walks on the beach. I also enjoy learning about the molecular pathogenesis of global health threats like HIV, and during my time at Harvard I’ve developed a passion for biomedical research. I am excited and honored to be part of the Amgen community, which will allow me to further pursue my growing interest in biotechnology. “



### **MIMI YEN LI**

Harvard College | Human Developmental and Regenerative Biology  
Hometown: New York City, NY  
Research Interest/Area: Vasculogenesis, Angiogenesis

“I spent fifteen years living in NYC and another three in Cambridge/Boston. In the time I’ve spent living in large and busy environments, I’ve developed an interest in community building. I believe that building strong communities is key to helping individuals. Since coming to college, I have worked to build a research community on campus through the Undergraduate Research Association and the National Collegiate Research Conference. Interest in Boston’s diverse neighborhoods has led me to begin volunteering at the Codman Square Health Center in Dorchester, connecting patients to social resources in their community. In my free time, I enjoy running along the Charles River, reading, and (of course) exploring new areas of Boston!”