



THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA

## Undergraduate Biology Research Program

### 37th ANNUAL CONFERENCE

January 24, 2026 | Environment & Natural Resources 2 Bldg. | 1064 E. Lowell St.

## EVENT SCHEDULE

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**8:00am**

### GUEST & STUDENT ARRIVAL

- Event information for visitors available at the Welcome Table in front of the Slot Canyon Café
- Students set up their posters

**8:30 – 9:30am**

### KEYNOTE ADDRESS

*Room N120*

- Welcome by Jennifer Cubeta, UBRP Director
- Introduction of Keynote Speaker by Dr. Gail Burd
- Keynote Address: “From UBRP to the Forefront of Novel Cancer Therapy Drug Development” by Dr. Cynthia Carr, PhD, UBRP/BRAVO! Alumnus and Associate Director of Global Scientific Communications at Eli Lilly
- Conference Logistics

**9:30am – 11:30am**

### STUDENT POSTER SESSIONS

*Ground Floor: Room S107*

*Second Floor: Rooms S215, S223, S225, & 230*

- Odd-numbered posters presented from 9:30 - 10:30am
- Even-numbered posters presented from 10:30 - 11:30am
- Light refreshments available in Slot Canyon Café

**11:30am – 12:00pm**

### RECOGNITION, AWARDS, & CLOSING REMARKS

*Room N120*

- Recognition of Graduating Seniors, UBRP Ambassadors, BRAVO! Participants
- Recognition of Outstanding Mentor Award Nominees
- Presentation of Outstanding Mentor Awards

## WELCOME!

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Dear Guests:

Welcome to the 37<sup>th</sup> Annual UBRP Conference!

As life seems to be flying faster than ever, I hope today provides you with the *gift of time*: time to talk with members of our scientific community, time to learn something new, and time to be inspired by the work of our talented young researchers. This conference is a celebration of the growth of our students, the contributions of our faculty mentors, the efforts of our volunteers and supporters ... and the wonderful things that have been accomplished together through the spirit of collaboration. We are excited for you to join us today!

One hundred and thirteen University of Arizona students participated in paid research experiences through UBRP in Summer 2025. These students, plus additional undergraduate researchers from UA, present their research to you today. I invite you to be curious, ask questions, and to take the initiative to engage in conversation. Collectively, our students' projects span the wide world of biology, representing research in biochemistry, physiology, ecology, human health, microbiology, evolutionary biology, health informatics, environmental health sciences, neuroscience, conservation, pharmacology, cancer biology, aging, plant sciences, and more... I guarantee you will find many things of interest today, and I encourage you to make the most of your visit!

Dear Students: Congratulations... you have made it! Today is the cumulation of your research efforts. I hope you take time today to reflect on how far you've come and take the opportunity to thank someone around you – a mentor, a loved one, a lab mate, a member of your community – for supporting you on this journey.

Thank you for joining us today.

Enjoy the day!



Jennifer Cubeta, M.Ed.  
UBRP & BRAVO! Director

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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UBRP is made possible by the financial support of University of Arizona contributors, grant awards, and donors. We are deeply grateful to the following for their generous support:

### At the University of Arizona:

- **Office of the Provost** – Patricia Prelock, Provost and Chief Academic Officer and Jenna Rickus, Senior Vice Provost
- **Office of Research, Innovation, & Impact** - Tomás Díaz de la Rubia, Senior Vice President for Research
- **BIO5 Institute** – Vignesh Subbian, Interim Director
- **College of Science** - Carmala Garzzone, Dean
- **College of Medicine-Tucson** – Michael Abecassis, Dean and Jason Wertheim, Vice Dean of Research and Graduate Studies
- **R. Ken Coit College of Pharmacy** – Brian Erstad, Interim Dean
- **Data Sciences Academy** - Joe Watkins, Director
- **Arizona Institute for Resilience** – Kevin Bonine, Director of Education Initiatives and Maria Sohn Hasman, Program Coordinator for the RISE Internship Program

### Granting Agencies:

- **American Society for Pharmacology & Experimental Therapeutics (ASPET)** for the ASPET Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowship Program
- **Arnold and Mabel Beckman Foundation** for the Beckman Scholars Program
- **National Cancer Institute** for the Partnership for Native American Cancer Prevention (NACP) Program
- **National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences** for the Environmental Health Sciences – Research for Indigenous Student Engagement (EHS-RISE) Program and the Environmental Health Sciences - Transformative Research Undergraduate Experience (EHS-TRUE) Program
- **National Library of Medicine** for the Place-based Health Informatics Research Education (PHIRE) Program

### Thank you to our UBRP Advisory Board Members:

*John Szivek (Chair) • Carol Bender (Emerita) • Nathan Ellis • Teri Suzuki  
Samantha Szuter • Doug Wellington • Ken Wertman*

### Thank you to our wonderful UBRP and BRAVO! donors:

Dr. Craig Aspinwall & Ms. Catherine Aspinwall • Dr. Jordan Barrows • Dr. David Bellows & Dr. Alison Bailin • Prof. Carol Bender • Dr. John Biebelhausen & Ms. Amanda Biebelhausen • Dr. Dustin Boyer • Dr. Margaret Briehl & Dr. Dennis Ray • Dr. Gail Burd & Dr. John Hildebrand • Dr. Daniel Butler • Ms. Elizabeth Camus • Dr. Susheela Carroll • Ms. Roxie Catts • Mrs. Huyen Chilton & Mr. Daniel Chilton • Dr. Rita Cook & Dr. Robert Cook, for the Nokes-Cook UBRP Endowment • Mrs. Jennifer Cubeta • Mr. Kevin Decker, in honor of Lauren Decker • Mr. Richard Edelman & Mrs. Sharon J. Vogelsang • Dr. John Enemark & Mrs. Mary Enemark • Dr. Jeffrey Frelinger • Mr. Dennis Fried & Mrs. Margaret Fried • Dr. Brenda Gardner • Dr. David Germano & Ms. Rhonda Germano • Gilead Sciences – Matching Gifts • Dr. Vijay Gokhale • Dr. Marilyn Halonen • Dr. James Hazzard & Mrs. Norma Hazzard, in memory of Dr. Marc Tischler • Dr. Xi He & Mr. Heng Yuan • Dr. David Johnson • Ms. Susan Kaleita & Mr. John Moeller • Dr. Paul Klekotka & Mrs. Kimberly Klekotka • Dr. Christina Kochel • Dr. Michael Kuhns • Mrs. Marilyn Lindell & Dr.

Thomas Lindell • Mr. Jeffrey LoCascio • Mr. Brian Massey & Dr. Megan O'Meara • Ms. Amanda Moon • Mr. Christopher Mundt & Dr. Janna Mundt • Dr. Michael Nelson & Ms. Kristin Nelson • Regeneron – Matching Gifts • Dr. Daryn Stover • Mr. Benjamin Super & Mrs. Jill Lieberman-Super • Dr. Anne Suzuki & Mr. Scott Creasman, in honor of Dr. Teri C. Suzuki • Dr. Teri Suzuki & Mr. Oleg Lysyj, for the Natalie Lysyj UBRP Endowment • Dr. John Szivek & Ms. Sally Szivek • Ms. Samantha Szuter • Ms. Decemna Tang • Dr. Ronald Teed • Dr. Kenneth Teter • Dr. Allison Titcomb • Anna Trieller • Mr. Dale Vernon • Mr. Dana Weant & Dr. Melanie De Boer • Mr. Doug Wellington & Mrs. Andrea Wellington • Dr. Kenneth Wertman & Dr. Barbara Caldwell • Dr. Guang Yao • Dr. Jessica Yingling & Mr. Christopher Mahoney • Dr. Benjamin Zaepfel

## TODAY'S ACTIVITIES

### WELCOME AND KEYNOTE ADDRESS

8:30 – 9:30am | Room N120



#### From UBRP to the Forefront of Novel Cancer Therapy Drug Development

by Dr. Cynthia Carr, PhD  
Associate Director of Global Scientific Communications, Eli Lilly

*Introduction by Dr. Gail Burd, Senior Vice Provost Emerita*

Dr. Cynthia Carr's keynote presentation, "From UBRP to the Forefront of Novel Cancer Therapy Drug Development," will cover her journey from undergraduate research programs (UBRP and BRAVO!) to her current role as Associate Director, Global Scientific Communications at Eli Lilly. The talk will highlight her experience managing medical writing teams in both small and large pharmaceutical companies.

Cynthia credits UBRP and BRAVO programs for providing foundational research training, including many skills that are broadly applicable across a variety of science-related careers, such as reading and comprehending scientific literature, analyzing complex data, summarizing study results, interfacing with executives and key opinion leaders, project management, and more.

Cynthia began her UBRP experience using electron microscopy to study lipid delivery to developing insect oocytes under the guidance of Dr. Rik van Antwerpen in Dr. John Law's biochemistry laboratory. She expanded on this work as a BRAVO student in Dr. Dick van der Horst's laboratory at the University of Utrecht, the Netherlands. Her UBRP experience culminated with the study of metamorphic changes in the olfactory epithelium of the African clawed frog (*Xenopus laevis*) under the direction of Dr. John Reiss in Dr. Gail Burd's neuroscience laboratory. Subsequently, as a neuroscience graduate student at the University of Arizona, Cynthia completed her dissertation research exploring the chronic effects of nicotinic ligands on nicotinic acetylcholine receptors in the neurochemistry laboratory of Dr. Ron Lukas at Barrow Neurological Institute.

After finishing her PhD, Cynthia joined Medical Professional Associates of Arizona, where she gained exposure to clinical research as both a research coordinator and academic research director for the Department of Surgery at Maricopa Medical Center. This was a valuable introduction to human subject

protections and clinical trial regulations. She later accepted her first industry job as a medical writer for CEDRA Clinical Research, a contract research organization (CRO) based in Austin, TX. In this role, Cynthia built a successful medical writing team responsible for authoring clinical trial protocols, case report forms, informed consent forms, and clinical study reports supporting Phase 1 clinical trials across multiple therapeutic areas. In 2009, Roche Tissue Diagnostics brought Cynthia back to Tucson for a 13-year stint as head of their medical writing function during an exhilarating era of rapid advances in personalized medicine. Cynthia considered it a great honor to have led a well-respected and highly productive medical writing team for the premier diagnostic partner of choice among pharmaceutical companies developing targeted cancer therapies.

Most recently, Cynthia has ventured into new opportunities at both pharmaceutical start-ups and within “big pharma.” Cynthia is proud to have contributed to several marketing applications for both diagnostic products and novel cancer therapies, which are now available to patients. Her professional journey has included invitations to serve on the American Medical Writer’s Association (AMWA) working group promoting the value of medical writing and developing a medical writer’s tool kit. Cynthia is currently a volunteer board member for AWMA Pacific Southwest Chapter and employed as Associate Director, Global Scientific Communications (GSC) at Eli Lilly and Company, serving as the GSC Regulatory Lead for their radioligand therapy portfolio.

### **STUDENT POSTER SESSIONS**

9:30 – 11:30am | Ground Floor & Second Floor

Students will present in room S107, located on the ground floor, and the following rooms located on the second floor: S215, S223, S225, & 230. Odd-numbered posters will be presented from 9:30 – 10:30am, and even-numbered posters will be presented from 10:30 – 11:30am.

Our students are excited to share their research with you! We invite our visitors to be curious and to ask questions such as *“Could you walk me through your poster? What are future directions for your project? What excites you about doing research? What is the ‘take home’ message from your project?”*

For your convenience, the [UBRP Conference webpage](#) has a **Topical Guide to UBRP Conference Posters**, a alphabetical list of **Student Presenters**, and a full **List of Abstracts**.

Light refreshments will be available in the Slot Canyon Café during this time.

### **RECOGNITION & AWARDS**

11:30am – 12:00pm | Room N120

### **GRADUATING SENIORS**

Congratulations to UBRP seniors who will be graduating in 2026! To celebrate all they have accomplished through our program, seniors will receive a teal UBRP graduation cord in March (information will be forthcoming by email). Seniors, we wish you all the best for the future and look forward to receiving updates about your post-graduation positions and accomplishments.

### **UBRP AMBASSADORS**

UBRP Ambassadors help build community among undergraduate researchers and serve as representatives for the UBRP program through organizing field trips and social activities, speaking to on- and off-campus groups, and participating in outreach and volunteer activities. We thank all of our 2025-2026 UBRP Ambassadors for their service!

**Executive Board:**

*Dae-Kyung Kim, President*

*Dakota Anderson, Vice President – Community*

*Jocelyn Rodriguez, Vice President – Recruitment*

*Delia Riley, Vice President – Service & Outreach*

*Jean Carlo Marca Narvaez, Vice President – Social Media*

*Kylie Ernst, Historian*

**Special Thanks To:**

*Maya Leonard & Aruna Sreenivasan - Pen Pals Coordinators*

**BIOLOGY RESEARCH ABROAD: VISTAS OPEN! (BRAVO!) PARTICIPANTS**

**Summer 2025:**

*Bhargav Ghosh – Institut Pasteur, Paris, France*

*Arpita Gulati – University College Cork, Ireland*

*Nandini Manepalli – University of Bristol, United Kingdom*

*Aruna Sreenivasan – University of Glasgow, United Kingdom*

**Summer 2026:**

*Xavier Aguilar – Amsterdam University Medical Center, Netherlands*

*Kaia Mount – Institut de Recherche LABIRIS, Brussels, Belgium*

*Olanma Ogbonnaya – University of New South Wales, Sydney, Australia*

*Connor Rasmussen – University Hospital Zürich, Switzerland*

*Supriya Roy – University of Cambridge, United Kingdom*

*Jessica Wysong - Swiss Federal Technology Institute of Laussane, Switzerland*

**UBRP OUTSTANDING MENTOR AWARDS**

Each year, we celebrate the University of Arizona's supportive culture for undergraduate research and the outstanding mentorship UBRP students appreciate by recognizing faculty and supporting scientists with Outstanding UBRP Mentor Awards. Candidates are nominated by current UBRP students and UBRP alumni. A committee composed of UBRP students and alumni reviews the nominees and selects the finalists.

*Nominees for the 2025-26 UBRP Outstanding Mentor Awards are:*

***David Castellano***

*Nominated by Mohima Ali*

***Jennifer Roxas***

*Nominated by Sarah Rubinstein*

***Renee Duckworth***

*Nominated by Katelyn Cannon*

***Allison Sullivan***

*Nominated by Bhargav Ghosh*

***Haley Gee***

*Nominated by Katelyn Cannon*

***Thilini Thennakoon***

*Nominated by Anna Campbell*

***Ryan Gutenkunst***

*Nominated by Mohima Ali & Sam Gibbon*

***Marc Zempare***

*Nominated by Bhavya Hingorani*

***Lisa Nagy***

*Nominated by Connor Carney*

**Congratulations to our awardees:**

**2025-2026 UBRP Outstanding Graduate Student Mentor**  
**HALEY GEE**

*Graduate Student, Ecology & Evolutionary Biology*  
*Nominated by Katelyn Cannon*

**2025-2026 UBRP Outstanding Faculty Mentor**  
**RYAN GUTENKUNST**

*Professor & Head*  
*Molecular & Cellular Biology*  
*Nominated by Mohima Ali & Sam Gibbon*

*We thank all of our mentors for their commitment and dedication  
to our undergraduate researchers!*

## **2025-26 STUDENT PARTICIPANTS**

The programs housed within the Undergraduate Biology Research Program (UBRP) are designed to teach students science by involving them in biologically related research. Students are paid for their time doing research where they develop an understanding of the scientific method and receive a realistic view of research. They also participate in professional development workshops, scientific seminars, and supplementary activities to acquire the tools necessary to be successful in post-graduate studies should they choose careers related to biology or biomedical research, and they join the community of scholars.

### **UNDERGRADUATE BIOLOGY RESEARCH PROGRAM (UBRP)**

Funding for UBRP students is provided by private donors, the University of Arizona Office of the Provost, Office of Research & Partnerships, BIO5 Institute, the Arizona Institute for Resilience RISE Internship Program, the College of Medicine - Tucson, College of Science, and the R. Ken Coit College of Pharmacy. The UBRP Office is administratively supported by the Department of Molecular and Cellular Biology.

<b>Student</b>	<b>Mentor</b>
Mohima Ali	Ryan Gutenkunst
Dakota Anderson	Lalitha Madhavan
Alan Andrade	Lindsay Halladay
Kanishk Anmala	Lindsay Halladay
Kirbi Miner	Megan Corty
Navya Balaji	Scott Boitano
Zachary Boydell	Megan Corty
Harrison Byrnes	Justin Wilson
Anna Campbell	John Jewett
Katelyn Cannon	Renee Duckworth
Connor Carney	Lisa Nagy
Branham Carpenter	George Sutphin
Vincent Carter	Joanna Masel
Aparna Chandrasekar	Melissa Halpern

<b>Student</b>	<b>Mentor</b>
Carol Chen	Ying-hui Chou
Katelyn Clarke	Gregory Thatcher
Alvaro Cruz Perez	Elizabeth Hutchinson
Adrian De la Pena	
Shraddha Dwivedi	Minying Cai
Nancy Elnady	Ying-hui Chou
Kylie Ernst	Deepta Bhattacharya
Zain Francis	Andrew Paek
Bhavya Hingorani	Minkyu Kim
Nikhil Johnson	Carol Barnes
Yvonne Kan	Toshinobu Kazui
Kyle Kelly	Alonso Favela
Dani Khatib	Chi Zhou
Dae-Kyung Kim	Deepta Bhattacharya
Andrew Kim	Megha Padi
Kaylee Kimbrell	Jil Tardiff
Yona Kleinerman	Sean Limesand
Melody Kosters	Vignesh Subbian
Maya Leonard	Minkyu Kim
Jacob Lines	Todd Schlenke
Vijetha Logaprabhu	Keith Maggert
Gamaliel Isai Luna	Erika Eggers
Maximus Luevanos	Martha Bhattacharya
Tiffany Luu	Frank Porreca
Iris Lyman	Michael Brown
Mackenzie Lynch	Michael Riehle
Akshay Menghani	Katalin Gothard
Maximo Mondragon	Katherine Rhodes
Kaia Mount	David Margolis
Kabir Rathore Muthu	Andrew Capaldi
Angelina Nediayathu	J. Ross Buchan
Olanma Ogbonnaya	Elise Erickson
Thomas Oldham	Lindsay Halladay
Logan Olshan	John Jewett
Ruhi Painaik	Rui Xiong
Ava Pal	Anita Koshy
Aryan Pandey	Katalin Gothard
Abby Pearse	Jeong-Yeol Yoon
Genevieve Quezada	Katrina Dlugosch
Connor Rasmussen	Jesse Woodson
Delia Riley	Justin Snider
Sarah Rubinstein	Bryan Black
Ishnoor Sandhu	VK Viswanathan
Orli Sanyal	Anne Cress
Josue Sarmiento	Julie Armin
Ellie Schrock	Frank Porreca
Laura Serikova	Megan Corty
Ria Siddaiah	Ingmar Riedel-Kruse
Mia Sponseller	Sam Campos
	Carol Barnes

<b>Student</b>	<b>Mentor</b>
Sawyer Sullivan	Lindsay Halladay
Adam Super	Shanna Hamilton
Alex Tesch	Mark Beilstein
Audrey Thompson	Chi Zhou
Christopher Wilds	George Sutphin
Shalan Wu	Hongmin Li
Serena Yanez	Brian McKay

***Additional students from UBRP research groups presenting today:***

<b>Student</b>	<b>Mentor</b>
Kailyn Dundore	Lisa Nagy
Josh Lederman	Joyce Schroeder
Samantha Miranda	Lisa Nagy
Esther Qiu	Kristian Doyle
Josiah Rautenberg	Lalitha Madhavan
Jeremiah Shankar	Lisa Nagy
Carmen Sanchez-Moreno	Alex Badyaev
Jillian Zollar	Torsten Falk

**AMERICAN SOCIETY FOR PHARMACOLOGY AND EXPERIMENTAL THERAPEUTICS  
SUMMER UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP (ASPET SURF)**

The ASPET SURF Fellowship, funded by a grant from the American Society for Pharmacology and Experimental Therapeutics, supports five undergraduate students per year to conduct research under the mentorship of Arizona faculty who are members of ASPET. The program's goal is to introduce undergraduate students to pharmacology research using authentic, mentored research experiences to heighten student interest in careers in research and related health care disciplines.

<b>Student</b>	<b>Mentor</b>
Mariah Bime	John Streicher
Rylee Freudenthal	John Streicher
Riley Greenleaf	John Streicher
Arjan Kundan	Edita Navratilova
Jean Carlo Marca Narvaez	Frank Porreca

**BECKMAN SCHOLARS PROGRAM**

The Beckman Scholars Program is designed to help stimulate, encourage and support research activities by exceptionally talented undergraduate students at U.S. universities and colleges. The Beckman Scholarship at the University of Arizona provides funding for students to conduct in-depth research with one of 11 stellar research mentors in Arizona's College of Science.

Funding for this program is provided by the Arnold and Mabel Beckman Foundation.

<b>Student</b>	<b>Mentor</b>
Victoria Inlow	Mark Beilstein
Isabella Irby	George Sutphin
Isaac Kailat	Michael Marty
Micaila Marcelle	Joanna Masel

## **BIOLOGY RESEARCH ABROAD: VISTAS OPEN! (BRAVO!)**

The BRAVO! Program supports University of Arizona undergraduates in gaining a global perspective through a summer research experience abroad. BRAVO! enhances participants' scientific and professional skills and encourages the development of international collaborative relationships through independent and immersive experiences as participants live and conduct research in a foreign country. Funding for BRAVO! is provided by private donors and the Arizona Institute for Resilience. Summer 2025 participants are:

### **Bhargav Ghosh**

Mentored by

Gayatri Vedantam, University of Arizona  
Bruno Dupuy, Institut Pasteur - Paris, France

### **Arpita Gulati**

Mentored by

Abhijit Date, University of Arizona  
Vivek Verma, University College Cork, Ireland

### **Nandini Manepalli**

Mentored by

Joanna Masel, University of Arizona  
Philip Donaghue & Davide Pisani, University of Bristol, United Kingdom

### **Aruna Sreenivasan**

Mentored by

Anita Koshy, University of Arizona  
Lilach Sheiner, University of Glasgow, Scotland

## **DATA SCIENCES ACADEMY (DSA)**

DSA is an initiative to mobilize researchers across disciplinary boundaries who share a passion for data science, to deepen partnerships with both industry and government agencies, and to challenge students at all degree levels to explore new, innovative domains of expertise, to ensure the nexus between research and education is captured. Support for DSA's summer research positions is provided by the Office of the Provost & Department of Mathematics.

<b>Student</b>	<b>Mentor</b>
Ashiquil Alam	Melville Wohlgemuth
Sam Gibbon	Ryan Gutenkunst
Annika Gooding	Rachel Mitchell
Lilith Kotler	Ryan Gutenkunst
Ethan Lin	Alexander McGhee
Victor Sandrin	Elizabeth Hutchinson
Dylan Weaver	Michael Taylor

## **ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SCIENCES - RESEARCH FOR INDIGENOUS STUDENT ENGAGEMENT (EHS-RISE)**

EHS-RISE, funded by the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences grant #1-R25-ES34923-01 (Qing-Yu Zhang, Principal Investigator), is an introductory, full-time, and residential

summer research program which aims to increase the representation of Native Americans in the STEM workforce, while supporting students' cultural identity.

<b>Student</b>	<b>Mentor</b>
Louie Cabrera	Xinxin Ding
Gwen Flores	Cherie De Vore
Brad Ghahate	Jeffrey Burgess
Ella Harris	Scott Boitano
Noah Henio	Joe Hoover
Aris Ronyak	Darren Cusanovich
Evangelia Sai Pen	Julie Ledford
Dawnae Yazzie	Joseph Hoover

### **PARTNERSHIP FOR NATIVE AMERICAN CANCER PREVENTION (NACP)**

The Partnership for Native American Cancer Prevention (NACP) is a collaboration between Northern Arizona University and the University of Arizona's Cancer Center. The mission of the NACP is to alleviate the unequal burden of cancer among Native Americans of the Southwest through research, training and community outreach programs in collaboration with the communities they serve. The Training Core of NACP at the University of Arizona is led by Dr. Jennifer Bea, and funding for NACP is provided by the National Cancer Institute Grant #2U54CA143924.

<b>Student</b>	<b>Mentor</b>
Arabella Andrade-Sanchez	David Garcia
Romeo James	Keith Maggert
Angel Marquez	Abhijit Date
Miranda Quinones-Zamora	Keith Maggert
Jocelyn Rodriguez	Gregory Rogers

### **PLACE-BASED HEALTH INFORMATICS RESEARCH EDUCATION (PHIRE)**

Place-based Health Informatics Research Education (PHIRE) is a research training initiative for undergraduate students who are (a) currently enrolled or transferring to the University of Arizona, (b) interested in biomedical research, and (c) looking to pursue graduate education in areas related to health informatics. PHIRE offers an intensive, paid research experience for 12 weeks in summer (plus part-time in Fall), followed by a tailored thematic minor in health informatics. This program is supported by the National Library of Medicine (NLM) of the National Institutes of Health under award number R25LM01422. PHIRE is institutionally supported, in part, by the BIO5 Institute, Office of HSI Initiatives, & the Undergraduate Biology Research Program (UBRP) at the University of Arizona.

<b>Student</b>	<b>Mentor</b>
Cristobal Angeles Toscano	Alexander McGhee
Natalia Grazda-Valdez	Liliana Salvador
Sedona O'Hearn	Elise Erickson
Mahriza Pinon Manriquez	Sabrina McNew
Jeremy Purdy	Jason Karnes
Marla Rivas Pacheco	Jennifer Andrews
Daniel Rivera Castelo	Steven Bethard
Kusuma Teluguntla	Theodore Trouard
Arturo Tovar	Anna Morenz
Erick Yoakum	Heidi Brown

**We are also excited for following students from the Undergraduate Summer Internship Program and the Maximizing Access to Research Careers Programs to join us in presenting their posters today!**

### **MAXIMIZING ACCESS TO RESEARCH CAREERS (MARC)**

The MARC Program is a unique research, mentoring, financial and academic opportunity for undergraduates in biomedical research and who have the interest and potential to pursue a PhD or combined PhD (e.g. MD/PhD) degree.

<b>Student</b>	<b>Mentor</b>
Leili Asgharzadeh Falbinan	Elizabeth Hutchinson
Marc Garcia	Joyce Schroeder
Riley Haveman	Tally Largent-Milnes
Andrea Hernandez	Prabhu Arunachalam
Grace Ho	Lee Ryan
Kyle Kelly	Chi Zhou
Caleb Konecek	Pascale Charest
Gwen McKay	Cathy Smith
Fabiola Mendoza	Paul Langlais
Avril Perez	Malak Tfaily
Kristen Saunders	Meghan Darling-White

### **UNDERGRADUATE SUMMER RESEARCH INTERNSHIP (USIP)**

USIP, offered through the University of Arizona Comprehensive Cancer Center, is a paid, 10-week, full-time cancer research experience to current undergraduates with an interest in any STEM field through the Cancer Research Training and Education Coordination (CRTEC) department. This program is funded by the American Cancer Society (ACS) Center for Innovation in Cancer Research Training (CICRT) and the University of Arizona Cancer Center.

<b>Student</b>	<b>Mentor</b>
Adrian Bernal Rios	Cynthia Miranti
Arrianna BIANES	Wei Wang
Simone Gazman	Walter Betancourt
Andrea Hernandez	Wei Wang
Amy Ngo	Robin Harris
Auttum Smith	Gregory Thatcher
Linnea Thim	Minying Cai
Taneyah Young	Andrew Capaldi

A photograph of a mountain lion (cougar) standing in a field of colorful wildflowers. The lion is facing slightly to the right, with its head turned towards the camera. The background is a soft-focus blend of yellow, orange, and green flowers. The lion's fur is a mix of light brown and white.

37TH ANNUAL  
**UNDERGRADUATE BIOLOGY  
RESEARCH PROGRAM**  
CONFERENCE

January 24th, 2026 | 8AM - 12PM

Environment & Natural Resources 2 Building

Details and schedule: [ubrp.arizona.edu](http://ubrp.arizona.edu)



THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA

**Undergraduate Biology  
Research Program**

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