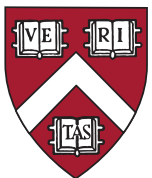


STUDENT DIRECTORY

20
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HARVARD-AMGEN | SCHOLARS | PROGRAM



ANNE BERHE

Pomona College | Molecular Biology

Hometown: Torrance, CA

Research Interest/Area: Infectious Diseases, Immunology

“As an Eritrean-American who has always lived in Southern California, I’m excited to be doing research in Boston. I’m especially interested in infectious diseases because of my past research experiences with antibiotic resistant bacteria and the model organism *C. elegans*. I plan on pursuing a MD-PhD degree so that I can conduct translational research that will benefit underserved communities. At school, I mentor the Pomona Science Scholars, work as a student athletic trainer, and volunteer at a local elementary school. Outside of school, I enjoy running, hiking, cooking, and occasionally binge-watching reality TV.”



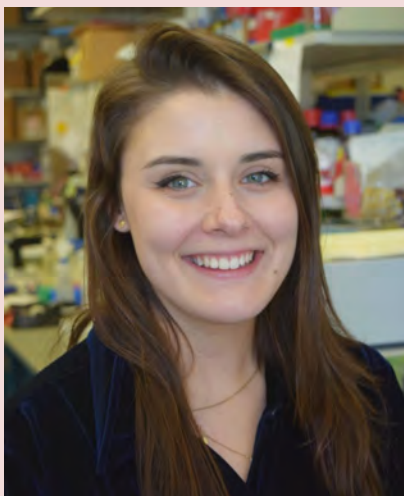
SAYO EWEJE

Harvard College | Bioengineering

Hometown: Jacksonville, North Carolina

Research Interest/Area: Tissue Engineering, Organ and disease modelling

“While my family is Nigerian, I was raised in Jacksonville, North Carolina, a small town in the eastern part of the state. I am very interested in organ and disease modelling, particularly in using tissue-engineered systems to study mechanisms by which diseases arise and persist, then using this information to develop new, targeted therapies. Outside of my research, I am passionate about STEM education and addressing educational access disparities. In my downtime, I love doing all things basketball (watching, talking, and playing) and listening to music.”



JULIA FLORES

Johns Hopkins University | Molecular and Cellular Biology; Public Health

Hometown: Morristown, NJ

Research Interest/Area: Immunology and Infectious Disease

“Both of my parents are medical professionals, so I was surrounded by medicine growing up. It wasn’t until I took a research class in high school that I realized where I fit into the medical field. I am currently investigating the role of P2X4 receptor in the proliferation of prostate cancer. Outside of class, I mentor Baltimore public high school students through Thread, volunteer with Art Brigade at a local rec center, and work at a standardized test prep center. In my free time I love to hike, read, and visit museums.”



MARINA FLORES

California State University, Fresno | Biochemistry

Hometown: Manteca, CA

Research Interest/Area: Stem Cell Therapy and Regenerative Medicine

“I came to Fresno State as part of the Honor’s College to study chemistry. About halfway through my first semester I realized I only enjoy chemistry as it applies to an organism, and so I began working in a neuroscience biochemistry lab on campus. From this experience I have learned much about how research is conducted and made it my life’s mission to continue contributing new knowledge and generating innovative treatments for disease. In my free time I volunteer with the Honor’s College at events all over Fresno, serve as an LSAMP peer mentor, tutor, run, cycle, and play with the fruit flies in the lab.”



YANET GOMEZ

Harvard College | Human Developmental and Regenerative Biology

Hometown: Naples, Florida

Research Interest/Area: Cardiac regeneration and human aging

“I am originally from Cuba and moved to the U.S. when I was eleven years old. I am passionate about medicine, research, and education. My research at Harvard deals with cardiac aging. I am currently studying two proteins that have been shown to modulate the aging of the heart. In my free time, I enjoy spending time outdoors, dancing, watching movies, and eating Cuban food! I am super excited to explore Boston this summer and be part of the Amgen community!”



JUNGHO GONG

Brown University | Chemistry/Visual Art

Hometown: Auburn, AL

Research Interest/Area: Drug Discovery, Pharmacology

“I was born in Daegu, South Korea, but I have lived in Alabama since 2011. I am interested in the intersection between chemistry and medicine, especially drug discovery research. My current project at Brown focuses on syntheses of hydroxyzine analogs and their bioactivities. Outside of the lab, I love drawing and painting in my art studio. I also love spending time at the gym to train for powerlifting.”



LEAH GULYAS

Gettysburg College | Biology (chemistry minor), French

Hometown: Ulster, Pennsylvania

Research Interest/Area: Genetics, epigenetics, and molecular plant biology

“Growing up in rural Pennsylvania, I had very little exposure to the scientific community. It wasn’t until I began my undergraduate years at Gettysburg College that I realized how fascinated I am by genetics, epigenetics, and molecular biology, which has stemmed in large part from my research in *C. elegans* stress response. As a lover of plants, I’m also very interested in how these fields can be applied to plant systems to create solutions to environmentally relevant problems. My other interests/pursuits include: double majoring in French, playing bass clarinet, hiking and kayaking, and watching far too many British detective shows.”



DANIEL ICENHOUR

University of South Florida | Biochemistry

Hometown: Raleigh, NC

Research Interest/Area: Natural Product Discovery and Synthesis

“I was born and raised in Raleigh, North Carolina. I enlisted into the United States Marine Corps out of high school as an aviation mechanic working on two different helicopters, UH-1N Huey’s and AH-1W Cobra’s. I did one deployment for most of 2013 on the USS Kearsarge. After my enlistment, I worked as a Veterinarian technician where my interest into the field of research was sparked after I rescued my pit bull, Groot, who was badly infected with canine heartworms. I am very excited for the opportunity to gain experience and insight into the processes of the discovery and synthesis of natural products.”



NIKKO JEFFREYS

University of California, Berkeley | Bioengineering

Hometown: San Diego, CA

Research Interest/Area: Biomaterials, Mechanotransduction, Cell & Tissue Engineering

“I was born and raised in San Diego, California. As an electrical engineering major at CSU Long Beach, I learned that what truly interests me is the integration of the biological and engineering sciences. I decided to drop out of CSU Long Beach to attend community college, and eventually transferred to UC Berkeley to study bioengineering. My interests lie at the intersectionality of biomaterials science, stem cell biology, and microfabrication technologies. I hope to fuse these disciplines in a Ph.D. program in bioengineering, so I can understand how the extracellular microenvironment effects cell fate to aid in the clinical translation of stem cell therapies. Outside of lab, I enjoy musical improvisation, taking long walks, and playing with my black Labrador retriever, Koa.”



SHEILA JOHNSON

University of Wisconsin-Madison | Biochemistry
Hometown: Fox Point, WI
Research Interest/Area: Biochemistry

“I grew up in Fox Point, Wisconsin, a small suburb near Milwaukee. I am a rising senior at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Over the years I have developed a great interest in biochemistry research and its application to chronic diseases. I am currently studying the mechanism and intermediates that are involved in CoQ biosynthesis in Dave Pagliarini’s lab. After my undergraduate studies, I want to go to graduate school and obtain a PhD in biochemistry. Outside of research, I really enjoy singing, watching Netflix, and spending time with friends and family.”



ELAINE KATZ

Harvard University | Integrative Biology
Hometown: New York, NY
Research Interest/Area: Genetics and Regenerative Biology

“My upbringing in New York presented me with opportunities to develop my passion for science. Experiences at Rockefeller University, where I studied the nucleoporins comprising the midplane ring of the nuclear pore complex, and at Cornell, where I studied the BRAF V600E mutation, furthered my determination to pursue science. At Harvard, I study biology and math and enjoy participating in creative writing and literature courses. My hobbies include meandering outdoors, listening to music, and writing poetry.”



DANIEL KIM

Harvard University | Chemical and Physical Biology
Hometown: Lexington, MA
Research Interest/Area: Cancer Biology, Stem Cell Biology

“Growing up, I was initially set on becoming a professional musician. Experiences performing in community concerts at hospitals and other events inspired me to consider a career in medicine instead. In college, I fell in love with the sciences and math, especially seeing how the different disciplines were intrinsically connected, but never lost my overarching desire to synthesize and apply these fields towards improving the health and lives of others. I am currently pursuing research studying cholangiocarcinoma development and maintenance using genetically induced models. In my free time, I help run Camp Kesem, a summer camp for kids whose parents have cancer, and I like going on runs, skiing, indulging my sweet tooth, and telling bad jokes.”



AMELIA LEON

Florida International University | Biological Sciences

Hometown: Miami, FL

Research Interest/Area: Neuroscience, Cell Biology

“I was born and raised in Miami, but have Hispanic roots in Cuba. My passion for research started my junior year of high school when I participated in the HHMI Summer Research Program at the University of Miami. There, I investigated the efficacy of Schwann Cell Transplantation in paralyzed mice. Since then, my love for research has blossomed and I have now been a part of more than four research projects, in topics ranging from microbiology to conservation. I would ultimately like to focus my research on the mechanisms behind neurodegenerative diseases in the hopes of finding affordable cures for them. Apart from research, I have a huge interest in the environment and volunteer with local organizations to restore native Florida habitats. I also love to play music, learn about cultures, and write stories.”



SABINO MALDONADO-TORRES

New Mexico Tech | Biomedical Sciences conc. Chemistry

Hometown: Los Lunas, NM

Research Interest/Area: Drug Delivery, Cancer, and Tissue Engineering

“Born to proud Mexican immigrants in the booming community of Southern California, I learned to embrace my heritage and to dream ambitiously. As a teen, I was transplanted to my rural, beloved town of Los Lunas, NM. In 2019, I will be graduating from New Mexico Tech becoming the first of my family to graduate college. Since my freshman year, I’ve researched the effects of PPCPs on community of microorganisms in water, soil, and recently the human gut microflora under the guidance of Dr. Gayan Rubasignhege. Last summer, I had the privilege to conduct research at Yale in Dr. Christian Tschudi’s lab assessing the role of RBP6 in the metacyclogenesis of the parasite, *Trypanosoma brucei*. When I am not conducting research or teaching my fellow Techies Chemistry, I can be found swimming with my best friend, volunteering in STEM outreach programs, or indulging the new-hit drama series.”



MADISON MCMINN

Southern Illinois University Carbondale | Chemistry, Minor in Mathematics and Forensic Science

Hometown: Chatham, IL

Research Interest/Area: Analytical Chemistry and Mass Spectrometry

“I became passionate about research when I was invited to present at the American Association for the Advancement of Science’s Annual Conference. This experience led me on the path towards conducting research in college. As a result, I have worked in an analytical chemistry laboratory since freshman year. My research focus is the thermodynamic properties of gas-phase equilibrium in MALDI-MS. The experience of conducting research has led me to pursue a Ph.D. in Chemistry and work as an analytical chemist. Outside of the lab, I am President of the SIUC American Chemical Society Student Chapter, a Saluki Science Ambassador and tutor. I also enjoy trying new recipes and hiking in beautiful southern Illinois.”



SHREYA MENON

Harvard University | Mathematics

Hometown: Ann Arbor, Michigan

Research Interest/Area: Mathematical Biology and Genetics

“I’m from Ann Arbor, a college town in Michigan. I found my passion for scientific research through a high school project. As a rising junior studying mathematics, I am excited by computational biology work with a focus on genetics. Outside of the laboratory, I am patient advocate for Health Leads and I am involved with a program that teaches local elementary school kids to develop healthy eating habits. I am excited to spend the summer doing research, trying new foods and exploring the Boston area.”



EMILY RIVARD

College of the Holy Cross | Biology

Hometown: Shrewsbury, MA

Research Interest/Area: Genetics, Genomics, and Cell Biology

“I grew up in the town of Shrewsbury, MA, and I am currently a biology major and member of the Honors Program at the College of the Holy Cross. I have discovered a passion for genetics research by working in the Findlay Lab at Holy Cross, characterizing newly evolved genes with male reproductive roles in *D. melanogaster*. Outside of research, I work as a biology lab teaching assistant and STEM+E tutor, serve on our biology department’s Student Advisory Committee, and develop student health initiatives as a Student Health Awareness Peer Educator. In my free time, I enjoy playing piano, baking, and reading classic novels.”



DAVID SOKOLOV

West Virginia University | Biology and Mathematics

Hometown: Morgantown, WV

Research Interest/Area: Neurobiology, Cellular/Molecular Biology

“Coincidentally, I was born a mere 20 minutes from Harvard’s campus, and I lived in Boston until moving to West Virginia at age 6. I’m drawn to the complexity of scientific research—the intellectual challenge, the frustratingly long nights at the lab, the nonspecific bands on a Western blot, and those tiny little discoveries that make it all worth it. My current research focuses on a key enzyme involved in metabolism and neuroprotection in the mammalian retina, but I’m excited to expand my research horizons and connect with fellow science geeks this summer. In my (increasingly rare) free time, I enjoy playing music, photography, and Post-It notes.”



ERIC SUN

Harvard University | Chemistry and Physics

Hometown: Pueblo, CO

Research Interest/Area: Aging Biology and Bioinformatics

“I have lived almost entirely in a fringe rural town located in Southern Colorado. My early interests in biology and physics were inspired by the beautiful wildlife, scenic mountains, and starry night skies that I grew up with. These interests were greatly reinforced when I began conducting scientific research. I enjoy the creativity and freedom involved in finding answers to scientific questions. I’ve dabbled in a wide array of research areas including artificial intelligence, aging, evolution, molecular biology, scientific software development, mathematical/theoretical biology, and bioinformatics. Outside of research, I am a casual fan of basketball and boxing and I enjoy occasional exercise and debate. I also have a very neat pet box turtle named Tooty.”



CAROLINE UGOARU

Howard University | Biology

Hometown: Rahway, NJ

Research Interest/Area: Virology & Genetics

“I am a sophomore at Howard University completing a degree in biology. As an aspiring biomedical researcher, I am excited to further my interest in virology and genetics as a Harvard Amgen Scholar. Outside of class, I am heavily involved in mentoring and tutoring. I currently work with adult inmates, juveniles, high school students, and elementary students. On my free time I love to travel, exercise, and watch horror movies.”



IRENA VOLKOV

American University | Neuroscience/Biotechnology

Hometown: Alamo, CA

Research Interest/Area: Brain-machine interfaces, bioengineering, and nanomedicine

“I am an aspiring medical entrepreneur and technologist. I intend to pursue a Ph.D. in bioengineering and focus on how brain-machine interfaces can treat neurological disorders. I am currently conducting research on how intercellular signaling controls the electrical synapse-mediated coupling of retinal neurons. Further, I am working to commercialize prophylactics for the Hantavirus, and a catheter securing device for surgical procedures. I take great pride in my intellectual curiosity and would like to develop a translational research-based company involving multiple disciplines. When I am not volunteering at events with my neuroscience club, assisting biology students in lab, or reading about the latest disruptive innovations, I am a devoted equestrian and classical musician.”



NIKHIL YEDULLA

Wayne State University | Biological Science, Economics

Hometown: Troy, MI

Research Interest/Area: Integrative Cell and Tissue Physiology

“I grew up in Troy, Michigan, a suburb right outside Detroit. As a researcher in the Jena Lab at WSU, I have developed an interest in understanding the molecular basis of cellular secretion processes. Serving as a volunteer leader at the HUDA clinic in Detroit has furthermore inspired my passion for clinical care. Ultimately, I aim to become a physician-scientist in order to better understand the conditions patients face and investigate them through research. My goal is to research the physiological pathways underlying disease and develop improved clinical treatments.”



HARVARD-AMGEN | SCHOLARS | PROGRAM



Photo Credit: Seelai Karzai