



Biomedical and Biological Sciences (BBS)

2024-25 Interview/ Recruitment Event

BS/ MS seeking PhD Recruits



Emma Agudelo
Immunology and Infectious Disease

As an undergraduate at Smith College, I double majored in Biology and Classical Studies. Given a long-standing interest in microbiology, I am spending my senior year independently characterizing the gut microbiome of South African black rhinoceroses to better understand the bacterial diseases affecting these endangered animals. I am excited to continue to research infectious diseases.



Kassandra Arias-Parbul
Immunology and Infectious Disease

I'm Kassandra Arias-Parbul from Irondale, Alabama. I've done research at the University of Alabama at Birmingham, the University of Notre Dame, and Cornell University focused on the topics of immunology and microbiology. I am interested researching the topics of autoimmunity, inflammation, antibodies, and how host-microbe interactions are used to aggravate disease.



Katy Ayers
Molecular and Cellular Medicine

I'm a senior bioengineering student at Washington State University, originally from Kearney, NE. My research has spanned biomaterials, nanoscience, synthetic biology, and protein engineering. During my graduate studies, I want to focus on antimicrobial drug screening and development. I would like to create screening procedures for proactive management of antimicrobial resistance.



Andy Chia
Immunology and Infectious Disease

Hi! My name is Andy and I was born in Taipei, though I would consider my hometown to be Redmond, Washington. In college, I studied cancer-related polymerase defects in yeast at the University of Washington. I also worked with *Clostridium scindens* at Hopkins during my masters and am currently following with APHL-CDC. I'm interested in microbial pathogenesis, the microbiome, and systems biology.



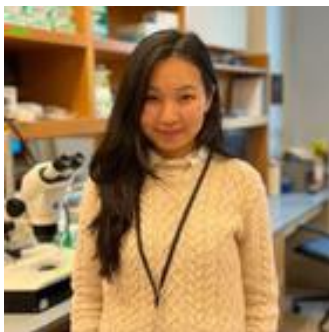
Nia Clements
Population Medicine and Epidemiology

Nia is a Master of Public Health student concentrating in infectious disease epidemiology at Cornell University. She completed her Bachelor of Science in biochemistry and molecular biology at Trinity University in San Antonio, TX. She is interested in environmental epidemiology and hopes to evaluate health disparities from environmental exposures using epidemiological and statistical methods.



George Dangas
Immunology and Infectious Disease

George is from a rural Greek village, received his B.S. in Molecular Biology & Genetics from Democritus University, and his bachelor's thesis was on the study of the N-SARS-CoV-2 protein. Now, he is working as a visiting fellow at Emory University, studying virus-host interactions with a particular emphasis on HBV. George is interested in virology, immunology, molecular biology, and biochemistry.



Khaliun Enkhbayar
Molecular and Cellular Medicine

Hi! I'm Khaliun (pronounced Ha-li-an) and I was born in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, but have since lived in five countries. I majored in molecular biology at Boston University and worked in two research labs in the stem cell/developmental biology space. As a PhD student, I hope to pursue stem cell and regenerative medicine research. I enjoy reading mystery novels, playing volleyball and hiking!



Xinjing Ge

Molecular and Cellular Medicine

I grew up in Shanghai, China, and did my undergraduate studies at Brandeis University with a major in Biochemistry. I am pursuing my Master's degree in Immunology at Harvard and working in Garriss's lab on developing myeloid cell-targeted immunotherapies. My primary interest includes antigen presentation and metabolism in cancer biology. I am also eager to explore cellular biology and neuroscience.



Eunice Gikundiro

Immunology and Infectious Disease

My name is Eunice, and I am originally from Rwanda. I've completed my BA in Neuroscience at Concordia college in Minnesota, where I grew interest in research that has clinical implications. My experience working in clinical research, biotech, and academic research at BIDMC-HMS and the University of Iowa have strongly geared my interest towards immuno-engineering research areas.



Lauren Heinzinger

Immunology and Infectious Disease

I am a New York native, and I majored in Biological Sciences, English, and Psychology at the University at Buffalo. I am interested in host-pathogen interactions, bacterial pathogenesis, and tumor immunology. For my honors thesis, I identified age-driven changes in neutrophil antimicrobial activity against *S. pneumoniae*. I now work at the NIH to develop novel molecular tools for *C. acnes* research.



Minseo Kim

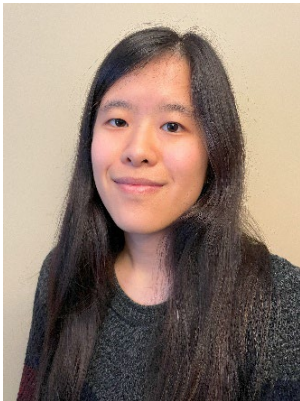
Molecular and Cellular Medicine

Hello! I'm Minseo from Yongin, Korea. I graduated from Washington University in St. Louis (WashU) with a Biology major and a Bioinformatics minor. Since 2018, I have been studying hemangiogenic development and tumor neoangiogenesis in Professor Kyunghye Choi's lab at WashU. At Cornell University, I aspire to explore diverse stem cell biology, regenerative medicine, and cancer biology topics!



Connor Klaus
Molecular and Cellular Medicine

I grew up in a suburb of Madison, Wisconsin, and graduated with degrees in Biology and Chemistry from UW Madison in 2022. I've worked with Dr. Pupa Gilbert on cochlear bone since January 2023, using Dragonfly to determine bone material properties of micro-CT images of mouse cochleae. My research interests revolve around development and aging.



Olivia Kohler
Molecular and Cellular Medicine

Olivia Kohler is a Chinese adoptee from Chagrin Falls, Ohio. She is studying biochemistry at Duquesne University and conducts independent research under Cornell alum Dr. David Seybert. Her research looks to determine the effect of polyanions on the kinetic behavior of mammalian dehydrogenase enzymes. She is interested in analyzing diseased systems to find potential targets for therapeutics.



Emma Kosmeder
Molecular and Cellular Medicine

I grew up in Tucson, Arizona and graduated from Colgate University as a molecular biology major and Spanish and medieval and Renaissance studies double minor. I am now a postbac at the NIH, where I study synthetic lethality in mTOR complexes. I have also completed research in miRNA regulation in embryogenesis, and lncRNAs in cancer. My main research interests are cancer biology and genetics.



Rusy (Hyemin) Lee
Molecular and Cellular Medicine

I earned my bachelor's degree in biotechnology from the University at Buffalo and my master's degree in biology from NYU. At NYU, I worked with Dr. Jeremy Dasen to discover the evolutionary origin of limb proprioception and the molecular program influencing sensory neuron diversification. For my PhD, I would like to study the underlying genetic mechanisms of the development of organisms.



Tiffany (Qingtian) Li
Molecular and Cellular Medicine

Hi! My name is Qingtian (Tiffany) Li. I was born in Osaka but I grew up in Shanghai. I have been doing research in the UC Berkeley Drubin & Barnes Lab studying force transmission during clathrin-mediated endocytosis in yeasts. My primary interest lies in understanding human disease mechanisms and developing therapeutics. Outside labs, I'm a casually professional photographer and electric bassist.



April (Siqi) Li
Molecular and Cellular Medicine

I grew up in Changchun, China and I came here seven years ago for high school. Now, I am a student studying biology at NYU. I am currently working in Dr. Claude Desplan's lab where I design genetic tools to study the neuronal development of *Drosophila*. My interest is still broad, and I hope to explore cancer biology and developmental neurobiology in graduate school.



Robin Lu
Translational Medicine

I grew up in Newton, MA, and graduated from Northeastern University. For the last two years, I have been a lab tech at the Koch Institute at MIT, working on projects to identify proteins that sensitize ovarian cancer to chemotherapy. I am interested in using computational and experimental methods to investigate the mechanisms of metastasis and resistance in cancer and discover novel therapies.



Evelyn Martinez
Immunology and Infectious Disease

My name is Evelyn Martinez, my hometown is Tampa, FL and I am currently a biology major at the University of Tampa (UT). I have previously worked on research centered around the microbial diversity of water samples (at UT) and sediment samples (at the Cornell Microbial Friends and Foes REU). I am hoping to shift my research focus to the mechanisms by which microbes cause disease.



Mo Mojoudi
Translational Medicine

Originally from Tehran, Iran, I moved to the US in 2015 to pursue a BS in Biology at UMass Boston, where I studied telomere regulation during meiosis. Currently at Massachusetts General Hospital / Harvard Medical School, I work in long-term preservation and genetic engineering of organs for transplantation. I'm interested in studying the molecular basis of development and disease in animal models.



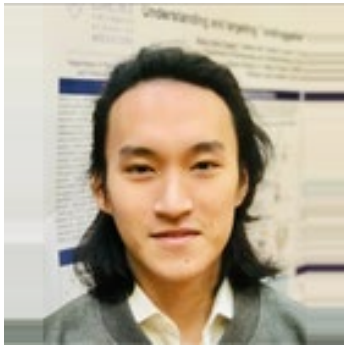
Ally Motter
Immunology and Infectious Disease

I grew up in Williamsburg, Virginia, and attended UVA, where I joined an evolutionary biology lab studying host-parasite interactions. For the past 1.5 years, I have worked as a postbac at the NIH, using genomics to study red blood cell alloimmunization. These experiences inspired my current interests in immunology and genetics, specifically in microbial pathogenesis and antimicrobial resistance.



Hugh Nottman
Immunology and Infectious Disease

I grew up in South Florida and went to Boston College where I studied biology and, during my senior year, researched lab-grown meat. After graduating, I joined a lab in Boston focused on developing broadly neutralizing antibodies against HIV. My main professional interests center around global health and neglected diseases, but, in my free time, I love to run and play guitar.



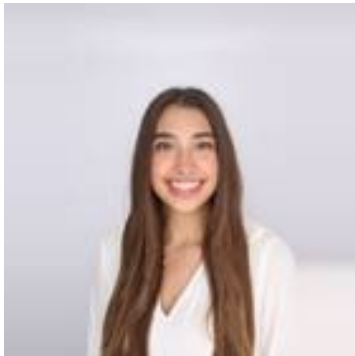
Kenny Ouyang
Translational Medicine

Hi everyone! My name is Kenny Ouyang, I spent my childhood in Shanghai, China, then moved to New Jersey for middle school and high school. Now I am a 4+1 Cancer Biology undergrad+Master student at Emory University. My previous research centers on SMAD4 interaction network discovery, high-throughput screening technology invention, and small molecule discovery. I have an aquarium and I love fishes!



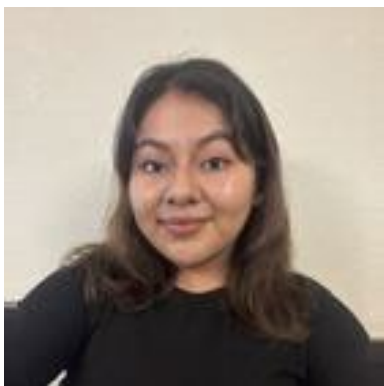
Stephany Pang
Translational Medicine

Stephany is originally from Cambodia. She graduated from MIT with a BS in Biology. Currently, She is a PREP scholar in the Olzmann lab at UC Berkeley. She is interested in the study of the cellular pathways in diseases such as cancers. She believes that understanding the mechanisms of the diseases will allow us to discover the potential therapeutic targets for them and promote human health.



Hayley Ramirez
Immunology and Infectious Disease

My name is Hayley Ramirez, and I am originally from Phoenix, AZ. I completed my undergraduate education at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln researching behavioral neuropharmacology. I am currently finishing out my master's degree studying parasites at George Washington University. Overall, I am interested in studying bacteria, viruses, parasites, and drug resistance mechanisms.



Brenda Ramos Villanueva
Immunology and Infectious Disease

I am from Albuquerque, New Mexico where I attend the University of New Mexico. I am doing research on avian malaria in Peruvian birds and sandhill cranes using field and lab work to investigate its prevalence and diversity. Additionally, I did epigenetics research at UPenn and cancer immunotherapy at Cornell. My interests include investigating mechanisms of immune responses to pathogens and tumors



Daniela Russo
Molecular and Cellular Medicine

Originally from Canada, I earned my B.Sc. from McMaster University. My thesis involved de novo transcriptome annotation and gene expression analyses exploring regeneration mechanisms. Now in Boston, I focus on protocol and tool development for immunological research. Prospectively, I aim to create interdisciplinary tools for complex disease research, particularly sex-specific disease mechanisms.



Mariabelen Salinas
Population Medicine and Epidemiology

Directing my own professional path as a second-generation immigrant in NYC, I was unaware of research until I attended SUNY Oswego. There, I investigated the reproductive evolution of isopods in the Chandler lab. By analyzing Wolbachia(-) isopod transcriptomes, I became fascinated with examining host-microbe interactions, from gut microbiomes to viral phylodynamics, through a computational lens.



Alexis Smrekar
Immunology and Infectious Disease

Alexis completed her dual degree at the University of Florida in May 2023. Her undergraduate research focused on defining the protein-protein interactions of a toxin-secretion apparatus in a highly pathogenic bacterium, Francisella tularensis. She is interested in exploring topics at the intersection of virology and immunology to study the molecular mechanisms that govern viral pathogenesis.



Liz Sobolik
Immunology and Infectious Disease

I grew up in Sleepy Hollow, NY and live in Seattle, WA. I'm interested in viral epidemiology and antiviral development. I use next-generation sequencing to find antiviral-escape mutants and measure their fitness and function. I also automated the analysis for a clinically-validated neutralizing antibody assay. Before viruses, I worked on ALS -- developing mouse models and screening new drugs.



Sophia Sukkestad
Population Medicine and Epidemiology

I got my B.S. in Biology on the Research Track in 2020 from the Georgia Institute of Technology. In my career, I have contributed to research projects in evolution, immunology, and molecular epidemiology, ranging from HIV treatment to viral hepatitis molecular surveillance. I am interested in One Health and the evolution of zoonotic and emerging pathogens at critical transmission interfaces.



Irene Tsai
Translational Medicine

Hi everyone! I am Irene from Taiwan. I graduated with a PharmD in 2022, and am now a Master's student in Chemical Engineering at Cornell. Currently, my research revolves around the medical applications of extracellular vesicles. I am passionate about exploring innovative drug delivery systems and immune modulations to enhance clinical treatments. Outside of lab, I enjoy hanging out with friends.



Amirah Ullah
Immunology and Infectious Disease

While I grew up in Texas, I received my undergraduate degree in Microbiology at UW Seattle, studying a therapeutic DNA vaccine regimen targeting HIV. After graduating, I trained at NCI in Frederick, MD studying cancer immunotherapy. Now I am currently working at Johns Hopkins, where I have come to love immunometabolism and its effects on T cell function in response to cancer and infection.



Erin Walsh
Immunology and Infectious Disease

Erin Walsh was born and raised in Rochester, NY. After completing her degree in microbiology from the University of Pittsburgh, she studied viral-bacterial coinfections in the airways under Dr. Jennifer Bomberger with a focus on metabolic reprogramming in macrophages. She is interested in host-pathogen interactions as they relate to immunity and inflammation, as well as polymicrobial interactions.



Alice Wang
Molecular and Cellular Medicine

I'm from Los Angeles, CA and did both my undergraduate and master's at Stanford University. Previously, I studied gangliosides in the antibody-induced cell death mechanism in pediatric neuroblastoma. Now, I'm researching the role of IFN α and IFN γ receptors on ISG expression in lymph node metastatic cancers. I'm interested in translational cancer immunology and molecular mechanisms of disease.



Emilia Wilkins
Population Medicine and Epidemiology

I'm originally from Chesapeake, Virginia and completed my master's degree at the University of Glasgow in infectious disease epidemiology. I currently live in Philadelphia and work at the Perelman School of Medicine researching disease and the microbiome. My interests include infectious disease epidemiology with a focus on zoonotic diseases, one health, molecular epidemiology, and genomics!

DVM seeking PhD Recruits



Rachel Dufour
Immunology and Infectious Disease

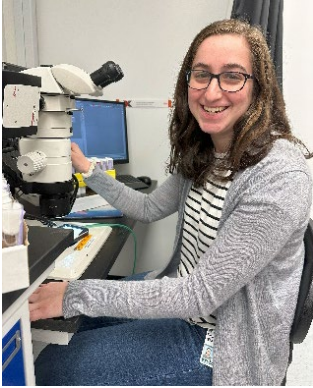
I am originally from Memphis, TN, but currently reside in Baton Rouge, LA, where I am a 4th year veterinary student at Louisiana State University. I previously conducted research with Dr. Joel Baines investigating transcription in HSV-1. I aim to continue to investigate viral and host interactions and how those interactions might be utilized. Outside of school I love to hike, birdwatch, and bake.



Zack Dvornicky-Raymond
Zoology and Wildlife Conservation

Zack grew up in Watkins Glen, NY and currently resides in Los Angeles, CA. He graduated from CALS ('15) and CUCVM ('19), and went on to complete post-graduate training across the country. His research experience largely pertains to assisted reproductive technologies and wildlife medicine. He is interested in the One Health and conservation, especially upstream drivers of negative health outcomes.

Combined DVM- PhD Recruits



Dina Alter
Molecular and Cellular Medicine

Dina is a first-year vet student at Cornell and is originally from Princeton, NJ. She has worked as a laboratory technician in Dr. Coutinho-Budds's lab at UVA where she spearheaded a screen identifying glial genes implicated in Alzheimer's disease using flies as a model organism. She is very interested in the cellular and molecular mechanisms of neurodevelopment and neurodegeneration.



Isha Chauhan
Zoology and Wildlife Conservation

Isha Chauhan is a senior biology major at the University of Kentucky. She is a native of Kentucky and was raised in La Grange. She enjoys writing and scuba diving and has interests in ecology and wildlife animals. Her research in cholesterol metabolism and cardiovascular disease has prompted her to pursue a DVM-PhD with hopes of bridging her passions in veterinary medicine and clinical research.



Annika Diaz
Immunology and Infectious Disease

Hello! I am originally from Southern California, and currently live in Ithaca, NY. My research has focused on viral pathogens of swine, as well as other viruses in humans and animals. I am currently characterizing a novel form of self-regulation by viral proteins encoded in picornaviruses, using the emerging swine virus, Senecavirus A as a model. I am most interested in domestic animal virology.



Ashley Gin
Translational Medicine

I am from Oklahoma City and graduated from Oklahoma State University studying biochemistry and molecular biology and researching epigenetic molecules as antibiotic alternatives. Currently, I am an NIH postbaccalaureate fellow investigating hematopoietic stem and progenitor cell gene therapies in rhesus macaques. I aim to pursue a career in protein engineering to advance gene therapies.



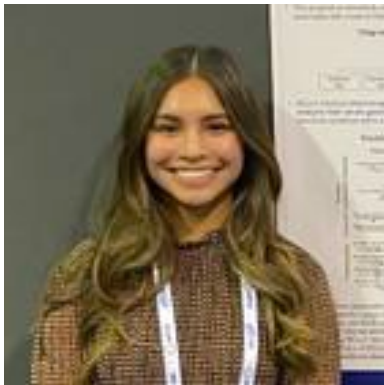
Grace Gonzalez
Population Medicine and Epidemiology

Before starting veterinary school, I earned a BS in Medical Lab Science at Michigan Technological University. My familial roots lie in Wisconsin and Guatemala. Previous research spans fish microbiomes, Kenyan aquaculture data analysis, and neurodevelopment studies. My passions include the One-Health initiative, aquatics, antimicrobial resistance, emerging diseases, food animals, and conservation.



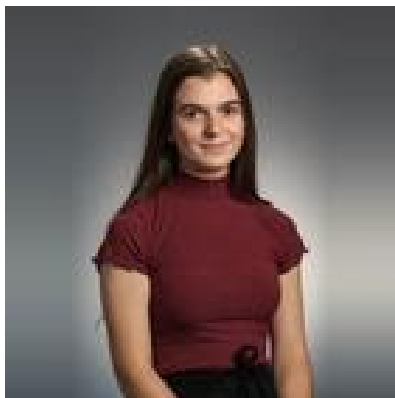
Anna McKane
Translational Medicine

I grew up in Corning, NY and am a first year vet student interested in translational research. Most recently, I completed research on antimicrobial properties of bovine colostrum. I previously researched AAV gene therapy using animal models of glycogen storage disease and worked on developing an improved Drosophila model of AD-HSP, a neuro-degenerative disease. I also love rowing and running!



Jalena Wouters
Translational Medicine

Hello! My name is Jalena, and I am originally from Brentwood, California. I have been doing research at the University of California, Davis School of Veterinary Medicine for the past 3 years, where I have gained clinical translational and bioinformatics research experience. My primary research interest is in genetics and the manifestation of disease phenotypes as a result of genetic mutation.



Anne Yauch
Translational Medicine

Anne Yauch grew up in York, Maine and was always curious about the world around her. While studying biochemistry at Northeastern University, she joined a laboratory dedicated to understanding the role played by ion channels in disease, which motivated her to pursue a career in research. She is interested in the molecular origin of disease and commonalities between human and animal physiology.