



SCHOOL OF  
**MEDICINE &  
DENTISTRY**  
UNIVERSITY of ROCHESTER

**Neuroscience Graduate Program**

*In This Issue*

Introducing Our Newest  
Class of 13 Students!

New Faculty Joining  
the NGP

Award Updates and  
Student Fellowships

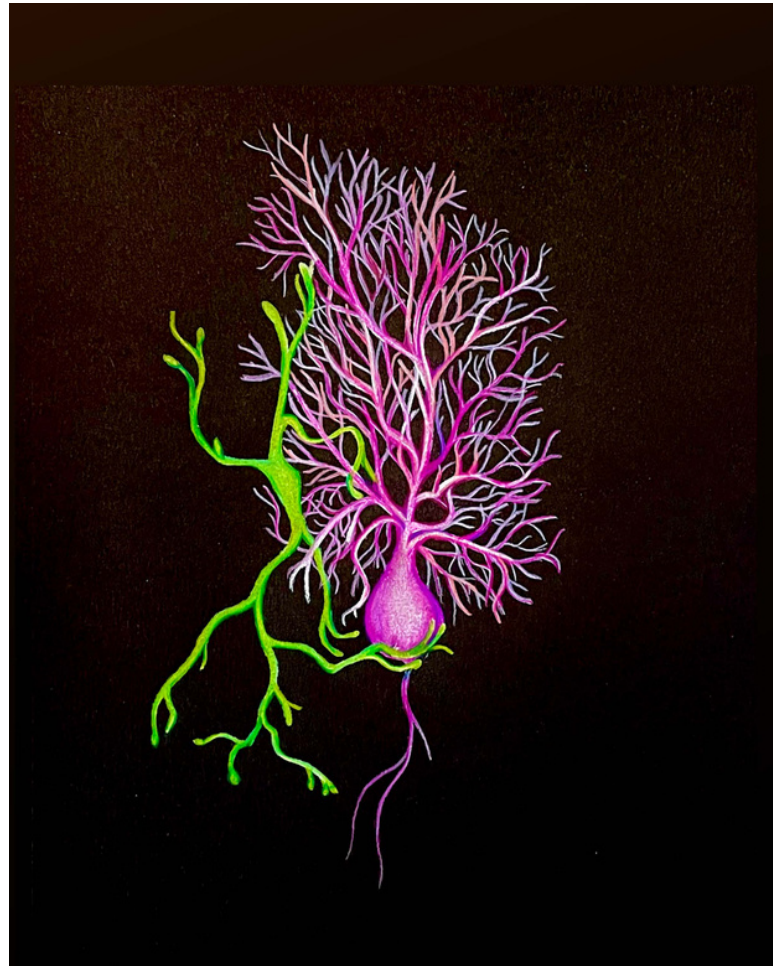


Image Credit: Rianne Stowell, PhD

**URMC NEUROSCIENCE**

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<https://www.urmc.rochester.edu/education/graduate/phd/neurosciences.aspx>

# You're invited!

4<sup>th</sup> Annual  
**University of Rochester  
Neuroscience Graduate Program Social** at SfN

Sunday, November 12<sup>th</sup> • 6:30 pm – 8:30 pm  
Brasserie Beck • 1101 K St. NW  
Washington, DC

Join University of Rochester Neuroscience faculty, alumni,  
and students for an evening of networking and celebration.

Everyone interested in learning more about the Program or  
Institute is welcome to attend.

For more information, please contact [victoria\\_dagostino@urmc.rochester.edu](mailto:victoria_dagostino@urmc.rochester.edu).



Please join us as we honor our  
2023 NGP Alumni Award recipient



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# Neuroscience Graduate Program 2023

## *What's In Our 2023 Issue...*

- **Notes from the NGP Director**
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### Contact Us

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# Neuroscience Graduate Program 2023

## *Notes From the NGP Director*

Dear students, faculty, alumni, staff, and friends,

Hello everyone. The last year has certainly gone by in a flash. Unlike in the years past, this last year really has flown – I feel like I just updated my portion of this very newsletter months ago. Yet here we are, another year down with two years under my belt and well on my way into year three as Director of the Neuroscience Graduate Program (NGP). The last year has certainly felt more normal than the years before and I feel like we are returning to much of our pre-pandemic weekly routine. Although we are all aware that COVID continues to infiltrate our daily lives, we



continue to adapt and have learned how to navigate things. We have grown more comfortable coming together for in-person academic and social gatherings, and it is really nice to see all of us out and about. I continue to learn about what it takes to be a program director – some things have gotten easier while others continue to test me. Our program is thriving and with growth comes challenges that require us all to put our heads together to hopefully make things better for everyone. During the last year, I have had the opportunity to observe just how amazing our students are and how much they care about the program. They are the best at selling our program and singing its praises. The word does get out as comments from prospective students speak highly about many aspects of what we are trying to accomplish here. I also recently joined undergraduates working in NGP labs over at the undergraduate research fair on the river campus, and they are a fantastic bunch. Many of them are applying to NGP this upcoming cycle and we will be fortunate to snag them. As always, I am indebted to all the staff, students, and faculty, in NGP, GEPA, and the broader university community for your flexibility, dedication, and teamwork to just getting things done. There is always so much to celebrate and I want to express my gratitude to all those that give to our program and keep it on track.

Thanks to Farran Briggs for her role as our Admissions Chair. She is sadly stepping down but we are grateful that the super-abled Madalina Tivarus will be taking over – I have no doubt she will continue to lead our admission efforts with grace and purpose. I also want to recognize the hard work of our faculty and student admissions committees who volunteer such huge swaths of time to ensure our admission efforts continue to evolve and remain successful. As a nod to the success of the NGP, nearly 200 students applied for entry into our program for Fall 2023. The admissions committee, through many, many hours of review and discussions, had the challenging task of selecting our newest cohort from an incredibly-talented and competitive applicant pool. Our incoming 2023 NGP class is represented by thirteen unique and spectacular students who all showed up mid-August, two weeks before classes, ready for our NGP bootcamp, a new rigor and experimental design workshop, and a palpable frenzy to get rotations lined up and the semester on its way. Thanks to the Boot Camp Committee and all the NGP students who pitched in to make this opening bid successful for our new students – it is the first opportunity for them to feel like they are really part of the NGP community. Our second and third year students were and are in the throes of completing their Part I and Part II qualifying exams and at least four to five of our senior

*cont'd p. 5*

# Neuroscience Graduate Program 2023

## *Notes From the NGP Director*

students hope to defend their dissertation research work in the next year. Four NGP students and four NGP faculty were recently recognized at the recent GEPA awards held in the Flaum Atrium. Although I really can't take any credit for their accomplishments, it is so satisfying to hear "from Neuroscience" called out so many times. Thanks to our NGP students for doing what you do and our NGP faculty for your great mentorship. I am thrilled to be a part of it all.

In the last year, five of our senior students successfully completed the requirements for their PhD and began their journey towards a host of exciting and new opportunities. Allison Murphy has taken a position as a postdoctoral associate in Kristina Nielsen's lab at Johns Hopkins, Kate Andersh is now working as a Scientific Project Manager at NIH, Garrick Salois is a postdoctoral fellow here in the the EHS Toxicology Training Program, Berke Karaahmet is a postdoctoral associate at Columbia University, and Anjali Sinha accepted a postdoctoral appointment in Maria Geffen's lab at the University of Pennsylvania. We miss them all but we wish them many well-deserved successes in their new roles. Hopefully, like so many of our alumni, they will continue to reflect fondly upon their time here and inspire emerging neuroscientists that cross their paths to consider calling our NGP home. They are certainly welcomed back anytime they want to visit and we look forward to hearing about their successes in the months ahead.

The NGP continues to grow in many ways. We are in the fourth year of our T32 which will continue to support the training for four of our students. We also welcomed six new faculty into the program this year (see page 14-15) with several others in the pipeline. Amazingly, we are a few faculty short of hitting the 100-faculty mark. To learn more about all the exciting research here in the NGP and support our amazing students, consider joining us for the student seminar series held every Monday at 4pm. Special thanks to Yanya Ding, Erin Murray, Benjamin Suarez-Jimenez, and Gabriella Sterne for keeping our student seminar up and running, and to Gail Johnson, Lauren Hablitz, and Ian Fiebelkorn for maintaining our Journal Clubs, and to all the NGP faculty that participate to make our courses successful. Thanks to Julian Meeks for taking over NSC512 and navigating that first block without Dr. Shrager at the helm – a formidable task for any of us. Thanks again to our retreat committee for organizing another fantastic Neuroscience Retreat at the Memorial Art Gallery in April. Much thanks to the Neuroscience Office for keeping me and frankly most of us out of the deep end – I really appreciate everything you do. Special thanks to my coordinator Tori D'Agostino who in all fairness should be the NGP Director – I am grateful to have you on my team and to keep this train moving. If I look like I know what I am doing, it all because of Tori. Ask the students and they will tell you who really is in charge. Last but certainly not least, the true reach of our program is captured in our Alumni Directory at the end of this newsletter. We are proud to call all of you family and enjoy hearing from you, so please continue to help us update this directory. While I have acknowledged only a fraction of the people that make this all possible, there are so many more whose efforts deserve recognition. So, in closing, I want to thank each and every member of our NGP community for all that you do. I look forward to working with you in the year ahead.

Warm Regards,  
Chris Holt, PhD

# Neuroscience Graduate Program 2023

## *Notes From the NGP Admissions Committee Chair*

2023 was an amazing recruitment year for the NGP! Of the almost 200 applications that we received, we interviewed 45 applicants virtually and then invited all accepted applicants to visit UR for an in-person recruitment weekend. Of the 27 applicants to whom we offered admission, 13 joined the NGP this Fall. Our incoming class is once again a unique group with wide-ranging scientific interests and backgrounds. We can't wait to welcome our incoming NGP first year class to boot camp in just a few days. A huge factor in our success this recruitment season was the incredible Tori D'Agostino, who returned as NGP coordinator just prior to the start of recruitment. THANK YOU, TORI!!!!



Also critical to our recruiting success was our outstanding and dedicated student admissions committee: Andrea Campbell, Mike DuHain, Alexis Fiedler, Leslie Gonzales, Mariah Marrero, Lelo Shamambo, Caitlin Sharp, and Tori Popov - without all of you, we could never recruit these bright young scholars. I also cannot overstate my gratitude to our faculty admissions committee for their significant commitment to NGP and their hard work. Thank you to Chris Holt, Marissa Sobolewski, Jude Mitchell, Gail Johnson, Nathan Smith, Liz Romanski, Madalina Tivarus, Julian Meeks, Michael Telias, and Ben Suarez-Jimenez.

NGP continues to lead graduate programs across UR at attracting and recruiting the best applicants and our incoming NGP 2023 class again showcases this trend. As admissions chair, I continue to be inspired by the commitment among NGP students and faculty to our holistic and student-focused model of graduate education. We continue to evolve and adapt in the face of challenges and our program will thrive because of this foundation that we have built. As always, we welcome your feedback on our admissions process and we are always looking for students and faculty to join in our recruitment efforts.

Farran Briggs, PhD  
NGP Admissions Committee Chair

# Neuroscience Graduate Program 2023

## *Notes From the Neuroscience Department Chair*

As we near the end of 2023, I cannot help but reflect on our students, their incredible contributions to science, and their own academic accomplishments. We have congratulated five newly minted PhDs and have four on the docket for the next few months. This August, we welcomed 12 PhD students and one MD/PhD student into the Neuroscience Graduate Program after receiving a record-breaking number of applications.



Our faculty and students never cease to amaze me. The breadth of research investigated by our labs, led by many of our students, and published in peer-reviewed journals brings each hypothesis closer to the ultimate questions we aim to answer—how does the brain work, and how to prevent, treat, and care for neurodegenerative and neuropsychiatric disorders. It is a true honor to witness the tenacity of the people at the heart of our labs.

The Neuroscience Diversity Commission continues its mission to provide equitable access to neuroscience. Its newest outreach program, NEURO2ALL, completed a new course within the School of Medicine and Dentistry and developed modules for community outreach opportunities for UR and URMC students at all levels. The group held its first community event at the Rochester Museum and Science Center this spring. Aiming to impact the access and opportunities for aspiring neuroscientists at all academic levels, the Commission hosted its first postdoctoral fellows as part of the NEUROYES program. Its NEUROEAST program, which provides research opportunities to local high school students, is expanding. And NEUROCITY, its program aimed at undergraduates, led two alumni to the University to continue their neuroscience research journey. More about these programs can be found at [Your paragraph text](#)

I hope to see many in our neuroscience community at the Society for Neuroscience Conference in Washington D.C. Please join us on Sunday evening as we host a social event to spark collaborations, reunite old friends, and celebrate the success of our peers and colleagues.

In Science,

John J. Foxe, PhD



# Neuroscience Graduate Program 2023

## *Incoming Class of 2023*

*45 prospective student virtual interviews over two days, each with 4 faculty interviews and 3 student interviews, followed by two in person visits, we are exceptionally proud to introduce our class of 12 PhD and 1 MD/PhD candidates!*



**Aiesha Anchan** - Aiesha Anchan graduated from Marquette University with a B.S. in Biomedical Sciences with a minor in Neuroscience. During her undergraduate career, she worked in the lab of Dr. Jennifer Evans, where she investigated the mechanisms that guided circadian development, as well as understanding the cell subpopulations within the SCN. After her undergrad, she continued to work in the Evans lab, mentoring undergraduate students and further growing her understanding on the circadian clock and sex differentiated behavior. At URMC, Aiesha plans to explore neuroscience and further her interests in environmental toxicology, neurodegeneration, and development.

**Siddharth Chittaranjan** - Siddharth Chittaranjan is an MD/PhD student who graduated from the University of California, Berkeley in 2020 with a BA in Molecular and Cell Biology (Immunology/Infectious Disease emphasis) and a BA in English. His undergraduate research investigated host-pathogen interactions for chlamydial infections of human primary cells. Lessons from infectious disease inspired his interest in understanding the biological dynamics that govern the progression of healthy states into diseased states for neurological conditions, with particular interest in brain cancers. He hopes to further develop his interest in the dynamics of neurological disease by studying glial cells and neuron-glia interactions at URMC. In his free time, he enjoys cooking and inviting people over for tea.



**Amelia Hines** - Amelia Hines graduated in 2022 from Colorado State University with a B.S. in Microbiology. She worked under Drs Ronald Tjalkens and Julie Moreno as an undergraduate researcher and after graduation as a research associate. Her research in the lab focused on Canine Cognitive Dysfunction, a disease sharing many characteristics clinically and pathologically with human Alzheimer's Disease. At CSU, she also became involved with the human anatomy program and found a passion for both gross anatomy and neuroanatomy through cadaver dissection courses. While at University of Rochester, Amelia hopes to continue exploring research in neurodegeneration and would like to become involved with translational and clinical research in the future.



# Neuroscience Graduate Program 2023

## *Incoming Class of 2023*



**Aaron Huynh** - Aaron Huynh received a B.S. in Brain and Cognitive Sciences with Distinction from the University of Rochester in 2022. His undergraduate research career began with Dr. Martina Poletti in the Active Perception Lab, looking at perceptual deficits associated with crowding in foveal vision. Later, he joined Dr. Duje Tadin's lab, where he worked on various projects involving lifespan categorical decision-making, binocular rivalry under naturalistic conditions using virtual reality (VR), and an ECG-based personalization engine for speed of processing cognitive training in older adults in collaboration with Dr. Feng Vankee Lin at Stanford University. He ended his undergraduate research journey with Dr. Elise Piazza, where he investigated prosodic prototypes and adaptation in interpersonal human communication. Following graduation, he spent a year as a Postbaccalaureate Research Education Program (PREP) trainee at the University of Rochester Medical Center (URMC). During his time as a PREP trainee at URMC, he worked under Dr. Michelle Janelsins and Dr. AnnaLynn Williams within the Division of Supportive Care in Cancer in the Department of Surgery. There he completed a project looking at the changes in S100 calcium binding protein  $\beta$  (S100 $\beta$ ) and cognitive function from pre- to post-chemotherapy among women with breast cancer. At URMC, Aaron plans to learn about various neuroimaging techniques and their translational implications in the clinical setting as well as associations with patient outcomes and treatment.

**Aishwarya Jayan** - Aishwarya graduated from the University of Maryland, College Park in 2021 with a degree in Neurobiology and Physiology. During her undergraduate studies, she conducted research at UMD to determine quantitative diagnostic measures for attention-deficit hyperactive disorder (ADHD) and Parkinson's disease. In 2021 Aishwarya joined the lab of Dr. Yeka Aponte at the National Institute of Drug Abuse, a part of the National Institutes of Health, as a postbaccalaureate IRTA research fellow. During her time in the Aponte Lab, Aishwarya explored hypothalamic circuits in mice as they pertained to survival behaviours such as feeding and threat response. Her goal for her time at URMC is to use techniques in computational neuroscience to explore cognition, perception, and psychiatric disorders.



# Neuroscience Graduate Program 2023

## *Incoming Class of 2023*



**Niki Lam** - Niki Lam graduated from SUNY Geneseo in 2020 with a B.A. in Psychology. As an undergraduate, she conducted research in Dr. Vincent Markowski's lab looking at the social-behavioral effects of tetrahydrocannabinol in a rodent model. Additionally, she worked in the Sibling-Peer Research Group headed by Dr. Ganie DeHart examining sibling and peer relationships in the context of observed aggression and rough-and-tumble-play behaviors in children. After graduation, she began a postbaccalaureate fellowship under the mentorships of Dr. Dante Picchioni and Dr. Jeff Duyn in the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke. Her main project examined the role of region size on seed-based functional correlations in sleep fMRI. During her time in the NGP, she hopes to explore how human neuroimaging techniques can be used in finding biomarkers for early diagnosis of neurodegeneration.

**Gavin Magill** - Gavin Magill received a B.S. in Biology from Willamette University. As an undergraduate, he participated in Oregon Health and Science University's Equity Research program through the Knight Cancer Institute where he worked under mentorship from Dr. Joshua Saldivar, Dr. Michael Brasino, and Dr. Carlos Origel Marmolejo to genetically engineer E. coli for accessible early cancer detection. At URM, Gavin plans to research the mechanisms of neural plasticity and psychoplastogens, such as ketamine and other psychedelic-like compounds, to treat mood disorders such as depression and anxiety, as well as chronic pain.



**Stacey Pedraza** – Stacey Pedraza recently graduated with honors from Boise State University with a B.S. in Biology (Cellular, Molecular, Biomedical emphasis) and a Psychology minor. During her time at Boise State, she conducted research in biochemistry, biophysics, microbiology, and sociology. Her first mentorship was alongside Dr. Leonora Bittleston where she analyzed the wheat seed microbiome and the digestive fluid of the pitcher plant. Here, Stacey earned authorship for a paper that is currently pending publication. During her biochemistry research, alongside Dr. Lisa Warner, she modeled a protein-enzyme interaction to identify structural changes. In her last year at Boise State, she joined Dr. Daniel Fologea in analyzing the effects of mechanical stress on artificial lipid membranes. Despite having no neuroscience research, Stacey's passion for the field persisted. At URM, Stacey aims to explore the cellular and molecular mechanisms involved in neuroplasticity and/or mental illnesses.

*cont'd p. 11*

# Neuroscience Graduate Program 2023

## *Incoming Class of 2023*

**Nicole Popp** –Nicole graduated from Allegheny College in 2020 with a BS in neuroscience and a minor in French. While at Allegheny, she worked in the lab of Dr. Lauren French and completed her senior thesis studying the affect of an anesthetic compound on a voltage-gated calcium channel to better understand the anesthetic’s potential to cause seizures in pre-clinical models. After graduating, she worked as a research technician in the lab of Dr. Kristi Streeter at Marquette University. In that position, she used in-vivo electrophysiology techniques to study respiratory neuroplasticity and recovery from spinal cord injury, and was able to publish her research in the journal *Respiratory Physiology & Neurobiology*. While Nicole aims to broaden her knowledge in all aspects of neuroscience during her time at the University of Rochester, she would like to focus her research on understanding mechanisms of neurodegeneration.



**Staci Rocco** - Staci Rocco earned her B.S.in Cellular and Molecular Biology from California State University, Sacramento in 2023, with a minor in Chemistry. As an undergraduate, she engaged in research under the mentorship of Dr. Andrew Reams. Her research efforts were dedicated to unraveling the origins of gene amplification mutations and elucidating their underlying molecular mechanisms. Notably, her findings have played a role in advancing our knowledge of potential cancer treatments and the advantages of early detection. Now, at URMC, Staci aspires to bridge the scientific fields of neuroscience and epigenetics. Her goal is to deepen our knowledge of the intricate changes that transpire in the brain following trauma exposure, which can contribute to the development of neuropsychiatric disorders. Staci is dedicated to advancing our knowledge of these complexities and playing a role in the progress toward more effective treatments.

**Thomas Scudder** – Thomas Scudder graduated from the University of Massachusetts Amherst with a B.Sc. in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, double-minoring in Mathematics and Physics, in 2021. He continued on at UMass to graduate with a M.Sc. in Cellular and Molecular Biology, with a focus in Biochemistry and Molecular Biophysics, in 2023. As an undergraduate he worked as a research intern for WHOI in the lab of Dr. Julie Huber, identifying and metabolically characterizing novel extremophilic prokaryotes harvested from hydrothermal vents. For his Master’s thesis, he worked with Dr. Peter Chien, investigating the domain interactions between bacterial AAA+ protease adaptors and their role in regulating protein degradation. Specifically, his work identified, in *Caulobacter crescentus*, the exact domain and residues of the PopA adaptor that were responsible for binding to the RcdA adaptor and delivery of the master regulatory protein, CtrA, to the protease for degradation. His research interest at URMC is in elucidating the biochemical and molecular biophysical regulators of memory, cognition, and various neuropathologies.



*cont'd p. 12*

# Neuroscience Graduate Program 2023

## *Incoming Class of 2023*

**Leah Sheppard** – Leah Sheppard graduated from the University of Alabama at Birmingham in 2023 with a B.S. in Neuroscience. As an undergraduate, she conducted research on the role of Semaphorin 6D (SEMA6D), an axon guidance molecule, in Attention-Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) onset and symptomatology in young adult mice under the direction of Dr. Qin Wang. She also joined Dr. Farah Lubin’s lab where she focused on how DNA hydroxymethylation influenced activity-dependent genes in Temporal Lobe Epilepsy using the Kainic Acid rat model. At URMC, Leah hopes to explore the cellular and molecular mechanisms involved in neurodegenerative and neurodevelopmental disorders. She also hopes to take steps towards using her research to help shape public policy or the law.



**Erica Squire** - Erica Squire received a B.S. in Biochemistry from the University of Oregon in 2018. As an undergraduate, she worked with Dr. Jeff McKnight to design fusion proteins capable of targeted nucleosome repositioning as a tool for studying chromatin dynamics. Upon graduating, she joined a postbaccalaureate training fellowship at the Food and Drug Administration in the laboratory of Dr. Ronald Rabin. Here, she studied the role of innate immune signaling in airway epithelial cells in response to viral infection. She then joined the lab of Dr. Daniele Piomelli at University of California, Irvine as a research associate. Her main project was in exploring the persistent impact of low-dose delta-9-tetrahydrocannabinol on microglia, the resident immune cell of the central nervous system. In the Neuroscience Graduate Program, Erica hopes to explore the impact of immune signaling in both neurodevelopmental and psychiatric disorders.

# Neuroscience Graduate Program 2023

## *Student Fellowships & Awards*

### **2023 GEPA Awards**



Aiesha Anchan is the recipient of the Graduate Alumni Fellowship.



Ania Majewska, PhD is the recipient of the Graduate Student Society Advocacy Award.



Amelia Hines is the recipient of the Merritt and Marjorie Cleveland Fellowship.



Nathan Smith, PhD is the recipient of the Graduate Student Society Advocacy Award.



Linh Le is the recipient of the Outstanding Student Mentor Award.



Marissa Sobolewski, PhD is the recipient of the Outstanding Graduate Student Teacher Award.



Nicole Popp is the recipient of the Irving L. Spar Fellowship.



Pat White, PhD is the recipient of the Outstanding T32 Program Director Award.

### **Student Fellowships**

MaKenna Cealie - NIH - F31AA030445 - Effects of Developmental Ethanol Exposure on Cerebellar Microglia and Purkinje Cells (6/1/2022-5/31/2025)

Johanna Fritzingler - NIH - F31DC020630 - Physiological and Computational-Modeling Studies of Timbre Encoding in the Inferior Colliculus (9/1/2022-8/31/2025)

John (Jay) Gonzalez-Amoretti - NIH - F31EY035559 - Characterizing Population Dynamics of Prefrontal Cortex which Govern the Modulation of Visual Processing (4/14/2024-3/13/2028)

Emily Przysinda - NIH - F30MH130104 - Neurophysiology of social processing and underlying perceptual deficits in schizophrenia (1/1/2022-3/31/2026)

# Neuroscience Graduate Program 2023

## *New NGP Faculty*



**Ania Busza, MD, PhD**

My lab studies post-stroke motor impairment. We have developed a gamified EMG human-computer interface to collect data on how specific motor control abnormalities emerge after a stroke. We then combine this data with information from neuroimaging, transcranial magnetic stimulation, and behavioral assays to learn more about the effect of different stroke locations on motor control. Additional projects in the lab include using gyroscopic and accelerometer data from wearable sensors to categorize and quantify rehabilitation dose (in collaboration with Professor Gaurav Sharma, Dept of Electrical and Computer Engineering) and using VR technology and finger tracking to study proprioception in patients with cerebellar damage due to stroke (in collaboration with Professor Dujie Tadin, Dept of Brain and Cognitive Science). We also participate in multicenter clinical trials that study social, genetic, and neuroanatomical predictors of post-stroke recovery. By better understanding the relationship between stroke location, rehabilitation practice, and recovery, we hope to ultimately create personalized and more effective therapy for patients with disability from stroke.



**Manoela Fogaca, PhD**

Research in my lab focuses on understanding the molecular basis of behaviors relevant to stress and the actions of fast antidepressant and anxiolytic drugs, aiming to identify specific circuits, neuronal subpopulations and synaptic mechanisms involved in these responses. Because currently available antidepressants have serious limitations for treating Major Depressive Disorder (MDD), including low response rates, a significant number of treatment resistant patients, and a time-lag before there is a therapeutic response, the lab is interested in exploring new pharmacological strategies to treat MDD, including compounds that target the glutamatergic and/or the GABAergic systems in the brain, such as ketamine, ketamine-like drugs and GABA receptor modulators. To achieve this goal, we combine molecular neuropharmacology, genetic approaches and circuit-level studies of neurobiological systems to investigate how specific subpopulations of GABAergic (notably somatostatin and parvalbumin interneurons) and glutamatergic neurons crosstalk to modulate excitation and inhibition network dynamics that lead to phenotypes relevant to stress disorders and to the actions of fast antidepressants.



**Frank Garcea, PhD**

The ability to manipulate objects skillfully and accurately is a fundamental motor function supporting activities of daily life. The scientific objective of the Garcea Lab is to advance understanding of the cognitive and neuroanatomic mechanisms underlying human tool use. Our group uses neuropsychological testing, functional MRI, and high definition fiber tractography to test causal hypotheses in persons with brain injury.

*cont'd p. 15*

# Neuroscience Graduate Program 2023

## *New NGP Faculty*



**Paul Geha, MD**

The Pain and Perceptions Lab focuses on pain and hedonic perceptions. We are interested in understanding the neural mechanisms that transform nociceptive input to painful perceptions in humans and how these mechanisms change in chronic pain. Pain and nociception are closely related to somatosensory (e.g., touch) and hedonic perceptions and therefore we also study such experiences with the aim of disentangling pain from non-painful perception and understanding how hedonic perception goes awry in chronic pain patients.



**Marius Cătălin Iordan, PhD**

Our lab studies how visual and semantic knowledge (e.g., objects, scenes, concepts, categories, events) are learned, organized, and modulated by attention in human behavior, in the human brain, and in artificial neural networks. We take an interdisciplinary approach that uses human experiments involving complex naturalistic stimuli and applied machine learning, together with a diverse array of methods and experimental techniques: neuroimaging (fMRI), psychophysics, CNNs, and real-time neurofeedback (neural sculpting). Current research directions in the lab include: (1) investigating ecologically-relevant aspects of visual and semantic cognition (e.g., categorization, learning, efficient perception) in the brain and in behavior; (2) improving automatic prediction of human behavioral judgments and neural responses from large-scale human-centric data, e.g., by using neural networks; and (3) probing the causal links between human neural representations and behavior and potentially improving human cognitive processes via neurofeedback and neural sculpting.



**Gabriella Sterne, PhD**

The overarching goal of my lab is to understand how neural circuits generate and shape complex behavior. We study feeding behavior in the fruit fly, *Drosophila melanogaster*, to reveal general and fundamental principles about neural circuit organization and function. Current projects in the Sterne Lab address how feeding motor sequences are generated, how feeding is properly timed, and how feeding experiences are remembered. We study these questions by combining connectomics, advanced genetic tools, high-resolution analysis of behavior, and imaging in awake, behaving animals. Understanding the circuit mechanisms that govern feeding in the fly will shed light on the general strategies that neural circuits use to compute behavioral decisions, control movement, and store information. An improved understanding of these strategies is essential for the rational design of therapies for human circuitopathies.

# Neuroscience Graduate Program 2023

## *Neuroscience Retreat*



The Neuroscience Graduate Program presents:  
**Neuroscience Retreat 2023**

**Kristina Nielsen, Ph.D. (keynote)**  
Associate Professor of Neuroscience,  
Johns Hopkins University

**Julian Meeks, Ph.D.**  
Associate Professor of Neuroscience,  
Department of Neuroscience

**Bartosz Kula, Ph.D.**  
Postdoctoral Fellow  
The Smith Lab

**Fara Zakusilo, Ph.D.**  
M.D., Ph.D. Candidate  
Gorbunova and Seluanov Lab

Join us **in person** at the Memorial Art Gallery  
for a day full of exciting science, great food,  
and some human-to-human interaction!

**Registration**

**April 14th 2023**  
9:00am  
(Breakfast at 8:30am)

Memorial Art Gallery, 500 University  
Ave., Rochester, NY, 14607

RSVP by April 7th

Photo Credit: Rick Libby, Ph.D.

Poster/Program Design: Ph.D. Candidate Lia Calcines Rodriguez

A special thank you to the 2023 NGP Retreat Committee  
for putting together such a successful event!

Mark Stoessel (President)  
Lia Calcines Rodriguez (Vice President)  
Silei Zhu  
Jingyi Yang  
Linh Le  
Krishnan Padmanabhan, Ph.D.  
Tori D'Agostino

**2023 Peter Shrager Award Winner:**  
**M. Kerry O'Banion, M.D., Ph.D.**



**2023 Doty Award Winner:**  
**Udaysankar Chockanathan, PhD**



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# Neuroscience Graduate Program 2023

## *2023 Neuroscience Retreat*



### **Student Speaker: Fara Zakusilo, PhD**

Fara joined the MD-PhD program at the University of Rochester and in 2018, joined Gorbunova and Seluanov lab under supervision of Dr. Gorbunova and Dr. M. Kerry O'Banion to pursue a PhD in Neurobiology and Anatomy, studying the role of hyaluronic acid in Alzheimer's disease in naked-mole-rat hyaluronan synthase transgenic mice. She is currently back in medical school finishing the clinical portion of her training.

### **Post-Doctoral Fellow Speaker: Bartosz Kula, PhD**

Bartosz has been working as a postdoctoral fellow with Dr. Nathan Smith since 2020, He is working on a project titled "Protecting the Aging Brain: Self-Organizing Networks and Multi-Scale Dynamics Under Energy Constraints". This project aims to establish a model of pharmacologically induced-acute insulin resistance in the brain and to reverse the detrimental effects of insulin resistance via novel ketone ester supplementation in hope of circumventing problems with glucose utilization during insulin resistance.



### **Faculty Speaker: Julian Meeks, PhD**

Dr. Meeks is an Associate Professor of Neuroscience at the University of Rochester. His lab studies the neural circuits of the mouse accessory olfactory system, best known for its role in detecting pheromones, and how these circuits respond to recent chemosensory experience.



### **Keynote Speaker: Kristina Nielson, PhD**

Dr. Kristina Nielsen is an Associate Professor in the Department of Neuroscience and the Scientific Director of the Zanvyl Krieger Mind/Brain Institute at Johns Hopkins University. Dr. Nielsen's lab tackles fundamental questions about the organization of visual circuits across multiple species including how those circuits are formed during development and how that organization contributes to visual perception.



# Neuroscience Graduate Program 2023

## *Congratulations To Our Newest PhD Recipients*



Anjali Sinha

Defense: 8/8/2023

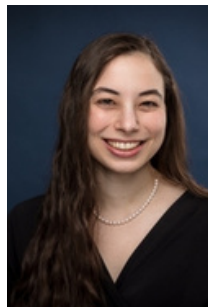
Title: Role of mAChR signaling and M-currents in EVS mediated responses of mammalian vestibular afferents



Katherine Andersh

Defense: 5/1/2023

Title: The role of proinflammatory cytokines in glaucomatous neurodegeneration



Allison Murphy

Defense: 4/11/2023

Title: Structure and Function of Corticogeniculate Feedback



Garrick Salois

Defense: 3/29/2023

Title: Iron deficiency alters inhibitory neuron precursor population dynamics in human ventral forebrain organoids



Berke Karaahmet

Defense 2/1/2023

Title: Immunomodulatory approaches to Alzheimer's Disease

# Neuroscience Graduate Program 2023

## *University of Rochester Brain Awareness Campaign*

The UR Brain Awareness Campaign (BAC) is a group dedicated to outreach and education about all things brains! It is a student-led organization, with the committee including graduate students from the Neuroscience and the Brain and Cognitive Science programs. This year's committee included (from left to right in the photo): Paige Nicklas, Kathryn Toffolo, Sanjana Kapisthalam, Olympia Mathiaparanam, Abi Alpers, Evan Newbold, and Cody McKee. The group is passionate about getting children and the general public excited about neuroscience through engaging, hands-on activities and events.

In February, we held our 7th annual Brain Bee fully in person for the first time since 2020! Our competition welcomed 13 high schoolers from 8 different schools in the area. This year we had the most contestants since we started hosting the competition in 2017, and also the highest % correct we've ever had. These students are truly impressive! Our winner was Maureen Zhang! She was unable to attend the national competition, though. So, our runner-up, Cole Jerum, went on to the University of California – Irving to represent us at the National Brain Bee Competition. After nationals, Cole reports "The National Brain Bee was an amazing experience and it has given me a newfound interest in neuroscience and the brain!"

We also organized visits to schools in April for National Brain Awareness Week – again, this was our first year back to doing this fully in-person! This year, our events were themed around movement and motor learning. The kids got a little dizzy, had their vision tricked, and traced their way through mirror mazes – all while discovering how their brains work and learn. Through these visits, we reached over 400 students in the Rochester area!

The committee would like to send a HUGE thank you to everyone that has contributed in some way to the success of BAC. We could not function without our enthusiastic volunteers, those who generously participate in our fundraisers, or those who help us spread the word about BAC! Thank you all for a successful year, and the committee is looking forward to another great year of brain awareness!



# Neuroscience Graduate Program 2023

## *PONS*

The Pre-doctoral Organization for the Neurosciences (PONS) has served as a bridge for the neuroscience and neurology focused student groups at the University of Rochester. PONS hosts a Luncheon Roundtable Series to expose pre-doctoral students to current topics and research opportunities in interdisciplinary neuroscience. This year's panel discussion topics and presenters included:

Schizophrenia & The Brain: Steve Lamberti, MD + Judy Thompson, PhD + Kuan Wang, PhD

Mind Your Brain: Ronald Epstein, MD + Suzannah Iadarola, PhD + Christopher Niemiec, PhD

Mental Health & Wellness: Suzanne Haber, PhD + Benjamin Suarez-Jimenez, PhD

All students interested in partaking in PONS or those with suggestions for new activities should visit our websites <http://blogs.rochester.edu/pons>, <http://www.rochestersfn.org/pons>, or contact us at [urmcpoms@gmail.com](mailto:urmcpoms@gmail.com).

2022-2023 PONS members include Kathryn Toffolo, Luke Shaw, Linh Le, Tori Popov, and Catalina Guzman

**Luncheon Roundtable Series**  
**Schizophrenia & The Brain**  
Catered lunch and discussion of current schizophrenia related research with featured panelists:

**Steve Lamberti, MD**  
•Professor of Psychiatry

**Judy Thompson, PhD**  
•Clinical Psychologist

**Kuan Hong Wang, PhD**  
•Professor in the Department of Neuroscience

Thursday, February 23rd, 2023 from 3-4 PM  
1-9545 Natapow Conference Room

**Luncheon Roundtable Series**

**Mind Your Brain**  
*How mindfulness and meditation promote self, patient, and professional well-being*

Featuring invited panelists:  
Ronald Epstein, M.D.  
Suzannah Iadarola, Ph.D.  
Christopher Niemiec, Ph.D.

April 13<sup>th</sup> 11am - Noon  
Meliora Hall Room 474

**Luncheon Roundtable Series**

**Mental health and wellness**  
*Therapeutic efforts for treatment of mental illnesses*

Featuring invited panelists:  
Dr. Suzanne Haber  
Dr. Benjamin Suarez-Jimenez

Wednesday, April 12 @ 12:30-1:30pm  
LeChase Assembly Room, G-9576

# Neuroscience Graduate Program 2023

## *Student and Alumni Publications*

**Sinha AK**, Lee C, Holt JC (2023) Elucidating the role of muscarinic acetylcholine receptor (mAChR) signaling in efferent mediated responses of vestibular afferents in mammals. *bioRxiv*. 2023 Aug 6:2023.07.31.549902.

Li, H., **Le, L.**, Marrero, M., David-Bercholz, J., Caceres, A. I., Lim, C., Chiang, W., Majewska, A. K., Terrando, N., & Gelbard, H. A. (2023). Neutrophilia with damage to the blood-brain barrier and neurovascular unit following acute lung injury. *bioRxiv : the preprint server for biology*, 2023.10.16.562508. <https://doi.org/10.1101/2023.10.16.562508>

Na, D., Yang, Y., Xie, L., Piekna-Przybylska, D., **Bunn, D.**, **Shamambo, M.**, & White, P. (2023). Neuroinflammation in a Mouse Model of Alzheimer's Disease versus Auditory Dysfunction: Machine Learning Interpretation and Analysis. *Research square*, rs.3.rs-3370200. <https://doi.org/10.21203/rs.3.rs-3370200/v1>

Wang, X., Delle, C., Peng, W., Plá, V., **Giannetto, M.**, Kusk, P., Sigurdsson, B., Sakurai, S., Sweeney, A., Sun, Q., Du, T., Libby, R. T., & Nedergaard, M. (2023). Age- and glaucoma-induced changes to the ocular glymphatic system. *Neurobiology of disease*, 188, 106322. Advance online publication. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.nbd.2023.106322>

**Yang J**, Saionz EL, Cavanaugh MR, Fahrenthold BK, Melnick MD, Tadin D, Briggs F, Carrasco M, Huxlin KR, (2023 Sep 02). Contrast sensitivity: a fundamental limit to vision restoration after V1 damage.; *medRxiv : the preprint server for health sciences*.

**Bucklaew A**, Coop S, Sarch G, Mitchell J, (2023 Sep 01). Poster Session: Laminar and cell class distinctions for pre-saccadic attention in marmoset MT/MTC.; *Journal of vision*; Vol 23(11), pp. 39.

**Bucklaew A**, Coop SH, Mitchell JF (2023 Aug 04). Electrophysiology of Laminar Cortical Activity in the Common Marmoset.; *Journal of visualized experiments : JoVE*.

Willis HE, Ip IB, Watt A, Campbell J, Jbabdi S, Clarke WT, **Cavanaugh MR**, Huxlin KR, Watkins KE, Tamietto M, Bridge H (2023, Jul 21). GABA and Glutamate in hMT+ Link to Individual Differences in Residual Visual Function After Occipital Stroke. *Stroke*.

**Whitelaw, B. S.**, **Stoessel, M. B.**, & Majewska, A. K. (2023). Movers and shakers: Microglial dynamics and modulation of neural networks. *Glia*, 71(7), 1575–1591. <https://doi.org/10.1002/glia.24323>

Holstein-Rønsbo S, Gan Y, **Giannetto MJ**, Rasmussen MK, Sigurdsson B, Beinlich FRM, Rose L, Untiet V, Hablitz LM, Kelley DH, Nedergaard M (2023, Jun 1). Glymphatic influx and clearance are accelerated by neurovascular coupling. *Nature neuroscience*.

**Shaw L**, Wang KH, Mitchell J (2023, May 30). Fast prediction in marmoset reach-to-grasp movements for dynamic prey. *Current biology : CB*.

Feng G, Joseph A, Dholakia K, **Shang F**, Pfeifer CW, Power D, Padmanabhan K, Schallek J (2023, May 29). High-resolution structural and functional retinal imaging in the awake behaving mouse. *Communications biology*; Vol 6(1), pp. 572.

Na D, Zhang J, **Beaulac HJ**, Piekna-Przybylska D, **Nicklas PR**, Kiernan AE, White PM (2023, May 26). Increased central auditory gain in 5xFAD Alzheimer's disease mice as an early biomarker candidate for Alzheimer's disease diagnosis. *Frontiers in neuroscience*; Vol 17, pp. 1106570.

Bell RD, **Winkler EA**, Singh I, Sagare AP, Deane R, Wu Z, Holtzman DM, Betsholtz C, Armulik A, Sallstrom J, Berk BC, Zlokovic BV (2023, May 5). Author Correction: Apolipoprotein E controls cerebrovascular integrity via cyclophilin A. *Nature*.

**Cealie MY**, Douglas JC, Le LHD, Vonkaenel ED, McCall MN, Drew PD, Majewska AK (2023, May 5). Developmental ethanol exposure has minimal impact on cerebellar microglial dynamics, morphology, and interactions with Purkinje cells during adolescence. *Frontiers in neuroscience*; Vol 17, pp. 1176581.

# Neuroscience Graduate Program 2023

## *Student and Alumni Publications*

**Foley, K.,** Ward, N., Hou, H., **Mayer, A., McKee, C.,** & Xia, H. (2023). Regulation of PP1 interaction with I-2, neurabin, and F-actin. *Molecular and cellular neurosciences*, 124, 103796. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.mcn.2022.103796>

Emerson J, **Delgado T,** Girardi P, Johnson GVW (2023, Mar 23). Deletion of Transglutaminase 2 from Mouse Astrocytes Significantly Improves Their Ability to Promote Neurite Outgrowth on an Inhibitory Matrix. *International journal of molecular sciences*; Vol 24(7).

Rudy MJ, **Salois G,** Cubello J, Newell R, Mayer-Proschel M (2023, Feb 20). Gestational iron deficiency affects the ratio between interneuron subtypes in the postnatal cerebral cortex in mice. *Development* (Cambridge, England).

Gomolka RS, Hablitz LM, **Mestre H, Giannetto M,** Du T, Hauglund NL, Xie L, Peng W, Martinez PM, Nedergaard M, Mori Y (2023, Feb 9). Loss of aquaporin-4 results in glymphatic system dysfunction via brain-wide interstitial fluid stagnation. *eLife*; Vol 12.

Vonkaenel, E., **Feidler, A., Lowery, R., Andersh, K.,** Love, T., Majewska, A., & McCall, M. N. (2023). A Model-Based Hierarchical Bayesian Approach to Sholl Analysis. *bioRxiv : the preprint server for biology*, 2023.01.23.525256. [Your paragraph text](#)

**Foley, K., McKee, C.,** Ganguly, A., Barnett, D., Ward, N., **Mayer, A.,** Zhang, Y., Nairn, A. C., & Xia, H. (2023). PP1 $\beta$  opposes classic PP1 function, inhibiting spine maturation and promoting LTP. *bioRxiv : the preprint server for biology*, 2023.01.26.525737. [Your paragraph text](#)

Hu W, **Zhu S,** Briggs F, Doyley MM (2023, Jan 18). Functional ultrasound imaging reveals 3D structure of orientation domains in ferret primary visual cortex. *NeuroImage*.

Zablotska, L. B., Zupunski, L., Leuraud, K., Lopes, J., **Hinkle, J.,** Pugada, T., **Delgado, T.,** Olschowka, J., Williams, J., O'Banion, M. K., Boice, J. D., Jr, Cohen, S. S., Mumma, M. T., Dauer, L. T., Britten, R. A., & Stephenson, S. (2023). Radiation and CNS effects: summary of evidence from a recent symposium of the Radiation Research Society. *International journal of radiation biology*, 99(9), 1332–1342. <https://doi.org/10.1080/09553002.2023.2142984>

**Giannetto, M. J.,** & Hablitz, L. M. (2022). Reading to the end(foot): translational readthrough of AQP4 increases amyloid- $\beta$  clearance. *Brain : a journal of neurology*, 145(9), 2943–2945.

**McKee, C.,** Shrager, P., Mazumder, A. G., Ganguly, A., **Mayer, A., Foley, K.,** Ward, N., Youngman, M., Hou, H., & Xia, H. (2022). Nuclear Inhibitor of Protein Phosphatase 1 (NIPP1) Regulates CNS Tau Phosphorylation and Myelination During Development. *Molecular neurobiology*, 59(12), 7486–7494. [Your paragraph text](#)

**Toffolo, K. K.,** Freedman, E. G., & Foxe, J. J. (2022). Evoking the N400 Event-related Potential (ERP) Component Using a Publicly Available Novel Set of Sentences with Semantically Incongruent or Congruent Eggplants (Endings). *Neuroscience*, 501, 143–158. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.neuroscience.2022.07.030>

Lopez, D. A., Christensen, Z. P., Foxe, J. J., Ziemer, L. R., **Nicklas, P. R.,** & Freedman, E. G. (2022). Association between mild traumatic brain injury, brain structure, and mental health outcomes in the Adolescent Brain Cognitive Development Study. *NeuroImage*, 263, 119626. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.neuroimage.2022.119626>

**Foley, K.,** Altimimi, H., Hou, H., Zhang, Y., **McKee, C.,** Papasergi-Scott, M. M., Yang, H., **Mayer, A.,** Ward, N., MacLean, D. M., Nairn, A. C., Stellwagen, D., & Xia, H. (2022). Protein phosphatase-1 inhibitor-2 promotes PP1 $\gamma$  positive regulation of synaptic transmission. *Frontiers in synaptic neuroscience*, 14, 1021832. [Your paragraph text](#)

Guha, S., Cheng, A., Carroll, T., **King, D.,** Koren, S. A., Swords, S., Nehrke, K., & Johnson, G. V. W. (2022). Selective disruption of Drp1-independent mitophagy and mitolysosome trafficking by an Alzheimer's disease relevant tau modification in a novel *Caenorhabditis elegans* model. *Genetics*, 222(1), iyac104. <https://doi.org/10.1093/genetics/iyac104>

# Neuroscience Graduate Program 2023

## *Alumni*

<b>First Name</b>	<b>Last Name</b>	<b>Position</b>
Anjali	Sinha	Postdoctoral Fellow, University of Pennsylvania
Garrick	Salois	Postdoctoral Fellow, EHS Toxicology Training Program, University of Rochester
Berke	Karaahmet	Postdoctoral Fellow, Columbia University
Allison	Murphy	Postdoctoral Fellow, John's Hopkins University
Karl	Foley	Medical Student, Medicine, University of Rochester
Laura	Owlett	Medical Student, Medicine, University of Rochester
Katherine	Andersh	Scientific Project Manager, The National Institutes of Health
Brendan	Whitelaw	Medical Student, Medicine, University of Rochester
Keshov	Sharma	Medical Student, Medicine, University of Rochester
Udaysankar (Uday)	Chockanathan	Medical Student, Medicine, University of Rochester
Farangis (Fara)	Tolibzoda Zakusilo	Medical Student, Medicine, University of Rochester
Karl	Foley	Medical Student, Medicine, University of Rochester
Alexandra (Ally)	McHale	Postdoctoral Associate, Arianna Maffe's Laboratory, Stony Brook University
Emily	Warner-Crosier	Scientist at Sanofi - Genomic Medicine Unit in Waltham, Massachusetts
Neal	Shah	Scientist, PTC Therapeutics in New Jersey
Yunpeng	Pang	Research Scientist, Curia in Buffalo, NY
Shraddha	Shah	Postdoctoral fellow, Lab of Sameer Sheth, Baylor College of Medicine
Kathryn-Mary (Kamy)	Wakim	Postdoctoral Fellow, Molholm Lab Albert Einstein College of Medicine
Holly	Beaulac	Postdoctoral Fellow, Munnamalai Lab, Jackson Laboratory in Bar Harbor, Maine
Humberto	Mestre	Clinical residency in adult neurology, University of Pennsylvania
Colin	Lockwood	Postdoctoral Fellow, Duffy Lab, Penn State
Kathleen	Miller-Rhodes	Scientific Communication Associate, Eli Lilly
Monique	Mendes	Postdoctoral Fellow in Dr. Mark Schnitzer's lab, Stanford University, California
Joshua	Hinkle	Postdoctoral Fellow, NIH NIDA, Baltimore
Patrick	Miller-Rhodes	Science Marketing Writer, Biofluent Communications
Alejandra	Rodriguez	Medical Student, Medicine, University of Rochester
Samantha	Swanson (Abbott)	High School Science Teacher, Rochester Prep High School
John	Wilson	Clinical Residency, ENT, URMC
Jessica	Hogestyn	Scientist, Sanofi, Massachusetts

# Neuroscience Graduate Program 2023

## *Alumni*

<b>First Name</b>	<b>Last Name</b>	<b>Position</b>
Aimee	Morris	Clinical Residency, Neurology, Washington University School of Medicine
Rianne	Stowell	Postdoctoral Fellow, Wang Lab, Neuroscience, University of Rochester
Dawling	Dionisio-Santos	Clinical Residency, Neurology, URM
Aleta	Steevens	Masonic Cancer Center, University of Minnesota
Rebecca	Rausch	Director of Translational Research, EyeCRO, Ann Arbor, Michigan
Heather	Natola	Educator and Volunteer Coordinator, The Raptor Trust, New Jersey
John	O'Donnell	Postdoc at Washington University Saint Louis, Neurology Department
Matt	Cavanaugh	Postdoctoral Fellow with Dr. Krystel Huxlin, Ophthalmology M&D, University of Rochester
Laura	Yunes-Medina	Senior Publications Manager, AbbVie, San Francisco
Xiaowei	Wang	Postdoctoral Associate, University of California San Francisco
Evan	McConnell	Clinical Residency, Diagnostic Radiology, URM
Nguyen	Mai	Medical Student, Medicine, University of Rochester
Stephanie	Syc-Mazurek	Internist, Mayo Clinic, Rochester, MN
Berkeley	Farenthold	Postdoctoral Fellow, Ophthalmology, University of Rochester
Kelli	Fagan	Data Scientist, BCBS
Julianne	Feola	Director, Clinical Operations, GT Biopharma, Inc., Minneapolis-St.Paul
Shiona	Biswas	Postdoctoral Associate, Ophthalmology M&D, University of Rochester
Jennifer	Stripay	Leader of Scientific Communications, St. Jude's Children Hospital
Ryan	Dawes	Associate Director Business Development, Intellia Therapeutics, Inc., Boston, Massachusetts
Rebecca	Lowery	Research Assistant Professor, Majewska Lab, Neuroscience, University of Rochester
Brianna	Sleezer	Medical Writer/Data Analyst
Christina	Cloninger	Humans Factor Engineer, Veranex, Minneapolis, MN
Grayson	Sipe	Research Scientist, Brain & Cognitive Science, MIT
Fatima	Rivera-Escalera	Postdoctoral Fellow, Department of Microbiology, Immunology, and Cancer Biology, University of Virginia
Adam	Pallus	Senior Data Scientist, Indeed.com
Wei	Sun	Postdoctoral Fellow, NIMH
Adrienne	Chesser	Resident Physician, United Hospital and Family Medicine Clinic, St. Paul MN



# Neuroscience Graduate Program 2023

## *Alumni*

<b>First Name</b>	<b>Last Name</b>	<b>Position</b>
Susanne	Pritchard Pallo	Senior Communications Associate, Director of Communications for the University of Rochester CTSI
Revathi	Balasubramanian	Ophthalmology Associate Research Scientist at Columbia University Medical Center
Helen	Wei	Department of Surgery, General Surgery Residency Program, Rutgers New Jersey Medical School
Imran	Punekar	Pain Management Fellow, NYU Langone Health
Irina	Statnikova	Resident, Psychiatry, University of Rochester
Michele	Saul	Visiting Assistant Professor, University of Rochester; Visiting Assistant Professor, St. John Fisher
Simantini	Ghosh	Assistant Professor of Psychology, Ashoka University, India
Kimberly	Fernandes	Director, Medical Writing at CALYX, Rochester, NY
Danielle	DeCampo	Fellowship, Children's Hospital of Philadelphia
Anasuya	Das	Director of AI, NLP, Covera Health
Nathan	Smith	Associate Professor in Neuroscience, Associate Dean of Equity and Inclusion for Research and Research Education, URM
Daniel	Marker	Assistant Professor of Pathology, University of Pittsburgh
Veena	Ganeshan	Senior lab Engineer, BME, Rochester, NY
Danny	Rogers	Assistant Professor, Child Neurology, University of New Mexico
Philip	Rappold	Assistant Professor, Urology, University of Rochester
Sarah	Allen (McConnell)	Assistant Professor, Neuroscience, University of Rochester
Maria	Diehl	Assistant Professor in Psychological Sciences at Kansas State University
Michael	Wu	Anesthesiologist, Alameda Health System, San Francisco Bay Area
Katherine	Selzler	Associate Director, Medical Affairs Lundbeck, Indianapolis, Indiana
Ethan	Winkler	Research Associate WOS, Neurological Surgery, UCSF Weill Institute for Neurosciences
Youngsun	Cho	Assistant Professor, Psychiatry, Yale School of Medicine
Sally	Duarte	Postdoctoral Research Associate, Florida International University
Crystal	McClain	Scientist and Artist, Alpine, CA
Zhuoxun	Chen	Student, University of Maryland School of Dentistry
Cory	Hussar	Executive Medical Director, Open Health Communications, NYC, NY
Kathleen	McAvoy	Senior Research Scientist, Arvinas, New Haven, Connecticut

# Neuroscience Graduate Program 2023

## *Alumni*

<b>First Name</b>	<b>Last Name</b>	<b>Position</b>
Michael	Jacob	Physician Scientist, Psychiatry, UCSF
Susan	Fong (Lee)	Assistant Professor, Pediatrics and Neurology, Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center
Steve	Raiker	Research Scientist II, Alexion Pharmaceuticals, Inc., New Haven, Connecticut
Arnulfo	Torres-Pena	Medical Writer at Freelancer, /Medical Communications
Michael	Moravan	Radiation Oncologist, SSM Health, St. Louis, MO
Sarah	Bliss-Matousek	Managing Principal, Day Health Strategies, Spokane, WA
William	Mowrey	Bioinformatics Scientist, Alexion Pharmaceuticals, Inc., Boston, MA
Marina	Dobreva (Stoilova)	Bulgaria
Deborah	Ryan	Adjunct Professor, University of New England, Portland, Maine
Michael	Pesavento	Director of Flow, Take 3 Presents, San Francisco, CA
I-Chen	Yu	Assistant Research Professor at Indiana University School of Medicine
Lynette	Desouza	Post-doctoral Fellow, Tata Institute of Fundamental Research; in 2013 was a stay at home mom
Yuriy	Edwards (Shapovalov)	Medical Director, U.S. Medical Affairs, Neurology, Rare Disease Alexion Pharmaceuticals, Boston, MA
Bernard	Gee	Associate Professor, Dept. of Psychology, Western Connecticut State University
Qi	Cui	Assistant Professor of Ophthalmology Penn Medicine, University of Pennsylvania Health System, PA
Sarita	Kishore	Ophthalmologist, Boise Veterans Affairs Medical Center, Idaho
Carolyn	Tyler	Director, McQuade Center for Strategic Research and Development, Otsuka America Pharmaceutical, Inc.
Aaron	Cecala	Associate Professor of Physiology, Elizabethtown College
Ditte	Lovatt	Associate Principal Scientist, Merck
Kyung Hwa	Lee	Post-doctoral Fellow, City College of New York, Itzhak Mano lab
Laurie	Robak	Assistant Professor, Molecular and Human Genetics, Baylor College of Medicine, One Baylor Plaza
Onanong (Annie)	Chivatakarn	Principal Scientist, Tessera Therapeutics, Cambridge, MA
Yanan	Guo	Director of Pharmacology, R&D at Biocytogen, Beijing, China
Verginia	Cuzon (Carlson)	Associate Professor, Oregon Health & Science University Beaverton, OR

# Neuroscience Graduate Program 2023

## *Alumni*

<b>First Name</b>	<b>Last Name</b>	<b>Position</b>
Grace	Vangeison (Johnston)	Chief Commercial Officer & Co-Founder, Fortis Life Sciences, Boston, Massachusetts
Irah	King	Associate Professor, McGill University, Department of Microbiology and Immunology
Glenn	Schneider	Otolaryngology Specialist, UPMC
Nancy Ann	Oberheim Bush	Neurooncologist, Assistant Professor, UCSF
Allison	Stickles	Internalist Hospitalist, University of Cincinnati and Cincinnati Children's Hospital, University of Cincinnati Academic Health Center
Meghan	Riley	Assistant Director Compliance & Regulatory Affairs, IRB, The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia
Yasser	Elshatory	Owner, Ophthalmology Elshatory Retina Associates, PLLC Plano, Texas
Erin	Johnson (Venkatesh)	Research Technologist, Boston Children's Hospital, MA
Xiaoyan	Lin	Associate Director WuXi AppTec , Shanghai City, China
Pushkar	Joshi	Chief Strategy & Science Officer at One Mind, San Francisco, CA
Ling	Pan	Research Scientist, Picower Institute for Learning & Memory
Karthik	Venkatesh	Director, R&D Governance, MA
Matthew	Bellizzi	Assistant Professor, Departments of Neurology & Neuroscience, UPMC
Beth-Ann	Shanker	Colon & Rectal Surgery, Trinity Health, Ann Arbor, MI
Solomon	Shaftel	Ophthalmology: Oculoplastic Surgeon, Kaiser Permanente, CA
Xiaohai	Wang	Senior Research Biologist, Dept of Neuropharmacology, Merck Research Laboratories, Philadelphia, PA
Jason	Hamilton	Executive Director, Technical Operations at Legend Biotech Co., NY
Daniel	Zaksas	Chief Medical Officer at Fishawack Health, PA
Ziye	Sui	VP at Lepu Medical Technology (Beijing) Co., Ltd.
Charles	Wuertzer	Faculty, Monroe Community College, Rochester, NY
Roberto	Fernandez-Romero	Medical Director, The Pat Summitt Clinic at The University of Tennessee Medical Center, TN
Jill	Weimer	Chief Science Officer at Amicus Therapeutics & Senior Director of Therapeutic Development at Sanford Research, SD
Kuei-Cheng	Lim	Neurologist, St. Luke's University Health Network, PA
Chiayu	Chiu	CINV-Max Planck Tandem Research Group Leader at Centro Interdisciplinario de Neurociencia de Valparaiso

# Neuroscience Graduate Program 2023

## *Alumni*

<b>First Name</b>	<b>Last Name</b>	<b>Position</b>
Min	Zhu	New England Neurological Associates, PC. Massachusetts
Zhiyong	Yang	Assistant Professor, Ruiz Department of Ophthalmology and Visual Science at McGovern Medical School
(Kitty) Chia-Wen	Wu	VP, Head of BD & Strategy, Pipeline & Portfolio Planning at Genentech, San Francisco, CA
Zhenhua	Wu	Founder, President and CEO at Exegenesis Bio Inc.
Renee	Miller	Professor, Brain and Cognitive Sciences, University of Rochester, NY
Rebecca	Sappington	Associate Professor & Vice Chair for Research, Department of Neurobiology and Anatomy, Wake Forest School of Medicine, NC
Michael	Froehler	Associate Professor, Neurology, Vanderbilt University Medical Center, Tennessee
Michael	Hanna	Assistant Professor of Practice at University of Texas at San Antonio, TX
Luisa	Scott	Research Associate, Department of Neuroscience, Waggoner Center for Alcohol & Addiction Research, The University of Texas at Austin
Patricia	Sheridan	Associate Director, Biological Development at Metabolon, Inc.
Seth	Perry	Associate Professor of Dean's Office- College of Medicine & of Neurobiology & Physiology at Upstate Medical University, NY
Adnan	Siddiqui	Professor and Vice Chairman, Department of Neurosurgery (UBNS) at the State University of New York at Buffalo's Jacobs School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences
Brandon	Harvey	Chief, Molecular Mechanisms of Cellular Stress and Inflammation Section & Director, Transgenic Rat Project & Deputy Associate Director of Technology at National Institute on Drug Abuse
Andrew	Custer	Director, Legal at Merck
David	Logan	Principal Computational Scientist at Pfizer, MA
Marc	Dubin	Associate Professor, Clinical Psychiatry & Research in Neuroscience at Weill Cornell Medicine
Mary	Maida	THE MEDINGEN GROUP, LLC; Clerisy Corp.; Adjunct Assistant Professor, Department of Neuroscience, University of Rochester
Deon	Harvey (Sanchez)	Librarian; Director and Manager at Harvey Family, Baltimore County Public Library, MA
Mona	Thiruchelvam	Assistant Professor, Department of Environmental and Occupational Medicine, Robert Wood Johnson Medical School
Elizabeth	Perry (Kriszenski)	Senior Lecturer, Biomedical Sciences Program, RIT, NY

# Neuroscience Graduate Program 2023

## *Alumni*

<b>First Name</b>	<b>Last Name</b>	<b>Position</b>
Tina	Huang	Holistic Brain Health Practitioner, Holistic Brain Health, WA
Jay	Nierenberg	Research Scientist, The Nathan S. Kline Institute for Psychiatric Research, New York State Office for Mental Health
Randall	Hayes	Author & Cartoonist, Substack, NC & Lecturer at University of North Carolina at Greensboro
Nikolaus	McFarland	Assistant Professor of Neurology; Chief of Movement Disorder Division; Director of UF HDSA Center of Excellence, University of Florida Health
Bonnie	Ward	
Michael	Kaplan	
Anna	Yermakova Allen	
William	Page	Research Assistant Professor, Department of Neurology, Memory Care, University of Rochester Medical Center
Russell	Ferland Jr.	Professor & Vice Chair, Neuroscience and Experimental Therapeutics, Albany Medical College, NY
Tim	Mhyre	Learning Manager, Office of Sponsored Programs, University of Washington
Jess	DiGiorgianni	Counselor, LCMHC, Jess DiGiorgianni Psychotherapy and Counseling Services, LLC, VT
Sheila	Kelley	Sheila Phelps Kelley MD, PhD, Family Doctor, Webster, NY
Scott	Ng-Evans	Research Engineer, University of Washington
Stephanos	Kyrkanides	Adjunct Professor, Department of Neuroscience, University of Rochester, NY
Tracy	Callahan	STEM Education Consultant, Freelance, MA
Michael	Gordon	Lecturer, Communication Sciences, College of Nursing and Health Sciences, The University of Vermont
Caroline	Wolfe (Little)	Psychiatrist, California Department of State Hospitals
Deborah	New	Owner and Orthodontist at New Smiles Orthodontics; Clinical Assistant Professor EIOH at the University of Rochester, NY
Jay	McLaughlin	Professor, Pharmacodynamics, University of Florida College of Pharmacy
James	Greene	Associate Professor, Department of Neurology, Emory University School of Medicine
Alice	Roberts	Dermatopathology Laboratory Director/ Assistant Professor at EVMS Dermatology Department; Dermatopathologist, Richfield Dermpath Diagnostics
Derek	Choi-Lundberg	Senior Lecturer in Human Anatomy, University of Tasmania, Australia

# Neuroscience Graduate Program 2023

## *Alumni*

<b>First Name</b>	<b>Last Name</b>	<b>Position</b>
Mark	Basham	Associate Professor, Regis University, Department of Psychology
Xiaofeng	Qi	Software Engineer, Indiana University
Gary	Samoriski	Head, Due Diligence, Sanofi, MA
Wu	Zhou	Professor, Department of Otolaryngology and Communicative Sciences, University Of Mississippi Medical Center School Of Medicine
Kumi	Nagamoto-Combs	Assistant Professor Biomedical Sciences, University of North Dakota
Jay	Gibson	Assistant Prof., Southwestern Medical Center, Dept. Of Neuroscience, Dallas, TX
San	Ouyang	
Stephen	Breneman	Associate Professor, Department of Anesthesiology & Perioperative Medicine, University of Rochester
James	Way-Young Chen	Associate Professor, Neurology, UCLA
Kevin	Kinney	Professor, Biology, Depauw University, IN
Michael	Burek	
Daniel	Selski	Assist. Prof., Central Washington University, Dept. Of Biological Sciences, Science Building, Ellensburg, WA
Diane	Lawrence	Program Official in the Division of AIDS, NIAID, National Institutes of Health, Washington, DC
Joseph	Colombo	Medical Director and Executive Vice-President at Ansar, Inc., PA
Tsung-i	Peng	Assistant Professor, Department of of Neurology, Chang Gung Memorial Hospital, Taiwan
Willard	Wilson	Scientific Review Officer, Division of Translational and Clinical Sciences, NIH
Margaret	Veruki	Professor, Department of Biomedicine, University of Bergen, Norway
Sandra	Aamodt	Grant Editor & Speaker, SandraAamodt.com; Book Author
Eileen	Lynd-Balta	Associate Provost and Professor, St. John Fisher University, NY
Thomas	Wengenack	Neurology, May Clinic
Laura	Sim-Selley	Professor, Department of Pharmacology and Toxicology, Virginia Commonwealth University
Susan	Sullivan	Retired. Former Senior VP of Clinical Operations at Upstate NY Transplant Services, Buffalo, NY
Christine	Checkosky	Empire Visionworks Cicero Marketplace, NY
Stephen	Gucker	Director- Business Development for North America, TT Consultants, DC

# Neuroscience Graduate Program 2023

## *Alumni*

<b>First Name</b>	<b>Last Name</b>	<b>Position</b>
Dana	Selley	Professor, Pharmacology and Toxicology, Virginia Commonwealth University, Richmond, VA
Tracy	Romano	Executive Vice President, Research and Zoological Operations, Mystic Aquarium
Claire	Gavin	Retired. Former Water Testing Director at Clean Up Sound and Harbors, Connecticut
Farida	Sohrabji	Regents Professor & Department Head, Department of Neuroscience and Experimental Therapeutics and Director, Women's Health in Neuroscience Program at Texas A&M University
Danru	Zhang	
David	Berlove	Chief Consultant, Berlove Pharmacology Consulting, Boston, MA
Lucinda	Hemmick	Teaching Science, Longwood High School in Middle Island, NY
Kurt	Ackerman	Associate Professor of Psychiatry, University of Pittsburgh
Mark	Fitzsimmons	Consultant & Chief Bottle Washer, OR
Rajesh	Miranda	Professor, Department of Neuroscience and Experimental Therapeutics, Interdisciplinary Program in Neuroscience, ATM Health, TX
Guoying	Bing	Professor, Neuroscience, University of Kentucky College of Medicine
John	Kruse	Neuroscientist, Psychiatrist, Author, CA
Sonia	Carlson	Former faculty at University of Kentucky
Harold	Lesser	Neurology, Rochester General Hospital, NY
Rick (Frederick)	Monsma	Senior Vice President, Scientific Operations, The New York Stem Cell Fdn.
James	Herman	Associate Director for UC Gardner Neuroscience Institute, Department Chair, & Flor van Maanen Endowed Chair, Department of Pharmacology & Systems Physiology, University of Cincinnati College of Medicine
Lazaros	Triarhou	Professor, Aristotelian University Faculty of Philosophy, Greece
Webster	Pilcher	The Ernest & Thelma Del Monte Distinguished Professor of Neuromedicine and Chairman of Neurosurgery at the University of Rochester Medical Center in Rochester, NY
James	Reese	Retired, Former FDA Health Science Administrator
Ronaldo	Riso	
David	Amaral	UC Davis Distinguished Professor, Beneto Foundation Chair and Research Director of The M.I.N.D. Institute, Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences, Center for Neuroscience, and the California National Primate Research Center; Director, NIH Autism Center of Excellence; Director, Autism BrainNet; Editor-in-Chief of Autism Research

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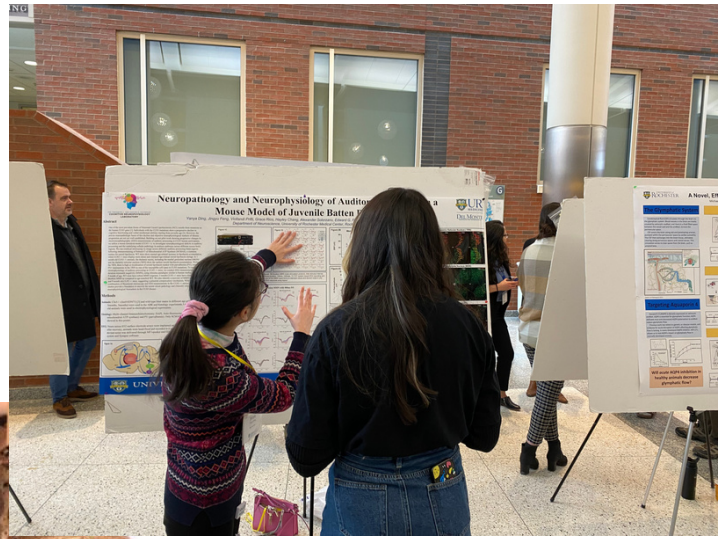
## *Alumni*

Robert	Stoughton	Former: Research Administrator, Montgomery County Human Services & Planning Development Department, University of Dayton
Michael	Levine	Exec Vc And Provost, Chancellor's Office, Chancellor's Office, Professor-in-Residence, Psychiatry and Biobehavioral Sciences, UCLA, CA
Justin	Brucker	Board Certified radiologist, University Health, WI
Fred	Kim	

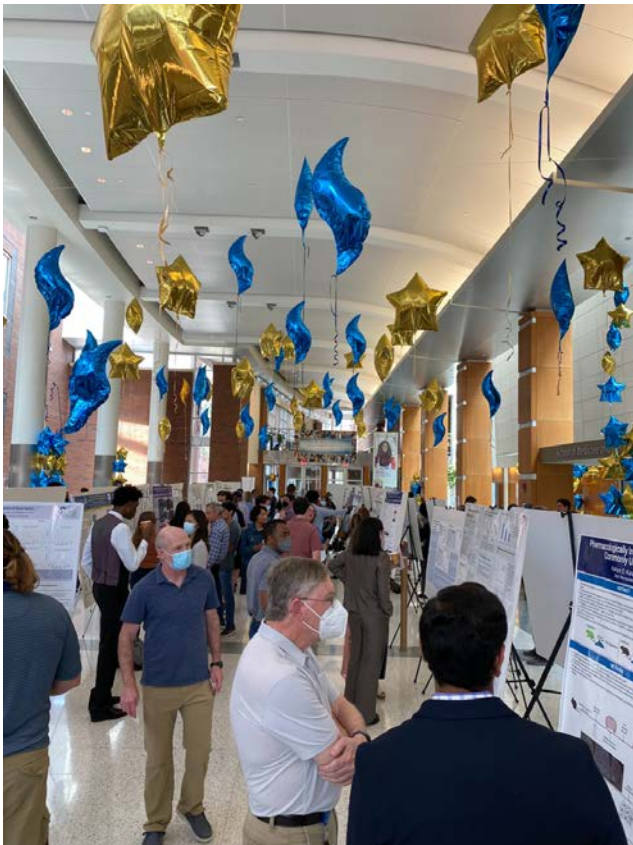
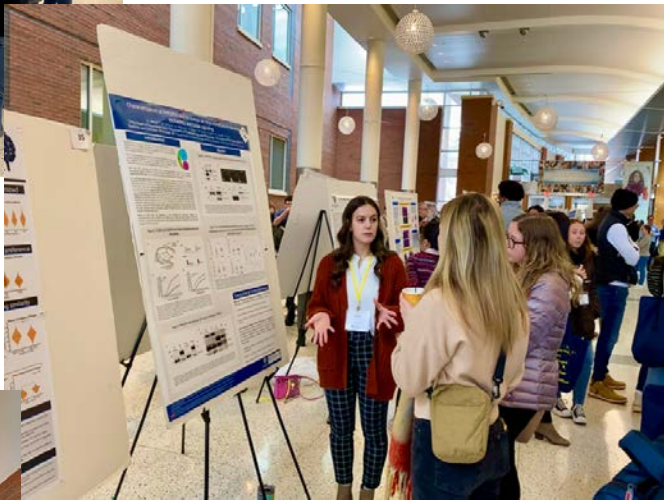
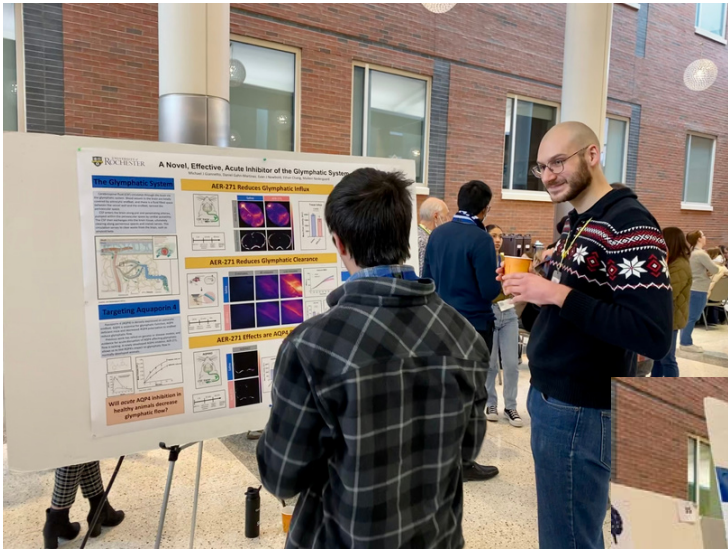




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Program Information



601 Elmwood Avenue, Box 603, Rochester, NY 14642

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