

NEUROSCIENCE GRADUATE PROGRAM

UR NGP NEWSLETTER - 2025

Achievements | Impact | Community



UR
MEDICINE

DEL MONTE
INSTITUTE FOR NEUROSCIENCE

Upcoming Events

2025 Golisano and Del Monte Neuroscience Symposium

**INSIDE THE BRAIN:
MAPPING INTELLECTUAL AND
DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES**

OCTOBER 28-29, 2025


Memorial Art
Gallery
University of
Rochester



Register
Now!

<https://event.me/2MvK1r>



GOLISANO
INTELLECTUAL & DEVELOPMENTAL
DISABILITIES INSTITUTE



DEL MONTE
INSTITUTE FOR NEUROSCIENCE

Upcoming Events

SAVE THE DATE

6th Annual University of Rochester Neuroscience Graduate Program Social at SfN

Sunday, November 16, 2025 | 7 – 9 pm
Sally's Waterfront Dining
1 Market Pl, San Diego, CA

Contact for more information:
Pam_LaDuke@urmc.rochester.edu

Join us for an evening of networking and celebration!



Save the Date Neuroscience Graduate Program presents the 2026 Neuroscience Retreat

Keynote Address by
Anne Hart, PhD
Professor and Chair of
Neuroscience
Brown University

April 24, 2026
8:30am - 5:00pm
Memorial Art Gallery



Poster and event registration opening February 16th

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

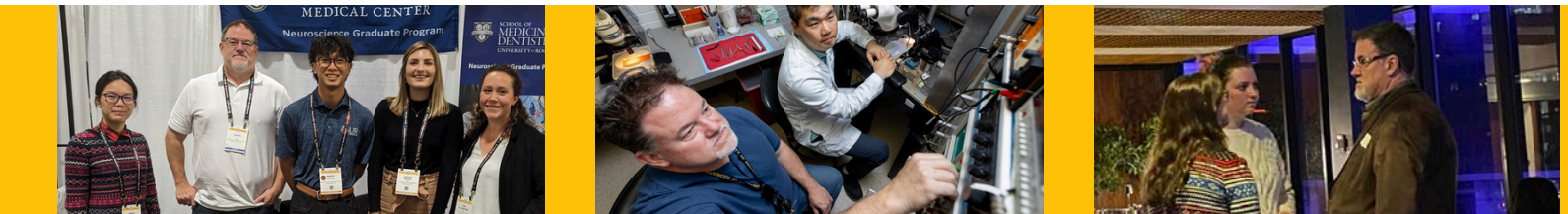
This past July marks the start of my fifth year serving as the Director of the Neuroscience Graduate Program (NGP). It has been an incredible and enlightening journey so far, and I appreciate the continued support from leadership, faculty, students, and staff. It is largely through this network of support that makes my job both doable and rewarding. I am thrilled to be a part of all the accomplishments and accolades that Neuroscience brings to the table each day. I think that it is also fair to say that during this time, we have all faced challenges that have required us to evolve, reimagine, and rethink how we do things. There is no better example of this than how we weathered the COVID pandemic and its immediate impact on our academic pursuits. We just put one foot in front of the other and pushed. As a close friend loves to say, in times like these, “we should be prepared to pivot”. In the last eight months, we find ourselves again facing a new wave of uncertainty about the scientific enterprise, the role of academia, and how we continue to support the amazing neuroscience research here at the University of Rochester. These travels will almost certainly will require us to pivot. **This year, I really struggled with what I might say in the newsletter as I wanted to be positive and optimistic about where we are and where we might be heading, but not at the expense of pretending there is no elephant in the room** and that it is all butterflies and unicorns. In my many exchanges with faculty and students, I have heard plenty of half full to half empty perspectives on the current scientific upheaval.

Admittedly, I am always looking for the silver lining and I am quick to tune into to sources of wisdom and inspiration, and these frequent conversations keep me centered. In one such conversation, a colleague said I should read John Foxe’s recent offering in the latest Del Monte Neuroscience Newsletter (Vol. 26). She declared that John often has a way with words, but, here, he really gets to the heart of the “uneasiness” we all are feeling. He acknowledges the uncertainty and the mountain before us, but he also buttresses the weight of it all with hope and guidance of how we navigate things. The core of that conversation is about community, collaboration, and determination. Our togetherness provides strength, resilience and a path forward. Through this lens, I see it everywhere from our students showing up to support each other at qualifying exams and thesis defenses to faculty mentors going the extra mile to build students up for the road ahead. Some NGP students work beyond the boundaries of our program connecting myself and other NGP faculty with graduate students in other programs who just need someone to listen. While uncertainty breeds fear, **these continued conversations and support for one another provide an opportunity to make sense out of the madness, counter the unknown, and provide reassurance to those who need it most. We will get through this too, together.**

***“Our
togetherness
provides
strength,
resilience and
a path
forward”***



I want to recognize the efforts of Madalina Tivarus for successfully managing our last admissions/recruitment cycle. NGP's admissions process is a big task, so I am deeply appreciative of all the hard work that our admissions committee, NGP faculty, and NGP students have put in to make those efforts successful. This year, an incredibly talented and competitive applicant pool consisting of 246 students applied for entry into our program for Fall 2025. We interviewed 52 of those applicants to arrive at our incoming 2025 NGP class, which is represented by 8 amazing students who began showing up in the late summer to continue their academic journey here in Rochester. Much thanks to the NGP Boot Camp Committee and students who pitched in to officially introduce our new students to our program upon their arrival. Our mid-level year students are locking horns with their Part I and Part II qualifying exams while more senior students are preparing to defend their dissertation research work in the upcoming months. Since our last newsletter, ten NGP students have successfully completed the requirements for their PhD and began their journey towards a host of new and exciting postgraduate opportunities. Congratulations again to Matt Adusei, Silei Zhu, Dennis Jung, Bryan Redmond, Amy Bucklaew, Jo Fritzinger, Bryan Crum, Fei Shang, Abigail Mayer, and Yanya Ding and thanks for being a part of the NGP family. We wish you success in your new roles, and we hope you will continue to reflect fondly upon your time here and let others know how vibrant our program is. Finally, congratulations to the many NGP students that received recognition, awards, and fellowships throughout the year, including snagging eight GEPA awards in early October. A few of these honors can be found on the pages of this newsletter. A big thanks to our NGP students and their mentors whose academic excellence and accomplishments continue to showcase our program.



Excitedly, we just received word recently that the Neuroscience T32 renewal application received an super-impressive impact score of 13. This is indeed fantastic news. Big thanks to Ania Majewska and Nathan Smith for leading the resubmission efforts, and we now wait patiently to receive word that the award is coming – fingers crossed. Special thanks to Erin Murray, Aiesha Anchan, Brian Keane, and Ting Du for keeping our student seminar series going, and to Gail Johnson, Manoela Fogaca, and Frank Garcea for maintaining our Journal Clubs. Hats off to Julian Meeks for maintaining NSC512 and Ian Fieblekorn for assuming the helm as course director for NSC531, 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. Special thanks to our coordinator extraordinaire Pam LaDuke who helps Madalina and I stay on track and informed. I would be also remiss if I failed to acknowledge Makenna Cealie and all her help with many NGP priorities. Last, but certainly not least, we are indebted to Paige Nicklas whose continued creativity, design ideas, dedication, and attention to detail again have really elevated this newsletter. **There are so many people that work to keep this program churning and I want to thank each and every one of you for all that you do. The NGP benefits tremendously from your time and dedication.**

***Warm Regards,
Chris Holt, PhD***

Dear current and future neuroscientists,

The 2024–2025 application cycle was one of our most competitive and diverse to date, with applicants from a broad range of academic backgrounds, research experiences, and international perspectives. We are thrilled to welcome our new class of 8 students, whose research interests span everything from neural circuit development to computational modeling and translational neuroscience.

This mix of people and backgrounds is what our program is all about, because we believe that working across fields is the best way to spark new ideas and make meaningful discoveries about the brain.

It is both an honor and a responsibility to help shape the future of our program through careful, holistic admissions decisions. And this would not be possible without the invaluable help of the current faculty and students. I am especially grateful to our amazing student admissions committee: Aaron Huynh, Aiesha Anchan, Yunshan Cai, Alexis Feidler, Leslie Gonzales, Amelia Hines, Aishwarya Jayan, Mariah Marrero, and Adam Roszczyk. Your energy and dedication played a big role in bringing in this talented new class. We truly couldn't have done it without you!

A huge thank you as well to our amazing faculty in the admissions committee—Chris Holt, Ian Fiebelkorn, Archan Ganguly, Frank Garcea, Paul Geha, Jennetta Hammond, Ken Henry, Gail Johnson, Julian Meeks, Gabriella Sterne, Ben Suarez-Jimenez, and Nathan Smith. I want to give a special thanks to Makenna Cealie, who has done an incredible job keeping us all on track every step of the way. Her flawless organization, patience, and behind-the-scenes work have made all the difference. Finally, a heartfelt thank-you to our wonderful graduate program coordinator, who helped us wrap up the season and welcome our new students - Pam LaDuke we are so lucky to have her!

As we continue to build a dynamic neuroscience community, the graduate admissions process remains central to our commitment to attract, support, and empower graduate students who not only excel academically but also bring unique perspectives, life experiences, and a spirit of collaboration.

To current students, faculty, and alumni, thank you for your commitment to NGP. Your contributions are invaluable to our success and help shape our academic community.



To prospective students, thank you for your interest in our graduate program. Whether you're just beginning to explore neuroscience or are ready to submit your application, we look forward to learning more about you and welcome you in our community.

With excitement for what's next,

Madalina Tivarus, PhD

NGP Admissions Committee Chair



There is something truly special about the start of the new academic year. The liveliness and sense of eagerness as students arrive, ready to embark on new courses, projects, and research endeavors. As we enter this new year, we are also in a new era of science. Collaborations will be vital now more than ever, sharing ideas, resources, and data. **I'm grateful that team science is already baked into the work environment of the University of Rochester and am thrilled for the next generation of scientists to embark on this tradition.**

This year, we have congratulated ten newly minted PhD graduates from our program, each of whom has made significant contributions to the field of neuroscience. This August, we are thrilled to welcome eight students to the Neuroscience Graduate Program, bringing fresh perspectives and enthusiasm to the community.

Our NEURO CITY and NEURO-RochS scholars once again came to Rochester for a 10-week research experience this summer. Engaging young minds in the field of neuroscience is always inspiring, and we are grateful to our faculty, postdocs, and students who make this program successful.

Looking ahead, San Diego will host the Society for Neuroscience Conference from November 15 – 19, 2025. Please join us on Sunday, November 16th, for a social event to spark collaboration, reunite old friends, and celebrate the success of our peers and colleagues.

As we move forward into this year, I'm excited to see the new innovative ideas and collaborations that will emerge from our program. Together, we continue to represent the spirit of discovery and excellence that defines our work and shapes our world.

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 2025 COHORT



I am AA, which stands for amino acid. I am from Shanxi, China, a historical city known for noodles and vinegar. From my name, you might guess that I love protein, and yes, I studied neuroscience and molecular biology at Colorado College. My research background spans from molecular and cellular biology under the topics of aging and neurodegenerative diseases to systems neuroscience under the topics of visual circuits and learning and memory. Along the way, I realized how much there is to learn from both nature and us. I am excited to join our lovely NGP family and to ask questions loudly and freely here at the University of Rochester!

In life, I am a nature lover. I love animals and plants, mountains and the ocean, the sky and the ground. I recently became a yoga enthusiast after returning from Puerto Rico. I also heard that Rochester has great climbing clubs and gyms, and I am interested in trying as well. Besides that, I do art, I dance, and I bake sometimes. I go to the gym, and happy to find gym buddies! I am a foodie, too.



AA Guo



Emma Susi

Hi everyone, I'm Emma! I'm originally from South Florida and did my undergraduate at Florida Atlantic University. I had the privilege of being in a very cool program where I could complete my high school requirements while being a fully enrolled college student, and because of that I graduated at 19 years old with a B.S. in Neuroscience! I was originally pre-med, but developed a very strong interest in neural engineering and brain computer interfaces. I worked under Dr. Stephen Wolfram for a summer to further develop a non-invasive assistive communication BCI I created, and I recently completed URM's PREP program where I worked in Dr. Ed Lalor's lab studying neural indices of perception. I'm excited to start my PhD and am interested in everything from neural decoding to medical device design. On the not-so-science side of things, I am a huge foodie and love to cook and try new restaurants, go climbing with friends, and am a serial sports tryer (currently on #10) and recently took up figure skating!

I'm from Shreveport, Louisiana. For my undergrad, I went to the University of Louisiana at Lafayette where I majored in Biology with a minor in Chemistry. Although no one in my family comes from any sort of scientific background, I've always been fascinated by neuroscience, so I knew that was where I wanted my focus to be during my undergraduate and beyond. Broadly speaking, my research interest is in neuroimmunology. More specifically, I am interested in how neuron-glia interactions contribute to neurodevelopmental disorders and abnormalities. When I'm not in the lab, I like to spend my free time exploring new coffee shops and new music, working out, reading sci-fi and fantasy novels, and of course, watching Grey's Anatomy.



Jessica Fiser



Catrin Zharry

I'm coming from Connecticut but I grew up around the northeast and fittingly attended Northeastern University, where I majored in behavioral neuroscience and minored in cultural anthropology. I'm fascinated by how we, alone and together, operate and adapt to challenges. Most of my research experience has been in using fMRI to study changes in connectivity related to cognitive and affective symptoms in psychopathology. I look forward to exploring the nervous system more widely and deeply through new perspectives and neuroimaging techniques. I enjoy sharing my interests and enthusiasm about neuroscience through student organizations, and in my free time I like reading, making crafts, and appreciating art and plants.

Hello Hello Hello! I'm Jiwon. I'm originally from Seoul South Korea, but I've called Savannah home for the past few years. I'll be joining the Neuroscience Graduate Program at the University of Rochester this fall, and I couldn't be more excited to start this next chapter! Previously, I studied at Savannah State University, where I majored in Biology and minored in Applied Mathematics. I chose my major because I've always been curious about the mechanism behind cell communication. My interest in biology really took off when I started working on a research project involving retroviral infections in mouse models and signaling pathways in chemically induced Apoptosis. As for my minor, I thought - why not? Outside the lab, you'll probably find me hiking (I LOVE HIKING) or attempting a new recipe that probably involves way too much garlic. I also enjoy reading the news, watching movies, playing chess or video games, and trying (emphasis on trying) to keep my houseplants alive (I've been trying to grow pineapple and avocado). I'm looking forward to getting to know the amazing people in the Rochester community and finding my go-to diner spot.



Hi! My name is Jessica, and I grew up in the East Bay Area, California! I majored in Neurobiology at the University of California, Irvine (UCI), then received the opportunity to do neuroimmunology research for the NIH-Post-Baccalaureate Research Experience Program (NIH-PREP) at the University of Rochester Medical Center (URMC). Prior to PREP, I reached out to Dr. Harris Gelbard (URMC) and Todd Krauss (UR) about a summer research internship that investigated severe COVID-19 being neuroinflammatory, using a SARS-CoV-2 nanoparticle viral mimetic. It was this internship and my HSV-1 lab research experience at UCI that shaped my current interest in neuroimmunology research! Specifically, in the crosstalk relationship between the central nervous system and systemic inflammation from the periphery. Outside of the lab, I like to stay active through hiking, walking around the city, running, and martial arts. But when I'm home and have time, I love to work on 1000+ puzzle kits!



**Jonathan
Williams**

Hi everyone, my name's Jonathan Williams. I'm from PG County, Maryland born and raised, and I rep the DMV hard! I did my undergrad at Howard University in Washington D.C. studying biology (minors in chemistry and psychology) as a member of the Karsh STEM Scholars Program. I originally wanted to be a vet, but after an internship in high school at the Smithsonian National Zoological, I realized I was actually interested in the mind and its complexities! Howard doesn't have a neuroscience degree, so I used biology to build a foundation and psychology/internships to supplement that knowledge. I spent 2 years studying cortex development at Children's National Hospital, and another year as a PREP scholar here at UR studying neural circuits in feeding initiation! I'm fascinated by neural circuits and the brain's ecosystem, and am really looking forward to diving into this behaviorally, physiologically, and computationally. Otherwise, you can find me attempting to be a gym goer, chatting with friends (and strangers) for hours, binging Youtube, inhaling food or working with youth.

I'm Tanmai, and I'm from Bangalore – a vibrant, busy city in Southern India. I was an undergrad at the Indian Institute of Science, where I majored in Biology and dabbled a bit in Mathematics and Physics. I got into Neuroscience through a signal processing course and haven't looked away since – I get to study fascinating circuitry in the brain AND play with cool mathematical transformations! I love the idea of finding rules that explain natural phenomena, and the brain is one of the most intricately designed and least chartered of natural systems that could be studied for this. Beyond science, I enjoy good music – I play the violin and (am learning to play) the drums. I also love to write and travel. On a good day, you'll find me either running laps around the city, or falling asleep to a House MD episode (yes, I follow the fandom too).



**Tanmai
Dhanireddy**



"My experience in the lab this summer was so much fun and super informative! I got hands-on experience and learned how to gel EEG caps, how fMRIs work, and how to administer cognitive assessments (like IQ tests!). Despite no prior coding experience, I also learned how to code my own figures with MATLAB so I could create a poster for the Summer Research Symposium. **Everyone was so kind and friendly, and this experience has really solidified my interest in studying neuroscience.** I now plan to immerse myself in the field more and hope to conduct neuroscience research in the future!"

-Thehara

Brain Awareness Campaign

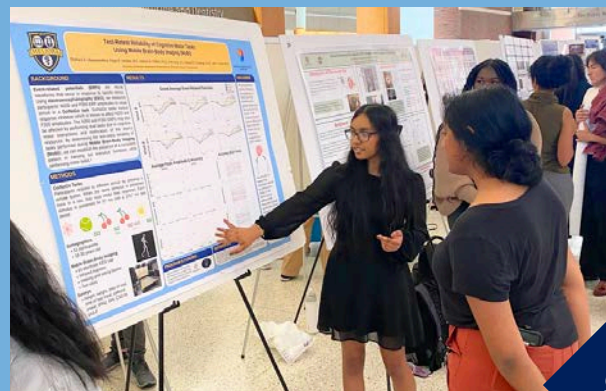
UNIVERSITY of ROCHESTER



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 (Back) Abi Alpers, Julia Granato, Paige Nicklas, Evan Newbold, Jose Reynoso, Aaron Huyhn (Front) Samantha Jenks, Rithwik Cherian, and Olympia Mathiaperanam. The group is passionate about getting children and the public excited about neuroscience through engaging, hands-on activities.

In February, we held our annual Brain Bee. Our winner was 12th grader Thehara Ubayawardena! She then traveled to Rutgers to represent us at the National Brain Bee Competition. Thehara then participated in the NeuroROCHS internship program this summer here at UR, applying her neuro-knowledge to a research project in the Foxe/Freedman lab! She excellently presented a poster at the end of the summer (see pic below)!

The committee would like to extend a huge THANK YOU to everyone that contributes to making BAC impactful and fun. We couldn't achieve our goals without 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

URWINS is a group of female researchers in Neuroscience, Cognitive Science, Biomedical Engineering, and Visual Science at the University of Rochester. Our mission 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.

Over the past year, we've hosted a variety of events, including a paint & sip (neuroscience edition), scientific speed dating, a grant writing workshop with Dr. Elaine Smolock, a BioRender workshop with our campus librarians, and our annual Thanksgiving potluck.

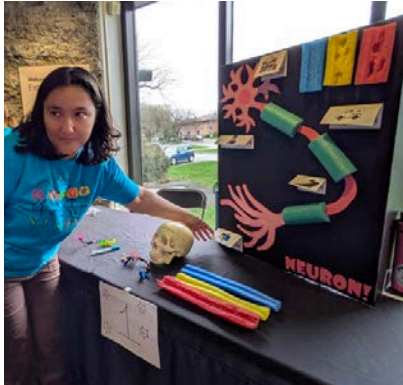
We've been keeping our website up to date with event information and photos, so please feel free to check it out!

<https://urwins.bcs.rochester.edu>

**Thank you to URWINS organizers,
Chen Li & Yumeng Luo**



NeURo2ALL



Our group's goal is to increase the accessibility of neuroscience and broader science to children in underserved communities of Rochester. We do this through "Pop-Ups" at community spaces and events. Each Pop-Up has different stations with hands-on, kid-friendly experiments to demonstrate a fun bit of science!

Then, the children and their caregivers leave with their own "Scientist-in-Training" kit, containing all the supplies & directions to run the experiments at home. This allows them to demonstrate their new knowledge to family and friends, spreading the crucial message that science is for everyone - regardless of their level of experience or background!

Also, over the summer we did a Pop-Up with the RIT Tech Tigers , a camp for D/deaf children/adolescents, and were very excited to bring these activities to that community!



OUR 2025 IMPACT

300+

*Rochester kids attended
our events & left with a
Scientist-in-Training kit*

Do you have an idea for science outreach?

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 on Spring 2026 course enrollment!



NEW NGP FACULTY

James J. Gugger, MD, PharmD



We are interested in quantitative brain imaging and clinical applications in neuroscience, particularly in epilepsy & traumatic brain injury, utilizing structural & diffusion MRI as well as functional imaging modalities such as arterial spin labeling, functional MRI, and FDG-PET, to develop neuroimaging-based biomarkers that can be rapidly translated to the clinic to better characterize neurological disorders, predict outcomes, and ultimately lead to more effective therapies

Tanzil Arefin, PhD



We use multimodal MRI methods, including resting-state fMRI in awake mice & rats, in-vivo and postmortem diffusion MRI, arterial spin labeling perfusion MRI, MR spectroscopy & angiography, as well as chemogenetics, optogenetics, & microscopy to elucidate molecular mechanisms that impair plasticity in neurodegenerative & psychiatric illnesses

Ting Du, MD, PhD



We investigate the intricate processes involved in cerebrospinal fluid (CSF) production, circulation, & clearance, with a particular emphasis on the role of cervical lymphatic vessels (cLVs) in facilitating brain waste removal. We also study the choroid plexus, a specialized structure that produces CSF, examining how its regulation & dysfunction contribute to conditions such as hydrocephalus, where fluid accumulates abnormally in the brain

Elise Piazza, PhD



The SoNIC ("Science of Neural, Interpersonal Communication") lab studies the neural and behavioral mechanisms that support real-life communication. We want to know: How do our brains and behaviors become coupled to other people's during everyday interactions? How do our brains organize the statistics of natural sounds, like speech and music? How do we adapt our voices to the demands of unique listeners?

STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS

Luke Shaw, PhD



Vincent du Vigneaud Thesis Award

Conferred by the Office of Graduate Education to a graduating student from any program whose thesis is judged **superior and unique in potential for stimulating and extending research in the field**. The award is given in honor of Vincent du Vigneaud, who received his Ph.D. in Biochemistry in 1927 at the University of Rochester School of Medicine and Dentistry.

Bryan Redmond, PhD



Leadership Award for Excellence in Equity and Inclusion

Nominees must demonstrate a sustained passion for and commitment to promoting equity and inclusion through their research, institutional, administrative, and/or other service-related efforts. It is expected that **nominees' efforts show a demonstrated impact upon the communities they serve**.

Thomas Delgado



Joan Wright Goodman Dissertation Fellowship

This fellowship was endowed by Joan Wright Goodman, PhD class of 1952, to support doctoral students across disciplines in the sciences. It is **one of the University's most competitive dissertation fellowships** and is given to students who display exceptional ability and promise.



***Edward Peck Curtis Award
for Excellence in Teaching
by a Graduate Student***

Sarah Yablonski

**Lia Calcines-
Rodriguez**

*Sarah C. Mangelsdorf
and Karl S. Rosengren
Presidential Award*



Leah Sheppard

20th annual Steven
Schwid Research
Symposium - Best
Oral Presentation



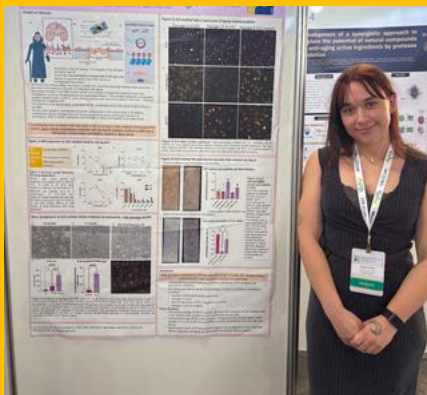
Paige Nicklas

*2024 UR 3-Minute
Thesis Competition -
People's Choice
Award*



Abigail Alpers

*Sarah C.
Mangelsdorf and
Karl S. Rosengren
Presidential Award*



F31 awarded

***Using iPSCs to model the
combined effect of
genetics and aging on the
human blood-brain barrier***

NIH - National Institute of
Neurological Disorders and Stroke

**Alexis
Feidler**

NGP SWEEPS 2025 GEPA AWARDS



Michael Giannetto
Outstanding Student Mentor



Jessica Ogu
Merritt and Marjorie Cleveland
Fellowship & Meliora Scholarship



Johnathan Williams
Provost Fellowship



Catrin Zharyy
Irving L. Spar Fellowship



Jessica Fiser
Graduate Alumni Fellowship

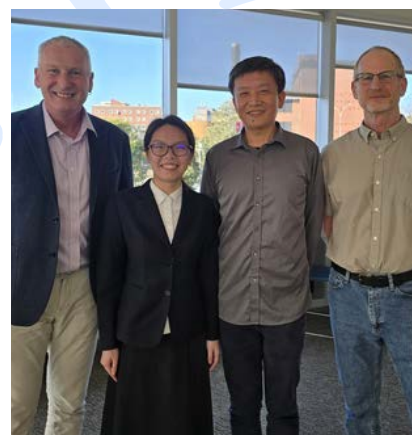
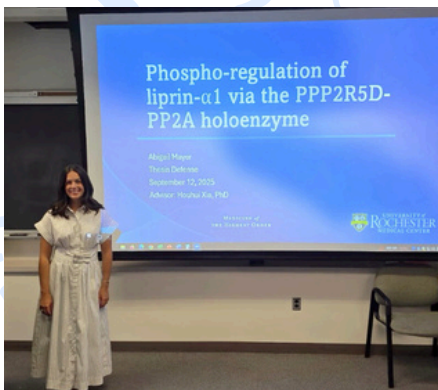


Kathryn Toffolo, PhD
Community Impact &
Advocacy Postdoc Award



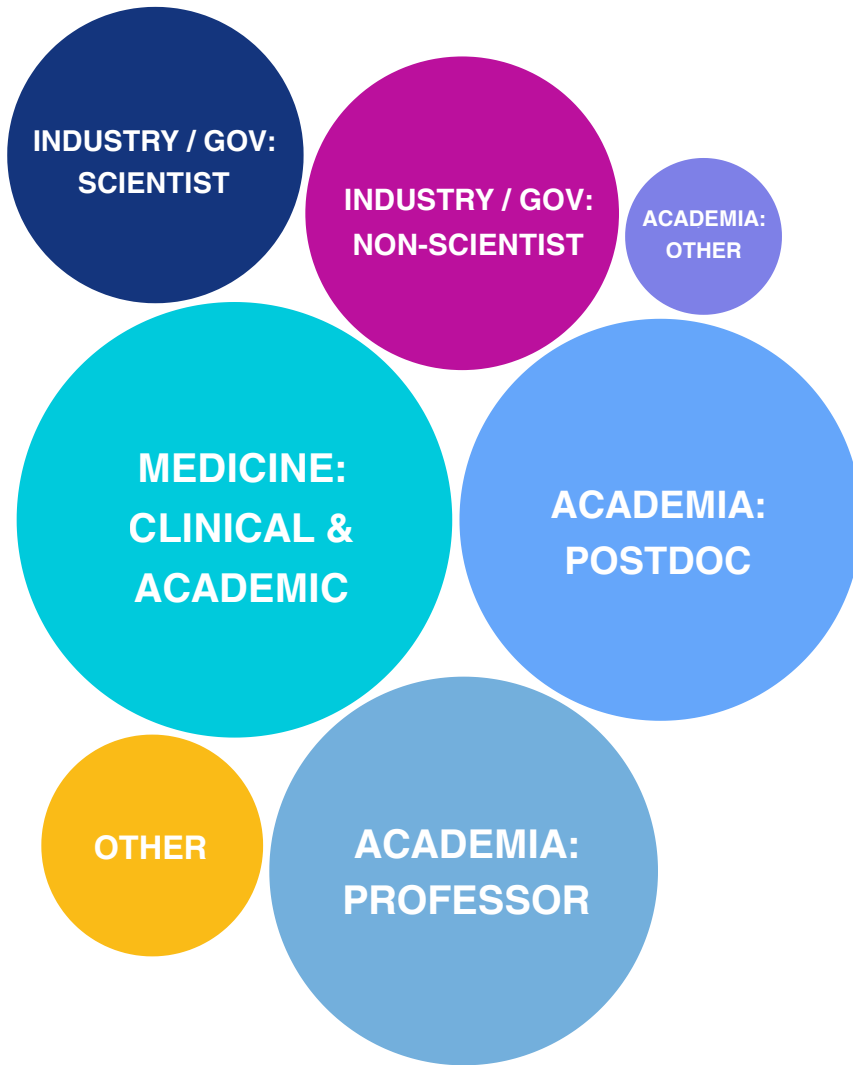
Jinwon Choi
J. Newell Stannard
Scholarship





NEW PH.D. GRADUATES

Matthew Adusei	Dennis Jung
Amy Bucklaew	Abigail Mayer
Bryan Crum	Bryan Redmond
Yanya Ding	Fei Shang
Jo Fritzing	Silei Zhu



What
are
our
alumni
up to?



**2025 Doty Award Winner
Matthew Adusei, PhD**

Postdoctoral Fellow, NIH

Alumni Spotlight: Dr. Kamy Wakim-Takaki

Where I ended up:

I've transitioned to public health with a focus in behavioral health (mental health, substance use). I'm a healthcare data analytics consultant at Carelon Behavioral Health. It's a similar space to my PhD, but I have a broader scope. I'm not working with individual patients, I'm working on systems. My favorite part of my PhD was the data analysis, and that's still the core focus of my job. Now, I analyze healthcare claims data (what drugs people are taking, what services people are using, what conditions they are treating, whether the treatments are working) instead of individual subject brain data.

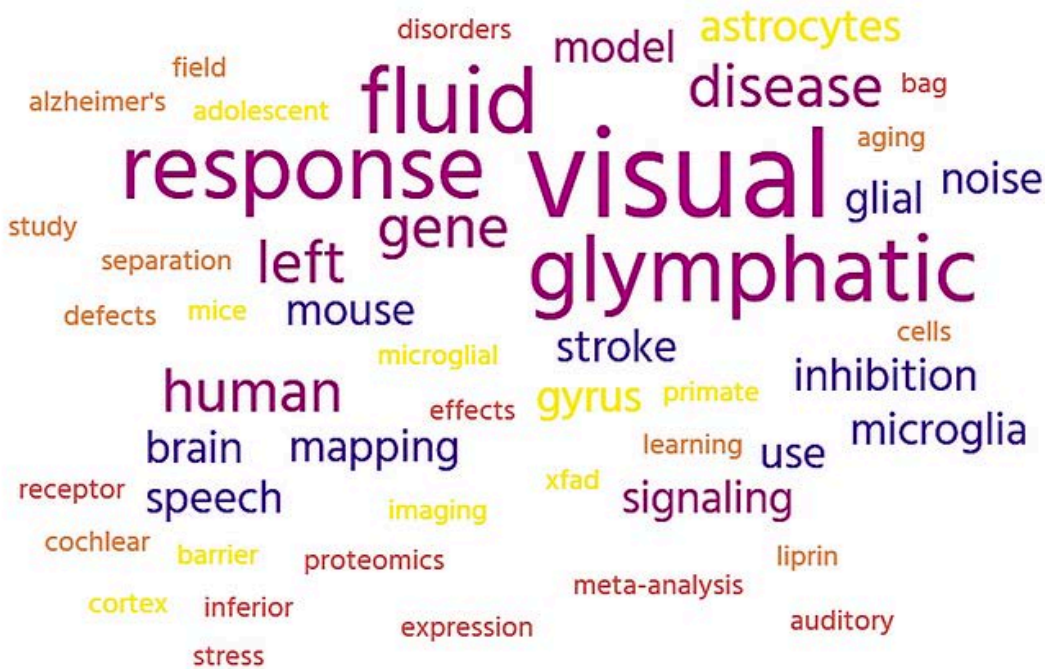
Advice to current students:

Don't underestimate the things you have to do in the program that seem lateral to your primary goal of "finish my thesis." All the vendors you need to coordinate with to restock your lab supplies, all the conflict resolution skills you learn when there comes that inevitable clash with one of your lab mates...all of the weekly planning you do to make sure your experiments run on time, your cells don't die, and people don't get mad at you. These skills will serve you just as much your deep technical knowledge about the brain. In

the moment, you THINK you're in NGP to learn about the brain. In reality, you're in NGP to learn how to be an effective scientist, and this involves a lot of things other than science.



I'm a scientist through-and-through. We do our PhD's at impressionable points in our life. My professors and peers modeled the behavior that I soaked up like a sponge – hard work, deep inquiry, relentless drive. I carry this with me through all aspects of my life.



What has
the NGP
been
publishing
about?

> J Biol Chem. 2025 Jul;301(7):110349. doi: 10.1016/j.jbc.2025.110349. Epub 2025 Jun 6.

The phosphatase activity of the PPP2R5D-PP2A holoenzyme modulates liprin- α liquid-liquid phase separation

Abigail Mayer¹, Rita Deraa², Elijah Spahn³, Isis Verbinen⁴, Yang Zhang³, Michelle Guzman⁵, Mark R Swingle⁶, Brian E Wadzinski⁵, Richard Honkanen⁶, Veerle Janssens⁷, Houhui Xia⁸

Affiliations + expand

PMID: 40484382 PMCID: PMC12273559 DOI: 10.1016/j.jbc.2025.110349



Mayer

> J Neurosci. 2025 Jun 4;45(23):e1907242025. doi: 10.1523/JNEUROSCI.1907-24.2025.

Mechanisms of Tone-in-Noise Encoding in the Inferior Colliculus

Johanna B Fritzing¹, Laurel H Carney^{2,3}

Affiliations + expand

PMID: 40335155 PMCID: PMC12139584 (available on 2025-12-04)
DOI: 10.1523/JNEUROSCI.1907-24.2025



Fritzing

> Nat Commun. 2025 Apr 9;16(1):3380. doi: 10.1038/s41467-025-58667-9.

Dual parallel stream-specific and generalized effects of corticogeniculate feedback on LGN neurons in primate and carnivore

Sabrina Mai^{1,2,3,4}, Allison J Murphy^{1,2,3,4,5}, J Michael Hasse⁶, Farran Briggs^{7,8,9,10,11,12}

Affiliations + expand

PMID: 40204723 PMCID: PMC11982367 DOI: 10.1038/s41467-025-58667-9



Mai

> Biomolecules. 2024 Dec 13;14(12):1594. doi: 10.3390/biom14121594.

Pharmacological Inhibition of Astrocytic Transglutaminase 2 Facilitates the Expression of a Neurosupportive Astrocyte Reactive Phenotype in Association with Increased Histone Acetylation

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PMID: 39766301 PMCID: PMC11673777 DOI: 10.3390/biom14121594



Delgado

> eNeuro. 2025 Jan 15;12(1):ENEURO.0466-24.2024. doi: 10.1523/ENEURO.0466-24.2024. Print 2025 Jan.

Microglia Morphology in the Developing Primate Amygdala and Effects of Early Life Stress

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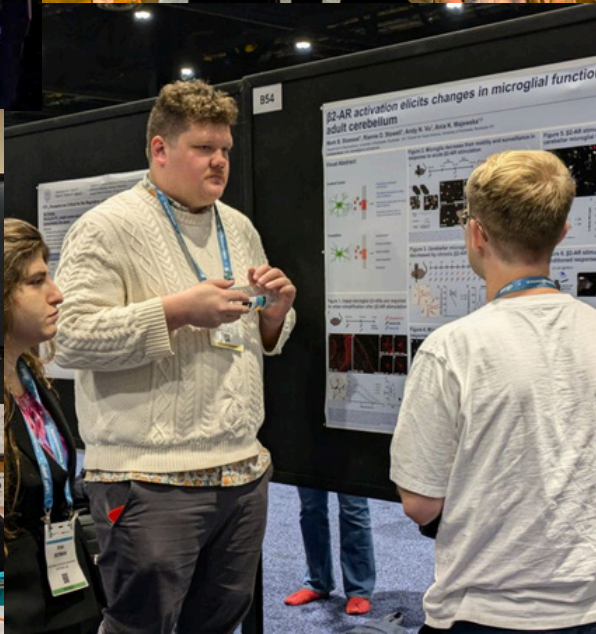
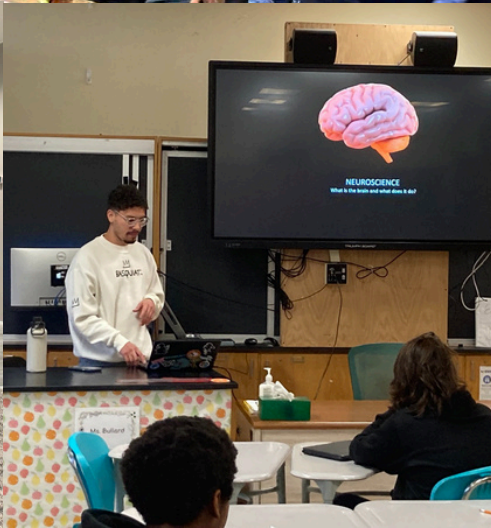
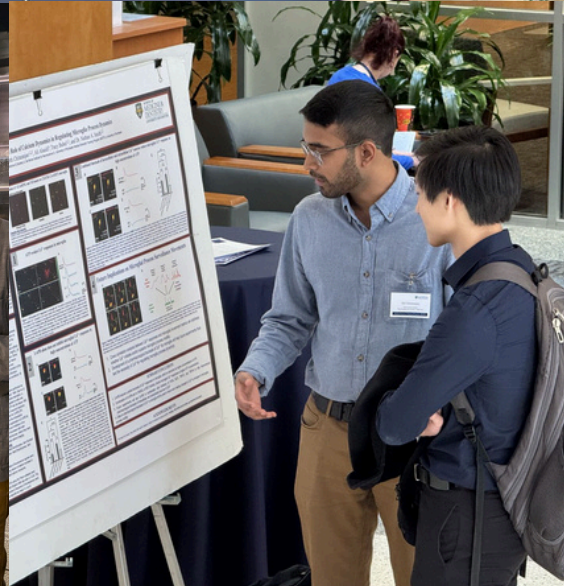


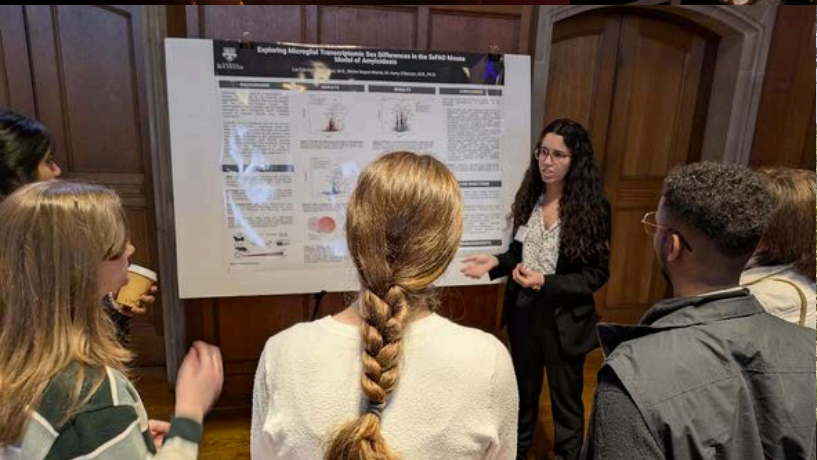
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