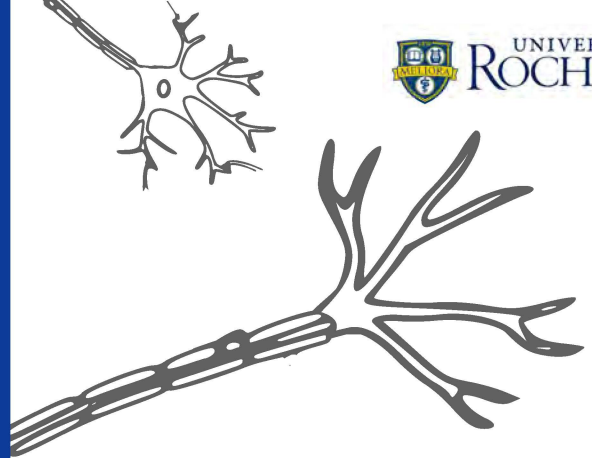


# NEUROSCIENCE GRADUATE PROGRAM



## Department Growth

Learn more about our  
ongoing outreach efforts

Welcome this year's cohort  
of first year graduate  
students!

## Student Accomplishments

Awards, Publications & Fellowships

Our hardworking students have  
demonstrated passion and  
dedication to the field of  
neuroscience. Read the complete list  
of accomplishments in this issue!



More in this Issue: Activities,  
Events, & News

NGP NEWSLETTER  
OCT 2024





**SAVE THE DATE**

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

**Sunday, Oct. 6, 2024**

Vu Rooftop Bar 6:30 - 8:30 pm

133 E. Cermak Road  
Chicago, IL

Join us for an evening of networking  
and celebration as we honor our  
**2024 NGP Alumni Award recipient!**

Contact for more information:  
[Pam\\_LaDuke@urmc.rochester.edu](mailto:Pam_LaDuke@urmc.rochester.edu)



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# IN THIS ISSUE



|                                                                                     |                                     |           |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-----------|
|     | <b>Notes from NGP Leadership</b>    | <b>3</b>  |
|    | <b>Welcoming the New Cohort</b>     | <b>7</b>  |
|    | <b>Groups &amp; Activities</b>      | <b>11</b> |
|   | <b>Meet Our New Faculty Members</b> | <b>15</b> |
|   | <b>Student Accomplishments</b>      | <b>17</b> |
|   | <b>Alumni at a Glance</b>           | <b>19</b> |
|  | <b>Publications</b>                 | <b>20</b> |
|  | <b>NGP 2024 Memories</b>            | <b>21</b> |

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

Wow, another year has flown by, and I am not sure where all the time has gone. Things seem so fast paced, I could really use a pause button or at least some way to slow things down a bit so we all could have more time to enjoy them. Yet here we are, another year on the books where I have had the privilege of serving as the Director of the Neuroscience Graduate Program (NGP). It has been an honor and I appreciate all the support that I have received in trying to keep the ship upright. There is much to celebrate as our students and faculty are marshaling in the newest wave of neuroscience research and receiving well-deserved accolades for all their achievements. The neuroscience enterprise here is spectacular and I am thankful to be a part of it. This newsletter is one way in which we try to recognize some of the excellence exhibited by our students and faculty.

Our program continues to thrive, but that growth does come with its challenges where we find ourselves reimagining how we do things from course design to mentoring to running a lab. I am still learning what it takes to be a program director, mostly through trial and error and some by sheer luck or determination. But I've learned a few things during this time. In my many conversations with students and faculty, I have found that taking a moment to listen and provide some grace and flexibility goes a long way. Sometimes we just need to be heard and have a moment to breathe. Our students are undoubtedly the heart of the program, and they inspire me. I enjoy the opportunity to see them develop into confident and competent scientists. I am glad that I can help, and I appreciate the feedback about what we are getting right and in which areas we can improve. I hope to continue in this role as long as the students and faculty will have me. I am also super-indebted to everyone in NGP, GEPA, and the broader university community for your flexibility, dedication, and teamwork. While a bit cliché, it really does take a village. I am deeply appreciative of all those that give to our program – your efforts do not go unnoticed. Big thanks to Madalina Tivarus for assuming the role as our Admissions Chair and leading the charge for our most recent student recruitment efforts. Thanks also to Farran Briggs who showed Madalina the ropes making for an easier transition.

Our admissions process is a heavy lift, so I also want to recognize the hard work of our faculty and students who volunteer huge amounts of time to ensure our admission efforts continue to evolve and remain successful. As a nod to our success, 243 students applied for entry into our program for Fall 2024, our largest number yet. Admissions, through many, many hours of evaluations, review, and discussions, had the difficult task of selecting our newest cohort from an incredibly talented and competitive applicant pool.

***“I want to thank  
each and every  
member of our NGP  
community for all  
that you do”***



Our incoming 2024 NGP class is represented by total of fourteen unique and amazing students who began showing up in July and August to continue their academic journey here in Rochester. Their real immersion started with our NGP bootcamp which aims to help our new students develop a roadmap for navigating the first year including registration tips, a mentorship workshop, data blitz, lab tours, and a picnic at Genesee Valley Park. Much thanks to the Boot Camp Committee and all the NGP students who pitched in to officially introduce our new students to our program. It is the first opportunity for them to feel like they are really part of the NGP community. Upper-level students have been busily working through their Part I and Part II qualifying exams and embarking on their own research journey. At least four of our most senior students are now on deck to defend their dissertation research work in the upcoming months. Congratulations to the many NGP students that receive recognition, awards, and fellowships throughout the year. It is so satisfying to getting email after email highlighting all of their accomplishments – a few of those can be found on the pages of this newsletter. 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, nine (yes NINE) of our students successfully completed the requirements for their PhD and began their journey towards a host of new and exciting opportunities. Congratulations again to MaKenna Cealie, Linh Le, Cody McKee, Emily Przysinda, Greg Reilly, Luke Shaw, Mark Stoessel, Kathryn Toffolo, and Jingyi Yang for being a part of NGP. It is always bittersweet when students fly the nest and I for one miss them when they leave. We certainly wish them many well-deserved successes in their new roles. We hope, as with many of our alumni, that they will continue to reflect fondly upon their time here and share their positive experiences with prospective graduate students wherever they call home.



The NGP continues to grow in many ways. We are in the fifth year of our T32 training grant which will continue to support the training for four of our students. Thanks to Ania Majewska and Nathan Smith for leading the recent resubmission efforts, and fingers crossed that what we are trying to accomplish here is favorably reviewed. We also welcomed another six new faculty into the program this year with several others in the pipeline. 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, Gabriella Sterne, and Brian Keane for keeping our student seminar going, and to Gail Johnson, Manoela Fogaca, and Ian Fiebelkorn for maintaining our Journal Clubs. Continued thanks to Julian Meeks for keeping NSC512 alive, and to all the faculty that participate to make each of our courses successful – we couldn't do it without your help.

Much thanks to all the staff in the Neuroscience Offices for keeping me and frankly most of us out of the deep end – I really appreciate everything you do. Special thanks to our previous coordinator Tori D'Agostino and current coordinator extraordinaire Pam LaDuke who helps me manage the many day-to-day affairs. Thanks to Madalina for agreeing to help me direct our program as our Associate Director – She is fantastic. Finally, a big thank you to Paige Nicklas whose creativity, design ideas, and hard work made this newsletter the gem it is. 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**  
 Director of the Neuroscience Graduate Program





**The 2024 admissions season set new records for the NGP. We received nearly 250 applications, conducted interviews with 47 candidates, and invited 29 exceptional applicants for an in-person recruitment weekend. Our incoming class consists of 14 talented students with diverse scientific interests and a rich variety of backgrounds and experiences.**

**This was my first year as NGP Admissions co-director and I want to extend my heartfelt thanks to Dr. Farran Briggs who has been an outstanding Admissions Committee Director for the past several years. Under her leadership, we adopted a holistic and transparent approach to admissions and witnessed a significant increase in number of applications. She graciously handed over the reins and supported me through the transition while continuing to handle much of the workload. A big part of our success this recruitment season was again thanks to the amazing Tori D'Agostino. She was crucial in guiding us through the admissions process before heading off to her new and exciting role at GEPA.**



**We were also fortunate to have the support of two wonderful groups of faculty and students. I want to express my gratitude to our faculty admissions committee for their remarkable dedication and hard work on behalf of the NGP: Chris Holt, Marissa Sobolewski, Jude Mitchell, Gail Johnson, Nathan Smith, Liz Romanski, Julian Meeks, Michael Telias, Martina Poletti, Archan Ganguly, Gabriella Sterne, Jennetta Hammond and Ian Fiebelkorn. Big shoutout to our incredible student admissions squad—Alexis Feidler, Mike Duhain, Andrea Campbell, Leslie Gonzales, Mariah Marerro, Amelia Hines, and Aaron Huynh! You crushed it with organizing interviews and making our new students feel right at home. Your commitment and energy were next level!**

**As we gear up for the new season, we're making a few minor adjustments to deadlines but are just as excited and eager as ever about what's ahead. We'd love everyone's feedback and participation! With the solid groundwork laid out by previous chairs, coordinators and faculty, I'm confident we'll have another fantastic admissions season and the NGP will once again bring in a top-notch group of graduate students.**

***Madalina Tivarus, PhD***  
**NGP Admissions Committee Chair**  
**NGP Associate Director**



There is something about the start of an academic year that inspires change. The energy and sense of boundless excitement as students arrive with new courses, projects, and ideas toward research. Over the past year we have graduated nine PhDs from our program. This August we welcomed 11 PhD students and two MD/PhD students into the Neuroscience Graduate Program.

This year, more change is on our doorstep as the University of Rochester Medical Center (URMC) CEO and School of Medicine and Dentistry Dean, Dr. Mark Taubman, retired and I am delighted to welcome Dr. David Linehan to the helm. David's leadership will usher in a new era of excellence and growth. I am very much looking forward to working with him in this next chapter for URMC and SMD.



In June, Rochester philanthropist Tom Golisano made a historic gift to the University to create the Golisano Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Institute. This institute is catapulting the clinical and transitional work at the University and Medical Center well into the future, enabling us to accelerate our efforts to improve lives and find the best answers for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD). Thank you, Tom, for your philanthropy, support, and dedication to bettering the lives of people with IDD. At the new Golisano IDD Institute, we will hew to a simple but powerful maxim—that no person shall be defined by their limitations, but rather by their possibilities!



We also welcomed our current cohorts of NEUROCITY and NEUROEAST scholars to Rochester. I am proud of these successful Neuroscience Diversity programs and grateful to our dedicated faculty, postdocs, and students who spend their summer training and engaging with young minds interested in neuroscience.

The Society for Neuroscience is in Chicago on October 5 – 9 and I'm looking forward to seeing many of you at the conference. I hope you will be able to join us on Sunday, October 6th, for our annual Neuroscience Graduate Program event.

*In Science,*

*John Foxe, PhD*

Kilian J. and Caroline F. Schmitt Chair in Neuroscience  
Director, The Ernest J. Del Monte Institute for Neuroscience  
Professor & Chair, Department of Neuroscience



# WELCOME OUR NEW COHORT

Hello! My name is Emma Bryson and I grew up in Irmo, SC. In my free time I enjoy reading, trying a new recipe, and going on nature walks or hiking. I graduated in May 2024 from the University of South Carolina Honors College with a B.S. in Neuroscience as a Cellular and Molecular Neuroscience Concentration and a Chemistry minor. My most recent research was done in the Booze and Mactutus lab at UofSC where I completed an Honors Senior Thesis investigating neurodegeneration and neuroanatomy of the cholinergic system in HIV-1 Transgenic rats. I also worked as a Research Assistant in their lab over the summer and ran the Barnes Maze, Pre-Pulse Inhibition, and the Open Field Test with Dr. Hailong Li. I am excited to begin further exploring my interests in neurodegeneration and neuroinflammation through the NGP, and I can't wait to begin exploring Rochester!



I was born and raised in Southern California. In my free time, I like drawing, crocheting, and learning to read and write Chinese. I graduated from the University of Pittsburgh in 2018 with a major in neuroscience and minors in chemistry and studio arts. During college, I worked in a lab studying sleep hd-EEG in first-break psychosis patients. After graduating, I worked in a lab at Children's Hospital Los Angeles using Vegfr2 conditional knockout mice to study pulmonary vascular development. For the past two years, I have been working at a pharmaceutical company developing in vitro bioassays. I am excited about this opportunity to further my education. My current research interests include Alzheimer's disease and glial cells.

Hello! My name is Skylar DeWitt, and I'm from Hudsonville, Michigan. I graduated in May 2024 from Hope College with a B.A. in Neuroscience and Psychology, and I also minored in Biology. I conducted most of my research in the Calvo Lab at Hope College, focusing on neural degeneration and repair in the olfactory system of zebrafish, *Danio rerio*. My research centered around two experimental paradigms: (1) traumatic brain injury (TBI) and (2) hypoxia, an experimental model that I developed and led. I used biochemical assays to study brain structure and behavioral assays to explore how these insults affect brain function. Additionally, I interned under Dr. Hien Luu at Corewell Health, where I utilized neuropsychological assessment data to investigate the correlation between epilepsy and cognitive test outcomes. In my free time, I enjoy reading, collecting vintage teacups, dancing, and sightseeing. I'm passionate about learning about the brain and behavior, and I'm excited to begin the neuroscience program at URSMD!



I graduated in 2022 from the University at Buffalo with a B.S. in Biochemistry, and minors in Neuroscience and Pharmacology/Toxicology. At Buffalo, I researched under Dr. Arin Bhattacharjee, focusing on protein-protein interactions between a synaptic scaffolding molecule, MAGI-2, and subunits of AMPA and NMDA receptors. Following my time at Buffalo, I joined the lab of Dr. Ashley Frakes at the at the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases. At the NIDDK, I worked on investigating the impact of the unfolded protein response of the endoplasmic reticulum in astrocytes in both *C. elegans* and mice. At Rochester, I'm looking forward to learning more about glia and neurodegeneration on a cellular and molecular level.

ALEX



Hi! My name is Yunshan Cai and I moved to Rochester NY from China when I was 13. I recently graduated from the U of R as a neuroscience major in May 2023. I'm interested in vision and how visual information is processed in retinal circuits. In my free time, I like going to the gym and trying out different restaurants. I'm a big ocean lover and I enjoy my annual scuba diving trips.

I'm a first-generation student with a background in computer science. My main interests are neuroimaging and computational neuroscience. In my free time I love learning new things; my last endeavor being sewing.



ADAM



PAVEL

I grew up in Webster, NY and graduated with a B.S. in Biology from Ave Maria University in Southwest Florida. I got married and started a family shortly after I graduated in 2020. I joined URMCC early on to work in the Cognitive Neurophysiology Lab (CNL). My research interests include Translational neurophysiology and advanced neuroimaging techniques in murine models for diseases such as rare juvenile Lysosomal Storage Disorders (Cystinosis and Batten's Disease). I am excited to expand my knowledge in Neuro-imaging techniques and explore rare juvenile brain disorders with the help of the excellent NGP faculty at URMCC.

YUNSHAN





# WELCOME OUR NEW COHORT

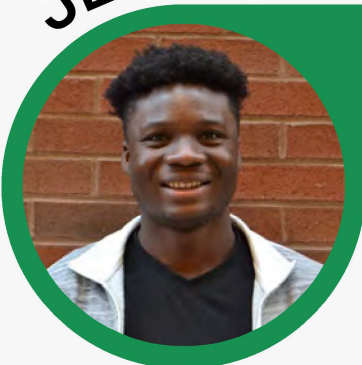
I grew up in Aurora, CO and graduated in 2022 from Regis University with a BS in math and neuroscience with minors in chemistry, data science, and philosophy. At Regis, I did social psychology research in Brian Drwecki's lab, investigating vaccine hesitancy during the COVID-19 pandemic as well as the effect of economic justifications on people's perceptions of moral culpability. I also did mathematical modeling research with Jonathan Forde at Hobart and William Smith Colleges, where I tried to determine the optimal timing of COVID-19 booster vaccines using age-structured population models. More recently, I matriculated to the University of Rochester's MD program and began designing an experiment to investigate the potential role of grid cells in pain perception with Paul Geha. Since then, I transferred into the MD/PhD program to continue my work with Dr. Geha to try to explain why/how the brain feels pain. In my spare time, I enjoy finding new hobbies every two months, which right now is abstract and surrealist art, which I am good at appreciating (or so he thinks), but not so good at creating. Next month the new hobby will be fantasy football.



CALEB

I'm originally from lower New York but have been making my way upstate over the years. I attended Binghamton University, where I earned a bachelor's degree in Integrative Neuroscience and minored in Korean Studies. I've had a passion for neuroscience for as long as I can remember, beginning with my experience working in the Khodhakhah Lab at Albert Einstein College of Medicine under the mentorship of Dr. Heather Snell throughout high school and college. Here, I studied the activity of Purkinje cells in a mouse model of Episodic Ataxia Type II. I came to the University of Rochester after undergrad to work as a PREP student under the guidance of Dr. Farran Briggs. It was here, working on a project to examine feature-based attentional effects in V1 neurons, that I discovered my love for vision research. I look forward to continuing my training at UofR and joining this rich community of vision researchers. Outside of neuroscience research, I enjoy playing the piano, exploring Rochester with friends, and cuddling with my cat, Iris.

JEAN



My name is Jean Setenet and I am from Cote d'Ivoire in West Africa. I got my bachelor's degree in 2023 from Ursinus College, and I majored in neuroscience. I am very interested in cellular mechanisms of memory, synaptic plasticity and brain development. Outside of my academic interests, I love cooking and try new recipes. I also love playing sport and staying active. My favorite sports are volleyball and soccer



ALESANDRA



EMMA S.

I'm Emma – a proud Rochester lifer! I did my undergraduate at UR, a fifth year as part of the Take 5 program where I studied intersectional feminist art, and now spending another 8 years here for my MD and PhD. In undergrad, I majored in Brain and Cognitive Science and double minored in Statistics and Biology. I've always been fascinated by neuroscience so deciding my major was a no brainer! I minored in statistics because I have three statisticians in my family and wanted to carry on the family legacy. My research interests lie in how brain tumors and treatment thereof (RT, surgery) affect cognition and connectivity within the brain. I mostly work with diffusion tensor imaging and functional MRI but am excited to learn new analytic techniques during my PhD. When I'm not at the hospital or lab, I spend my free time exploring Rochester's diners and parks with my partner, reading psychological thrillers, doing yoga, creating art (mostly still-life painting but have dabbled with wheel-throwing pottery this summer!), and rewatching Gilmore Girls for the hundredth time.

Hi all! My name is Wen Li and I grew up in Beijing, China. I did my undergraduate degree at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign studying clinical psychology and neurolinguistics. My honors thesis was on the relationship among semantic spreading activation, psychometric schizotypy and speech coherence. I then spent three years working in the translational cognitive and affective neuroscience lab at UC Davis investigating the effects of DLPFC tDCS on cognitive control performance in schizophrenia using EEG and MRI. I am beyond excited to kick off my graduate career here at the U of R and explore the Rochester area. I look forward to meeting people all across NGP and please hit me with all your coffee shop and food recs!



WEN

I immigrated to the U.S. from Ghana at a young age and grew up immersed in the diverse experiences New York City has to offer. Seeking new challenges and perspectives, I attended the University of Notre Dame in South Bend, IN. There, I majored in Neuroscience and Behavior and minored in Poverty Studies, which were choices driven by a desire to explore the intersection of neurological health and socioeconomic factors. As an NGP student, I aim to deepen my understanding in this area while delving into other research interests. I also look forward to working collaboratively with peers and mentors to advance impactful and interdisciplinary research in neuroscience.



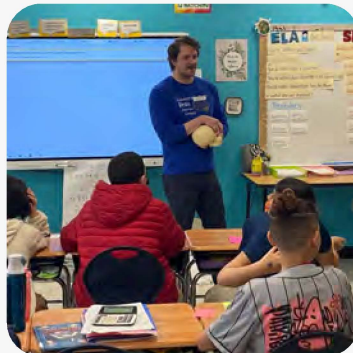
TRACY





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): Rithwik Cherian, Olympia Mathiaparanam, Samantha Jenks, Abi Alpers, Julia Granato, Paige Nicklas and Evan Newbold. The group is passionate about getting children and the general public excited about neuroscience through engaging, hands-on activities.

In February, we held our 8th annual Brain Bee (during a true Rochester snow storm)! Our winner was 11th grader Annabella Mack! She then traveled to the University of Central Florida to represent us at the National Brain Bee Competition. Annabella enjoyed neuroscience so much, that she is currently participating in the NerURoEast internship program this summer, and applying her neuro-knowledge to a research project in Dr. Ken Henry's lab!



We also organized visits to schools in the spring for National Brain Awareness Week. This year, our events were themed the sensory systems. We were also able, for the first time, to offer visits to bilingual classrooms thanks to the generosity of Spanish-speaking volunteers. We are now hoping to translate all our materials so we can continue to serve all of the Rochester community!

The committee would like to extend a massive THANK YOU to everyone that plays a part in making BAC impactful and fun. We rely on our enthusiastic volunteers, those who generously participate in our fundraisers, and everyone who helps spread the word about BAC!





# URWINS: UNIVERSITY OF ROCHESTER WOMEN+ IN THE NEUROSCIENCES

The mission of this group is to amplify voices of women from various identity groups and career stages, and to promote women's representations in leadership roles in Neuroscience and affiliated fields. We will strive to provide opportunities for networking, training, and discussion among our members.

We offer programs throughout the year on relevant topics including research practices, research funding, jobs, and academic and professional development. Last year, student volunteers led our group through stress management strategies and provided mentoring advice for all levels. We were also very thrilled to host several guest speakers, including Jeff Koslofsky and Kelsie Smith-Hayduk, who discussed social media use for scientists, Dr. Farran Briggs, who focused on grant writing for both U.S. and international funding sources, and alumni industry panelists who shared insights on connecting with industry after a PhD. Lastly, we also enjoyed social events such as scientific speed dating and a holiday potluck/cookie exchange!

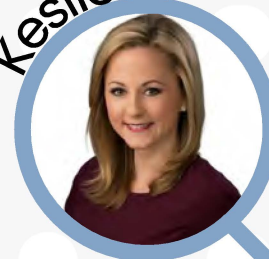
## Thank you Sam!

HUGE thank you to Sam Jenks (BCS) for being our leader for so long and for all the efforts she has put into this group! We are so grateful!



We are excited to welcome our new URWINS chairs in fall 2024 – Chen Li and Yumeng Lou from BCS

Keslie



Farran



Jeff





# NeURo2ALL



## ANYONE CAN BE A SCIENTIST

Our goal is to increase the accessibility of neuroscience concepts to children in underserved communities of Rochester through "Pop-Up" events. Not only is science demonstrated & explained at the events, but children and their caregivers leave with their own "Scientist-in-Training" kit, containing supplies & directions to run the experiments at home. This allows children to demonstrate their new knowledge to their families and friends, spreading the crucial message that science is for everyone, regardless of their background!



**"Scientist-In-Training" Kits**



## Science Outreach to All

Launched in Spring 2023, this course teaches undergrad & graduate students at UR to effectively communicate science by guiding them through the process of creating, designing, budgeting, and implementing hands-on activities focused on a science topic of their choice!

*NGP Students - keep an eye out for info about Spring 2025 course enrollment!*



## Community Impact

280

*kits given to Rochester kids*

7

*new & interactive science activities designed through our Spring 2024 course*





## Its a PhD Party

An NGP reunion of sorts recently took place – Seven alumni (and a few significant others) got together to catch up and remember the good ol' days!

Emily Crosier  
Neal Shah  
Kate Andersh  
Allison Murphy  
Greg Reilly  
Holly Beaulac  
Allie McHale-Matthews



## First Time First Authors



Brain, Behavior, & Immunity - Health

Available online 8 September 2024, 100860

In Press, Journal Pre-proof [What's this?](#)



### Changes in S100 Calcium Binding Protein $\beta$ (S100 $\beta$ ) and Cognitive Function from Pre- to Post-Chemotherapy Among Women with Breast Cancer

Aaron N. Huynh B.S.<sup>1</sup>, AnnaLynn M. Williams Ph.D.<sup>1</sup>, Elizabeth K. Belcher Ph.D., M.S.<sup>1\*</sup>, Paige Van Haute B.S.<sup>1</sup>, Louis T. Lotta A.S.<sup>1</sup>, Bryan Thompson B.S.<sup>1</sup>, Colleen Netherby-Winslow Ph.D.<sup>1</sup>, Amarinthia Curtis M.D.<sup>2</sup>, Benjamin T. Esparaz M.D.<sup>3</sup>, Carla Jorgensen M.D.<sup>4</sup>, Sara Alberti B.A., C.C.R.P.<sup>1</sup>, Emma Bentley B.S.<sup>1</sup>, Hongying Sun Ph.D.<sup>1</sup>, Eva Culakova Ph.D., M.S.<sup>1</sup>, Michelle C. Janelsins Ph.D., M.P.H.<sup>1</sup>



Experimental Neurology

Volume 381, November 2024, 114930



Research paper

### Enhancing neurogenesis after traumatic brain injury: The role of adenosine kinase inhibition in promoting neuronal survival and differentiation

Andrea Campbell<sup>a,b</sup>, Jho Lai<sup>b</sup>, Amir E. Wahba<sup>b,c</sup>, Detlev Boison<sup>b</sup>, Hoda M. Gebril<sup>d</sup>



# MEET NGP'S NEWEST FACULTY MEMBERS

## Archan Ganguly, PhD

*Research Interest: Identifying molecular regulators of long-range trafficking of protein cargoes to distinct sub-domains of polarized cells, such as neurons*



## Angela Hewitt, MD, PhD

*Research Interest: if/how the production of rapid, coordinated movements requires circuitry that can bypass sensory feedback delays by estimating consequences resulting from a motor command.*



## Sara Patterson, PhD

*Research Interest: Linking information processing in retinal circuits to downstream visual functions to understand the many rarer, uncharacterized retinal neurons*





## **Souvarish Sarkar, PhD**

*Research Interest: Identifying genetic modifiers of environmental factors in disease etiology using a combination of Drosophila genetics, cell culture, and rodent models*

## **Michelle Janelins, PhD, MPH**

*Research Interest: Understanding clinical, psychological, and biological mechanisms of cognitive difficulties in cancer patients*



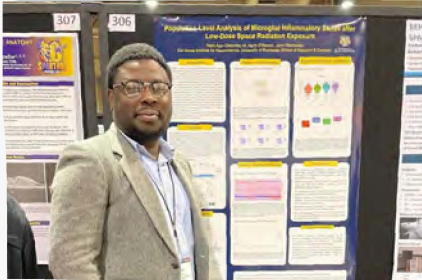
## **Jim McGrath, PhD**

*Research Interest: In vitro models of human lung and vascular barriers during inflammation*



# STUDENT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

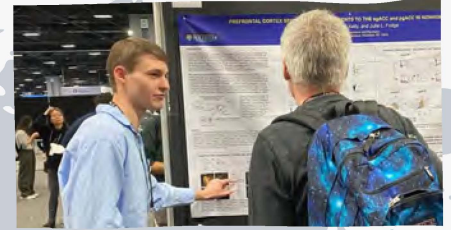
**Many NGP presentations at conferences all around the world & at home!**



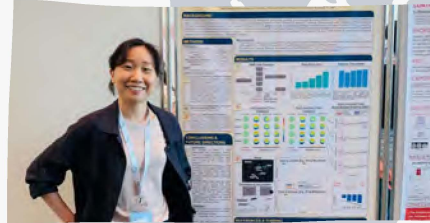
NASA HRP IWS – Galveston, TX



SfN – Washington D.C.



SfN – Washington D.C.



MoBI – Piran, Slovenia



ComSciCon – Boston, MA



FENS – Vienna, Austria



NAM Ophthalmology – NYC



Admissions Weekend – UR

**Tori Popov recently received a F99/K00 D-SPAN Award: She earned two years of funding for the rest of her time as a PhD candidate and four years of funding for her postdoctoral position. This grant will support her project to identify exercise-linked neural changes that may result in improved inhibitory control in individuals with & without schizophrenia during a treadmill walking exercise intervention.**



Evan Newbold received the Edward Peck Curtis Award for Excellence in Teaching by Graduate Student



Amy Buckleaw received an F31 NRSA award from the National Eye Institute

Leslie Gonzales received an F31 NRSA award from NIDCD



Andrea Campbell & Tanique McDonald were awarded T32 Fellowships through UR Center for Visual Science (CVS)





**DR. LINH LE**

The Wallace O. Fenn Award is given annually to a graduating student judged to have performed especially meritorious research and who presented a Ph.D. thesis suitable to honor the name of Dr. Fenn



**DR. ALLISON MURPHY**

The Vincent du Vigneaud Award is presented annually to a graduating student whose thesis work is judged to be unique in potential for stimulating and extending research in the field

## 2024 UR SMD PhD Award Recipients

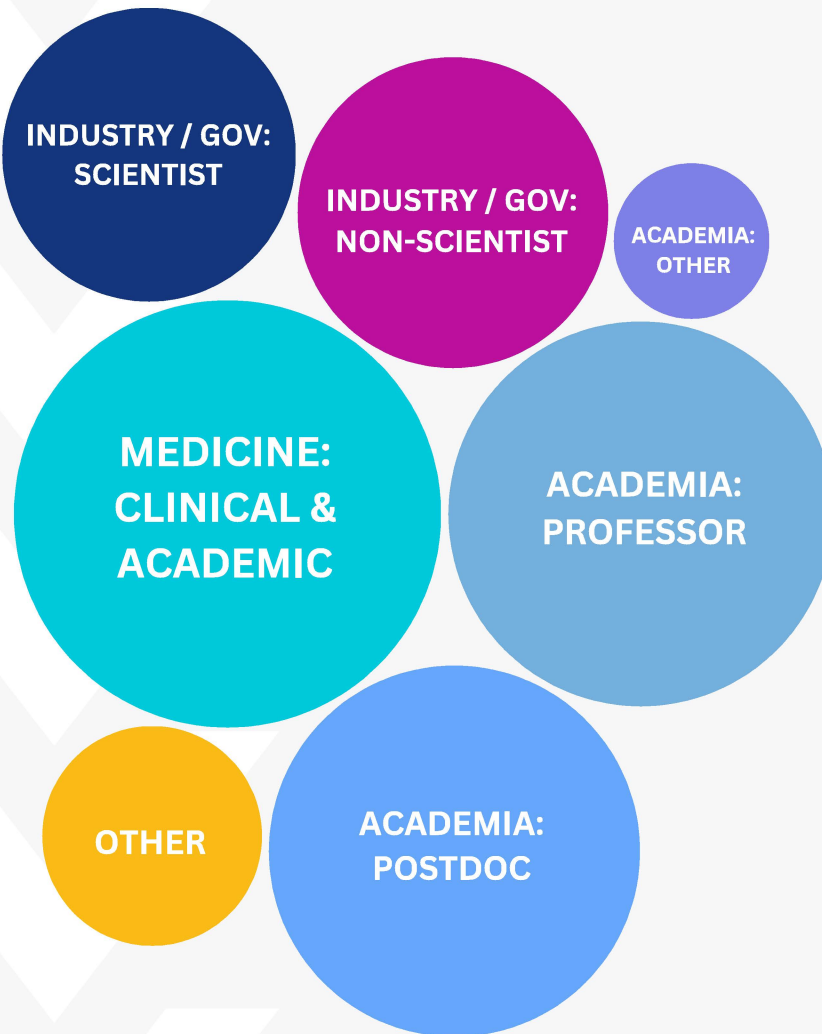
- Paige Nicklas won 1st place in *The Scientist's* inaugural "What's Your Story?" science writing contest with her piece, "Be My Vole-entine: How Love and Loss Change the Brain"
- Dennisha King, Tori Popov, & Matthew Adusei were chosen as the student speakers for the 2023 Del Monte Institute for Neuroscience and UR-IDDRC Symposium
- Tom Scudder was chosen to attend Neurobiology: Methods and Advanced Techniques training course for PhDs and Post Docs at Marine Biological Laboratory in Woods Hole, MA



Matthew Adusei was awarded a Joan Wright Goodman Dissertation Fellowship for 2024-2025. It is one of the University's most competitive dissertation fellowships and is given to students who display exceptional ability and promise!



# Where do our alumni go?



## Some even stay with UR NGP:



In May, Dr. Rianne Stowell (2019) was promoted from Postdoctoral Associate to Research Assistant Professor here at UR, giving her lecture: "Dopaminergic Signaling Regulate Microglia Surveillance and Adolescent Plasticity in the Frontal Cortex"



Dr. Nathan Smith (2013) gave the faculty address at this year's URMCMasters and Advance Certificate graduation ceremony, and left them with this message: "In the words of Nelson Mandela, "Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world."



# 9

*new Neuroscience  
Ph.D. graduates in  
2023-2024*

Kathryn Toffolo

Jingyi Yang

Lihn Le

MaKenna Cealie

Cody McKee

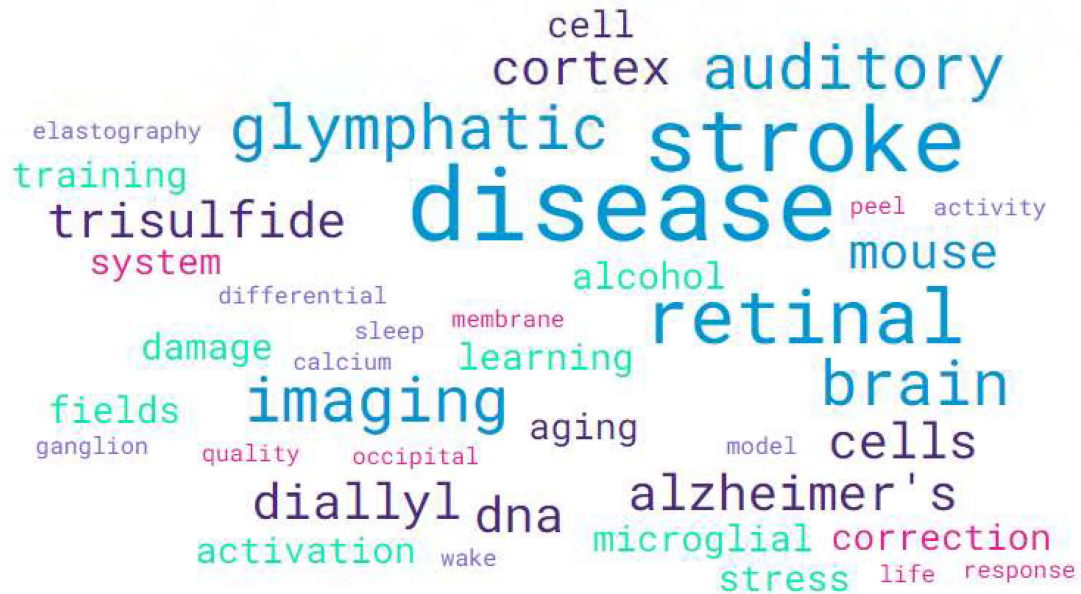
Greg Reilly

Mark Stoessel

Luke Shaw

Emily Przysinda

# What is the NGP publishing about?



created from article titles and keywords published by NGP in the last year

## RECENT STUDENT-LED PAPERS

Adusei



Parallel Streams of Direct Corticogeniculate Feedback from Mid-level Extrastriate Cortex in the Macaque Monkey

Matthew Adusei,<sup>1</sup> Edward M. Callaway,<sup>2</sup> W. Martin Usrey,<sup>2,4,5</sup> and Farzan Briggs<sup>1,6,7,8</sup>

Giannetto



Glymphatic fluid transport is suppressed by the aquaporin-4 inhibitor AER-271

Michael J. Giannetto<sup>1,2</sup> | Ryszard S. Gomolka<sup>3</sup> | Daniel Gahn-Martinez<sup>1</sup> | Evan J. Newbold<sup>1,2</sup> | Peter A. R. Bork<sup>4</sup> | Ethan Chang<sup>1</sup> | Michael Gresser<sup>5</sup> | Trevor Thompson<sup>5</sup> | Yuki Mori<sup>3</sup> | Maiken Nedergaard<sup>1,3</sup>

Shah



PNAS

Correlated variability and its attentional modulation depend on anatomical connectivity

Shradha Shah<sup>1,2</sup>, Jacqueline Hembrook-Shah<sup>3</sup>, Vanessa Mock<sup>1</sup>, and Farzan Briggs<sup>1,4,5,6</sup>

Cealie



Developmental Ethanol Exposure Impacts Purkinje Cells but Not Microglia in the Young Adult Cerebellum

MaKenna Y. Cealie<sup>1,2</sup>, James C. Douglas<sup>2</sup>, Hannah K. Swan<sup>2</sup>, Erik D. Vonkaenel<sup>4</sup>, Matthew N. McCall<sup>5</sup>, Paul D. Drew<sup>2</sup>, and Ania K. Majewska<sup>1,4</sup>

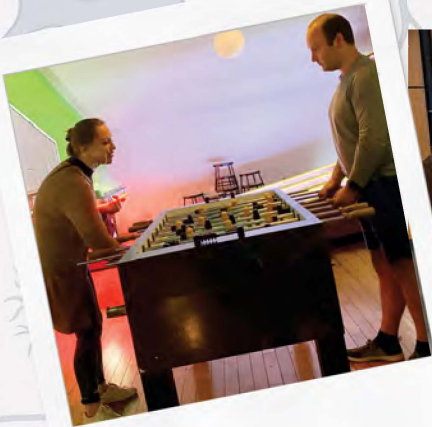
# 40+

Publications by NGP students and recent alums in the past year!



Follow the link to view **ALL recent student publications!**





## **2024 Neuroscience Annual Retreat**









# CONNECT WITH US!

## PROGRAM WEBPAGE & CONTACT INFO

URMC NEUROSCIENCE  
pam\_laduke@urmc.rochester.edu  
601 Elmwood Avenue Box 603,  
Rochester, NY 14642



## TWITTER/X

@URNeuroscience



## INSTAGRAM

@urmc\_phd\_neuroscience

Annual Neuroscience Retreat — SAVE THE DATES

2025 — Friday April 25<sup>th</sup>

2026 — Friday April 24<sup>th</sup>