CENTER FOR INCLUSIVE EDUCATION
STONY BROOK UNIVERSITY
SUMMER/FALL 2022
LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR
BY KARIAN WRIGHT

“All that you touch, you change. All that you change, changes you. The only lasting truth is change.” Octavia E. Butler

Welcome to the CIE Summer/Fall 2022 Recap Magazine! We are excited to share some of our recent accomplishments, as well as the accomplishments of our exceptional scholars. As we reflect on the many shifts and changes over the past year, we are grateful that our core work remains the same: supporting our scholars and working toward making graduate education accessible and equitable for all. Special thank you to all of the scholars, faculty, administrators, and external collaborators who have supported us through our triumphs and challenges. This work is only possible with you.

TABLE OF CONTENTS
Celebrating Graduates . . . . 2
CIE Spotlight . . . . . . . . . . . . . . 3
Recruitment Recap . . . . 4
CIE Wellness . . . . . . . . . . . . . . 5
Event Recap . . . . . . . . . . . . . . 6
Turner . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . 8
SREB, GEM . . . . . . . . . . . . . . 11
IMSD . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . 12
ACEP . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . 14
IRACDA . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . 16
REU . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . 19
Graduate Assistants . . . . 22
Staff . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . 23

LETTER FROM THE VICE PRESIDENT FOR EQUITY & INCLUSION
BY JUDITH BROWN CLARKE, PHD

Reflecting on 2022, I could not be prouder of the cutting-edge research, outstanding teaching, and engaged scholarship and service of our CIE students, faculty, staff, and alumni. The past year was filled with transition and challenges, yet we still managed to stay connected and find moments of joy. Let us use that same strength and resiliency to make this new year one of success, growth, and new impacts. I look forward to continued partnership in our quest for deep transformational impacts that are powerful and create long-lasting changes that have a positive effect on individuals, communities, and entire societies.
Doctors in the House
Congrats to our new graduates!

May 2022

Master of Arts
Anna McPherran
Ecology and Evolution

Doctor of Philosophy
Noele Doreen Certain
Molecular and Cellular Pharmacology

Gregory Lella
History

Adelle Molina
Marine and Atmospheric Sciences

Josue Nassar
Electrical Engineering

Doctor of Medicine
Valjean Raiden Bacot-Davis
Medicine-Pediatrics - SBU

Lilian Cruz
OBGYN - Jamaica Hospital

Laura Generale
Pediatrics - Wake Forest Baptist

Leslie Denise Peralta
OBGYN - UNC

December 2022

Doctor of Philosophy
Ana Paula Delgado
Genetics
Congratulations to our scholars on their exciting accomplishments!

Sheed Itaman, IMSD Scholar in Neuroscience, received a prestigious R36 Dissertation Award from the NIH for using endogenous barcoding to study neural stem cells in Alzheimer’s disease.

Josue Nassar, PhD, Turner Dissertation Fellow and recent graduate, was a finalist in the Chancellor’s Distinguished PhD Dissertation award contest, with his dissertation “Bayesian Machine Learning for Analyzing and Controlling Neural Populations.” Congrats, Dr. Nassar!

Dr. Blackwell’s research as an IRACDA postdoc investigated taste perception in a mouse model of frontotemporal dementia. Upon completing her IRACDA Fellowship, Dr. Blackwell accepted a Neuroscience Education Program Manager position at Brown University.

Stephanie Taboada, current AGEP and GEM Fellow in Chemical Engineering, was accepted into the National Science Foundation’s Innovation Corps, an immersive, entrepreneurial training program that facilitates the transformation of invention to impact.

Brianna Gonzalez had the incredible opportunity to visit the University of Ghana in Accra, Ghana, for three weeks in January. Supported by her advisor, Turhan Canli’s Dana Foundation Planning Grant, she worked on a wide variety of projects involving teaching, science communication, and exploring the connections between neuroscience and society in the country. Her trip’s highlights included meeting with traditional healers and herbalists, leading a research methods and proposal workshop, and being part of the Ghana Brain Bee.

Paola García Polanco participated in the Summer 2022 REU Nanotechnology Program, where she completed research under Dr. Wei Yin in Biomedical Engineering. Paola was accepted to present her research at the 2022 SACNAS Conference in San Juan, Puerto Rico.

Jennifer Blackwell, PhD
Dr. Blackwell’s research as an IRACDA postdoc investigated taste perception in a mouse model of frontotemporal dementia. Upon completing her IRACDA Fellowship, Dr. Blackwell accepted a Neuroscience Education Program Manager position at Brown University.

Welcome to the world, Jaxon Vaughn Greene! Dr. W. Burghardt Turner and Bridge to the Doctorate Fellow, Vaughn Greene, Jr. and his wife Cheriann had an unexpected guest crash their vacation to Barbados this Christmas. The couple welcomed baby boy Jaxon Vaughn Greene on 12/25/22 at 7:50am. Congratulations to the proud parents!

Paola García Polanco

Stephanie Taboada

Josue Nassar, PhD

Brianna Gonzalez

Sheed Itaman
The CIE was thrilled to return to in-person graduate recruitment activities in Fall 2022. A team of CIE staff, graduate students, and faculty began the recruitment season in San Juan, Puerto Rico, in October, where they met with prospective graduate students, postdoctoral trainees, and undergraduate summer research participants at the University of Puerto Rico (UPR) - Rio Piedras, UPR School of Medicine, Ana G. Mendez at Cupey, and UPR-Cayey. The team then exhibited at the National Diversity in STEM Conference (formerly known as SACNAS) from October 27-29th in San Juan.

Before peak recruitment season in the fall, the CIE hosted a campus visit from the CUNY Black Male Initiative (BMI) on August 3rd. Students from NY City Tech, York College, Hostos Community College, and Brooklyn and Queens Colleges attended a CIE Graduate Student Panel and toured Stony Brook University. The following month we welcomed 35 prospective graduate students from various universities, including Stony Brook, for Graduate School Preview Day. The CIE was thrilled to have graduate program faculty, staff, and current CIE scholars share their admissions best practices, program nuances, and insight into the PhD experience.

The CIE also collaborated with Will Mack, a PhD Candidate in History, and Dr. W. Burghardt Turner Fellow, who was selected as an IDEA Fellow to assist the Graduate School with diversity graduate recruitment initiatives. Will coordinated in-person and virtual visits to CUNY Brooklyn College, CUNY Lehman College, and New Jersey City University. The NJCU visit was made possible with the help of Dr. Ángel González, Turner Alumnus and previous Turner Program Manager in the CIE! Other campus visits included the University of Maryland - Baltimore County, New Jersey Institute of Technology and CUNY John Jay College of Criminal Justice.

Overall, the CIE engaged nearly 130 prospective students over the course of the 2022 recruitment cycle - and have received 25 graduate applications to date as a result of these efforts. We look forward to welcoming the 2023 cohort of CIE scholars later this year!
Wellness @CIE

Racial/ethnic, gender, and sexual minorities often suffer from poor mental health due to inaccessibility to health services, the cultural stigma surrounding mental health, discrimination, and lack of awareness. Most universities offer a significant amount of mental health resources and programming for undergraduate students, but miss the mark with graduate students and postdocs. Supporting graduate students with these concerns is crucial for their overall success and it is our responsibility to support them (Wang et al., 2020). The CIE is dedicated to supporting scholars and providing them with resources to build a wellness toolkit.

Stimulation (Stim) toys can help with mindfulness, focus, and emotional balance. The CIE has now added a Stim Cart to our space! Whether you come by for an event or to get some work done, grab one of our many fidget toys. Both our scholars and staff have found these tools immensely useful for stress relief and blocking out distractions!

An art cart will be added Spring 2023!

On December 6th, an Art Therapy Event was facilitated by Tracy Radsvick, PhD Student in Psychology, and John Van Houten, fine artist and instructor. Scholars learned about the principles of art therapy and participated in several activities to promote grounding, mindfulness, and artistic expression.
A Conversation on Anti-Racism with Dr. Ebony McGee

On September 22nd, author of Black, Brown, Bruised: How Racialized STEM Education Stifles Innovation, Dr. Ebony Omotola McGee joined us over Zoom for a candid conversation on how racial and race-gendered stereotyping disrupts the career trajectories of "STEMers of color." Dr. McGee provided sustainable actions for faculty and staff to create equitable and inclusive environments where all can feel a sense of belonging, authenticity, and cultural expression and thrive academically and socially.

TURNER GAME NIGHT

On December 8, 2022, First Year Turner Fellows enjoyed a much-needed break from research, teaching, and studying at our CIE Game Night. Conversation flowed over Uno, Dominoes, and a rowdy game of Pictionary.

Pictionary winning team: Samantha Corley, Hannah Morales, Sam Chen, and Grace Wivell

RESEARCH CAFE

On Thursday, October 13th, Daneele Thorpe, PhD Candidate in Clinical Psychology, and Dr. W. Burghardt Turner Fellow, discussed her research on "Exposure to Community Violence and Parenting Behaviors: A Meta-Analysis."

Daneele began her presentation by explaining that growing evidence suggests that the neighborhood environment influences how parents behave toward and interact with their children. Daneele then presented her research which assesses the magnitude of the association between community violence and parenting behaviors (i.e., positive parenting, harsh/neglectful parenting, parent-child relationship quality, and parents’ control of children’s behaviors) and examines potential moderators of this association.
On August 24th, the CIE hosted its annual Welcome Back BBQ. It is always great to welcome back current scholars and introduce new ones to our community and extended family. The event is filled with great food and fun activities, all while connecting with colleagues and friends.

In Celebration of Hispanic Heritage Month, Alejandra Estrada, Turner Fellow in Psychology, taught the CIE community the cultural and familial significance of tortillas while demonstrating how to make them by hand.

Each year CIE Photo Day is one of the largest gatherings of the CIE community. Students, faculty, and staff come together to take the annual CIE photo while wearing the newest CIE swag. Modeling made everyone hungry, so photos were followed by a catered lunch from Island Empanada.

The 2022 REU Nanotechnology participants were introduced to the larger CIE graduate scholar community at the Island Empanada Social. Over delicious food, REU participants connected and networked with CIE graduate scholars about research interests, career paths, and conference opportunities.
On Wednesday, October 5th, 2022, we returned to The Old Field Club in East Setauket for our annual Dr. W. Burghardt Turner Fellowship Welcome Dinner for 2022 Fellows. It was an evening of delicious food, inspirational conversations, and community building!

The Dr. W. Burghardt Turner Fellowship celebrated its 35th anniversary in Fall 2022! We were thrilled to mark this special occasion with our traditional Turner Welcome Dinner, back in person for the first time since Fall 2019. Dr. Ángel González, Turner Alumnus and former CIE Program Manager, returned to deliver a keynote speech that epitomized the Turner motto of "Once a Turner, Always a Turner." He welcomed new Turner Fellows and encouraged continuing Turner Fellows to keep going - and offered his support in the event they felt like giving up. It was a beautiful tribute to "Burg" Turner and his tireless efforts to advocate for higher education and civil rights. Dr. González is now the Associate Dean for Inclusion and Diversity and Assistant Professor at UT Health San Antonio.

The Dr. W. Burghardt Turner Fellowship is a graduate fellowship program for historically marginalized and underrepresented students pursuing graduate or medical degrees in a variety of disciplines at Stony Brook University. The fellowship is funded by the SUNY Office of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion.

**Project Director**
Karian Wright, Assistant Dean for Diversity & Inclusion, Graduate School Director, Center for Inclusive Education

**Project Co-Director**
Judith Brown Clarke, Vice President for Equity & Inclusion and Chief Diversity Officer

**Program Manager**
Rosalia Davi, Program Manager, Center for Inclusive Education
Introducing our newest Turner Fellows

2022 Cohort

Carlos Ventura
Chemistry

Chantelle Roulston
Clinical Psychology

Adebayo Braimah
Computer Science

Evan Abreu
Ecology & Evolution

Brandon Banarsi
Electrical & Computer Engineering

Lizzie Belnap
English

Christina Hurtado-Pierson
History

Jennifer Tepan
Integrative Neuroscience

Maria Elizabeth Garza
Linguistics

Adriana DiBua
Molecular & Cellular Pharmacology

Delano Bell
Music

Samantha Corley
Social & Health Psychology

Gabriella Simpson
Women's, Gender, & Sexuality Studies

2022 Turner Dissertation Fellows

Jacob Jones
Applied Mathematics & Statistics

Eduardo Bravo
Chemistry

Carlos Bicas
Geosciences

Grace Wivell
Linguistics

Anthony Stapon
Molecular & Cellular Pharmacology

Priscilla Yevoo
Neuroscience

2022 Ferguson Merit Award Recipients

Jennifer Guevara
Dental Medicine

Marie Francoise Millares
Materials Science & Chemical Engineering

Sintia Escobar Avelar
Medicine
Current Turners

College of Arts and Sciences

David Acevedo
Rocco Amorosso
Madison (Madin) Anae
Stephan Brandt
Kailee (Kai) Breaux
Breanna Brock
Brian Brown
Chelsie Burchett
Lajhon Campbell
Alexander Davis
Alejandra Estrada
Adam Fitch
Leonard Flores
Jeffrey Gaillard
Anthony Gomez III
Hanna Morales Hernández
Jake Hook
Arthur Kock
Willie Mack
Edelmy Janice Marin Bernardez
Alicia Mendoza

Cole Moczygemba
Lauren Morrison
West Poindexter
Emily Rehbein
Jeanette Rivera Negrón
Emilia Russo
Bryan Sanchez Monserrate
Desireé (Desi) T. Self
Jamilah Silver
Danielle Smythe
Timothy (TJ) Sullivan
Abraham Teklu
Courtney Tello
Daneele Thorpe
Carlos Vazquez
Alexandra (Ally) Velez
Carlos Vicéns
Stephen Wrenn
Daisy Zavala
Callen Zimmerman
Lizbeth Zuniga

Turner Awards

Turner Summer Research Awards

Fernando Amador II
Andrea Arreguin
Breanna Brock
Chelsie Burchett
Anthony Gomez III
Vaughn Greene, Jr.
Delicia Kamins
Willie Mack
Emily Rehbein
Jamilah Silver
Danielle Smythe
Daneele Thorpe
Carlos Vazquez
Daisy Zavala

Turner Academic Year Award

Jamilah Silver

Turner Travel Awards

Fernando Amador II
Yaelin Caba Silverio
Alejandra Estrada
Anthony Gomez III
Delicia Kamins
Jermaine Robertson
Jamilah Silver
Timothy (TJ) Sullivan

College of Engineering and Applied Sciences

Vaughn Greene, Jr.
Guilherme Larangeira
Alfredo Rivero
Peter Saenz

Manhattan Center for Creative Writing and Film

Micah Demby
Omani McDaniels

Renaissance School of Medicine

André Chavez
Nina Cintron Pregosin
Philip Fonseca
Jermaine Robertson
Kenneth Serrano
Yaelin Caba Silverio

Dental School of Medicine

Noemy Espinal

Medical Science Training Program (MD/PhD)

Andrea Arreguin
Santiago Espinosa de los Reyes
Southern Regional Education Board (SREB) Doctoral Scholars Fellowship

The Southern Regional Education Board (SREB) Doctoral Scholars Fellowship offers awards to underrepresented minority scholars who are pursuing a PhD and plan to become college and university professors. Each year, SREB Scholars are funded to attend the Institute on Teaching and Mentoring, a four-day conference and the largest gathering of minority doctoral scholars in the country. The Institute gives the issue of faculty diversity a national focus and provides minority scholars with the strategies necessary to survive the rigors of graduate school, earn the doctoral degree, and succeed as members of the professoriate.

2022 SREB Scholars

Sixto Taveras Lopez  
Ecology & Evolution

Daneele Thorpe  
Clinical Psychology

Vanessa Carter  
Molecular & Cellular Pharmacology

2021 SREB Scholars

Chelsie Burchett  
Psychology

Edelmy Marin Bernandez  
Chemistry

Faniya Doswell  
Molecular & Cell Biology

The National GEM Consortium Fellowship

The mission of The National GEM Consortium is to enhance the value of the nation's human capital by increasing the participation of underrepresented groups (African Americans, American Indians, and Hispanic Americans) at the master's and doctoral levels in engineering and science.

Through collaborative relationships between universities and industry, GEM's program provides graduate student fellows with academic and internship experience to best prepare students for careers in engineering and science.

2022  
Allen Pierre-Louis

2021  
Jhair Alzamora

2020  
Guilherme Larangeira

2019  
Stephanie Taboada
The Stony Brook University Initiative for Maximizing Student Development - Maximizing Excellence in Research for Graduate Education (IMSD-MERGE) Program aims to increase the number of underrepresented and disadvantaged students completing highly productive biological and biomedical science degrees at Stony Brook University, and prepare them for seamless advancement into successful research careers. IMSD-MERGE is now a T32 Training grant available to graduate students in nine different programs in the biomedical sciences, including Ecology & Evolution, Chemistry, Molecular Biology, Neurobiology, Microbiology, and Biomedical Engineering. IMSD-MERGE is one of the many programs coordinated by the Center for Inclusive Education at Stony Brook University and is funded by the National Institutes of Health (NIH).

**Program Director and Principal Investigator**
Dr. J. Peter Gergen, Professor, Department of Biochemistry and Cell Biology; Director, Center for Developmental Genetics; Director, Undergraduate Biology

**Co-Principal Investigators**
Dr. Jennie Williams, Assistant Dean For Student Diversity and Aligned Pre-doctoral Programs, Renaissance School of Medicine; Associate Director For Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, SBU Cancer Center; Associate Professor, Department of Family, Population and Preventive Medicine

Karian Wright, Assistant Dean for Diversity & Inclusion, The Graduate School; Director, Center for Inclusive Education

**Program Manager**
Rosalia Davi, Program Manager, Center for Inclusive Education

**IMSD EXCELLENCE IN MENTORING**
A key component of the IMSD-MERGE program is the Excellence in Mentoring (EiM) Workshop, held annually for IMSD Scholars and their faculty research mentors. Participants learn about their preferred communication styles, the importance of active listening, how to identify and mitigate Imposter Phenomenon (IP), and more. EiM takes place once Scholars complete rotations and begin in their new lab, equipping them with a roadmap and tools for a successful mentoring relationship with their research advisors.

**IMSD BOWLING NIGHT**
On October 11, 2022, IMSD Scholars, PI's and CIE Staff gathered at Bowlero in Sayville for a night of friendly competition and fun! The idea for this event was generated by IMSD Fostering Inclusive Research Scientist Training (FIRST) participants, who felt that community contributed to a strong sense of belonging as a graduate student. We couldn’t agree more!
IMSD-MERGE GRANT AWARDED: $2.2M

On March 23, 2022, a press release written by Robert Emproto shared the exciting news that the Center for Inclusive Education was awarded a National Institutes of Health (NIH) 5-year renewal grant worth $2.2 million. Emproto writes, “The rates of degree completion and persistence in research careers for graduate students from underrepresented minority (URM) communities are disheartening. This underrepresentation has an additional negative impact on communities of color as URM scientists are more likely than non-URMs to study issues specific to minority communities.”

“The goals of the grant are to broaden participation of students from URM backgrounds in biomedical research careers,” said J. Peter Gergen, Professor, Department of Biochemistry and Cell Biology and Principal Investigator and Director of the NIH IMSD-MERGE program at Stony Brook. “These students face significant challenges that extend from financial hurdles to social issues such as implicit bias and self-efficacy.”

Read the full press release here: bit.ly/IMSDPR

IMSD-MERGE RECEIVES SUPPLEMENT FOR INCLUSIVE RESEARCH SCIENTIST TRAINING: $80K+

The NIH IMSD-MERGE Program received a supplement in 2021 to develop and administer the FIRST (Fostering Inclusive Research Scientist Training) Workshop. In July and August 2022, twenty five faculty and staff from IMSD-affiliated PhD programs in the biological and biomedical sciences attended the 3-part Workshop on the following topics:

- Implicit Bias, Stereotype Threat and Imposter Syndrome
- Anti-Racism: Creating a Welcoming Environment in Your Graduate Program
- The ABCs of Allyship: Accomplices, Bystanders and Constructive Conflict

The FIRST Curriculum was developed by Adam Fitch, PhD student in History & Turner Fellow, and Francesca Petronio, PhD Candidate in Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies, with support from CIE staff and Drs. J. Peter Gergen, Jennie Williams, and Elizabeth Boon.

---

IMSD-MERGE Scholars: Cohort 2

Narmin Mekawy
Neuroscience

Carlos Ventura
Chemistry

Tete Obot
Microbiology & Immunology

Colista West
Neuroscience

Daniel Wong Gutierrez
Biochemistry & Structural Biology

IMSD Affiliates: Cohort 2

Adriana DiBua
Molecular & Cellular Pharmacology

Javier Anduaga

---

IMSD R25 Scholars

Folnetti Alvarez
Molecular & Cellular Pharmacology

Greisly Nuñez
Biochemistry & Cell Biology

Jeffrey Malgady
Neuroscience

Kennelia Mellanson
Molecular & Cellular Pharmacology

Priscilla Yevoo
Neuroscience

IMSD Scholars: Cohort 1

Richard Sejour
Molecular & Cellular Pharmacology

Sheed Itaman
Neuroscience

Anthony Stapon
Molecular & Cellular Pharmacology

Karla Cardenas Avevalo
Microbiology & Immunology

Kimberly Nnah
Neuroscience

Sixto Taveras Lopez
Ecology & Evolution

Isaiah Taylor
Molecular & Cellular Pharmacology

IMSD Affiliates: Cohort 1

André Chavez
Molecular & Cellular Pharmacology

Niná Cintron Pregosin
Molecular & Cellular Pharmacology
The AGEP NY-PUI Alliance brings together Stony Brook University, Farmingdale State College, Suffolk County Community College, and federally-funded Brookhaven National Laboratory to develop, implement, study, institutionalize, evaluate, and disseminate a model focusing on career development for historically underrepresented minority (URM) doctoral students in STEM. The outcome is to successfully transition AGEP Fellows into early-career STEM faculty positions at PUIs, or who enter postdoctoral positions and then transition into early-career STEM faculty positions at PUIs. Participants in the program benefit from near-peer & alum mentoring support, professional development training, pedagogy training & mentored micro-teaching experiences.

**Principal Investigators**

Karian Wright, Assistant Dean for Diversity & Inclusion, Graduate School; Director, Center for Inclusive Education

Dr. Paulo Castillo, Assistant Professor, Department of Electrical & Computing Engineering, FSC

Dr. Wesley Francillon, Assistant Professor, Department of Engineering, SCCC

Dr. Bonita London, Professor and Associate Dean for Research, College of Arts and Sciences, SBU

Dr. Mónica F. Bugallo, Vice Provost, Faculty Affairs and Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, SBU

Dr. Christopher Malone, Associate Provost, FSC

Dr. Tracy Callender, Assistant Professor, Department of Biological Sciences, FSC

Dr. Candice Foley, Professor Emeritus of Chemistry, SCCC

Kenneth White, Manager, Office of Educational Programs, BNL

**Co-Principal Investigators**

Dr. Deborah Hecht, Director, Center for Advanced Study in Education

**Program Coordinators**

Lisa Ospitale, Program Manager, Center for Inclusive Education

Nina Leonhardt, NSF I-SUCCESS Internship Coordinator, NSF ETECH21 Evaluator & Adjunct Professor, SCCC

**Research Study Assistant**

Chelsie Burchett, PhD Candidate in Psychology, Stony Brook University

**External Evaluator**

Dr. Deborah Hecht, Director, Center for Advanced Study in Education

**Our Current Fellows**

**COHORT 3**

Kaela Teele
PhD Candidate
Microbiology and Immunology
“Sur7 regulates plasma membrane lipid asymmetry in Candida albicans”

Priscilla Yevoo
PhD Candidate
Neurobiology and Behavior
“Extrasynaptic GABAA Receptors in the Gustatory Cortex and Taste-Dependent Impulsive Behavior”

**COHORT 1**

Stephanie Taboada
PhD Candidate in Chemical Engineering

Danielle Cervasio
PhD Candidate in Pharmacology

Adrian Hurtado
PhD Candidate in Materials Science

**COHORT 2**

Kehinde Cole
PhD Candidate in Integrative Neuroscience

Brianna Gonzalez
PhD Candidate in Integrative Neuroscience

Troy Singletary
PhD Candidate
Mechanical Engineering
“Molecular Dynamics and Theoretical Studies of Nanoparticle Adhesion at Solid-Liquid Interfaces”

Priscilla Yevoo
PhD Candidate
Neurobiology and Behavior
“Extrasynaptic GABAA Receptors in the Gustatory Cortex and Taste-Dependent Impulsive Behavior”
AGEP Fellows, PI Karian Wright, and Program Manager, Lisa Ospitale, traveled to Corpus Christi, TX to attend the 2022 AGEP National Conference this fall. Alliance Co-PIs Tracy Callender and Paulo Castillo from Farmingdale and Karl Clarke, Program Coordinator at Brookhaven National Lab also attended. The conference focused on advancing knowledge and understanding of models and best practices to improve pathways to the professoriate for URM doctoral students, postdocs, and early career faculty. The conference brought active alliances together to share knowledge, develop collaborations, and discuss best practices. AGEP fellows Brianna Gonzalez and Stephanie Taboada were chosen as Lighthouse Beacons, receiving conference travel funding and a $500 stipend. Beacons supported the conference committee in a variety of tasks including introducing workshop facilitators and presenting on a panel discussion. Karian and Lisa presented a poster titled, “Lessons Learned from Developing and Implementing a Career Development Model for Historically Underrepresented Doctoral Degree Students in STEM, Who Successfully Transition into Early-Career Faculty Positions at PUls, or Who Enter Postdoctoral Positions and Transition into Early-Career STEM Faculty Positions at PUls.” AGEP Fellows also shared their AGEP experiences on the Engineering Change Podcast, hosted by Dr. Yvette E. Pearson.

AGEP Pedagogy Seminar Series

Cohort 3 participated in pedagogy seminars hosted by the Center for Excellence in Learning & Teaching. Topics included:

- Developing Your Statement of Teaching Philosophy
- Diverse and Inclusive Learning Environments
- Introduction to Scientific Teaching
- Evidence-based Teaching Practices at SCCC
- Elements of Learning Theories: Metacognition and Growth Mindset
- Effective Syllabus & Assessment (Backward Design)
- Student Populations & Institutions
- Deep Dive Into Active Learning
- Navigating Your Career in Academia and Beyond: Personal Experiences from Faculty of Color
Stony Brook IRACDA
Institutional Research and Academic Career Development Award

IRACDA, the Institutional Research and Academic Career Development Award, is a funded fellowship program for postdoctoral scholars in the biological sciences. Scholars advance their teaching skills and research experience during a 3-year mentored fellowship at Stony Brook University and minority-serving IRACDA Partner Institutions: CUNY Brooklyn College, Farmingdale College, Suffolk County Community College & SUNY College at Old Westbury.

Program Director and Principal Investigator
Dr. Carol Carter, Distinguished Professor, Department of Microbiology and Immunology

Co-Principal Investigators
Karian Wright, Assistant Dean for Diversity & Inclusion, Graduate School; Director, Center for Inclusive Education
Dr. Miguel Garcia-Diaz, Interim Associate Vice President for Research, Stony Brook University

Program Manager
Lisa Ospitale, Program Manager, Center for Inclusive Education

Partner Institution Program Coordinators
Dr. Louise Hainline, Professor, Department of Psychology, CUNY Brooklyn College
Dr. Tracy Callender, Assistant Professor, Department of Biological Sciences, Farmingdale State College
Dr. Jonathan Brockman, Associate Professor, Department of Chemistry, Suffolk County Community College
Dr. Fernando Nieto, Professor, Department of Biological Sciences, SUNY Old Westbury

Introducing our newest postdoctoral scholars
COHORT 11

Robert Burroughs, PhD
Evolutionary Biology, University of Chicago
Dr. Burroughs' postdoctoral research in Dr. Natasha Vitek's lab focuses on using lab mice, Mus musculus, to investigate how environmental shifts affect changes in tooth shape and structure, thereby linking embryonic developmental processes and evolutionary biology.

Aya Sabbah, PhD
Oral Biology and Pathology, Stony Brook University
Dr. Sabbah's current postdoctoral training in Dr. Peter Tonge's lab in the Department of Chemistry utilizes the changes inducible through photoreceptor compounds to optimize their use in different cellular mechanisms.
On September 1st, the NIH renewed Stony Brook IRACDA with a grant in the sum of $5.5 million. The grant will fund Stony Brook IRACDA for an additional five years which includes increased funding to grow the program from 15 to 20 postdoctoral scholars. In the past decade, more than 70 percent of Stony Brook University-trained IRACDA scholars have obtained tenure-track academic positions, an outcome that is much higher than postdoctoral trainees without IRACDA training. IRACDA is responsible for doubling (7.6 percent to 15 percent) the racial/ethnic diversity of the domestic postdoctoral population at Stony Brook since 2010. We are so proud to have received this renewal and can't wait to see what this grant will do for our future scholars!

### CAMPUS VISITS

During late spring 2022, IRACDA Cohort 10 postdocs Megan Mladinich, Jinnette Tolentino-Collado, and Ben Katz had the opportunity to visit IRACDA Partner Institutions Suffolk County Community College and SUNY Old Westbury College. During the visits, the scholars met with faculty in their respective fields to determine which institution would best fit their desired mentored teaching experience.

### IRACDA SUMMER BOOK CLUB

In 2022, IRACDA postdocs and staff participated in a pedagogical summer book club. The group decided to read Radical Hope: A Teaching Manifesto by Dr. Kevin Gannon and reconvene in August to discuss. The Postdocs were treated to a surprise Zoom visit by Dr. Gannon, who participated in a Q&A about his book and the future of university teaching.
In July 2022, IRACDA Postdoctoral Scholars, PIs, and Program Manager traveled to Albuquerque, New Mexico, for the annual National NIH IRACDA Conference. Under the theme “Cultivating Collaborative Communities,” the conference featured various plenary talks and breakout sessions on pedagogy, career development, and publishing. Scholars Drs. Jennifer Blackwell, Lisa-Marie Nisbett, Natalie Hudson-Smith, Megan Mladinich, Jinnette Tolentino-Collado, and Benjamin Katz presented their research posters. IRACDA Program Manager, Lisa Ospitale, presented a poster on the program outcomes of the IRACDA NY-CAPS partnership.
In the Summer of 2022, Stony Brook University hosted nine undergraduate students as part of the multidisciplinary Research Experiences for Undergraduates (REU) Site in Nanotechnology for Health, Energy, and the Environment. Students spent ten weeks living on campus while working on research projects in various labs across Stony Brook. In addition to their research, participants attended a weekly Research Methods course led by AGEP and GEM Fellow Stephanie Taboada and a weekly Graduate Preparation Workshop with CIE Graduate Assistant Frankie Petronio. They also toured the lab facilities at Brookhaven National Lab (BNL) and enjoyed several community-building activities, including a paint night and sunset kayaking. Their summer experience culminated in a poster presentation at the Summer Research Program Symposium, where participants in the REU Nanotechnology Program presented their work alongside students from other Stony Brook summer research programs.

**Principal Investigator**
Dr. Gary Halada, Associate Professor and Undergraduate Program Director, Department of Materials Science & Chemical Engineering

**Program Manager**
Lisa Ospitale, Program Manager, Center for Inclusive Education

---

**REU PAINT NIGHT**
REU Scholars tested their paddle abilities on a warm summer evening while watching a beautiful Long Island sunset from the water.

**REU KAYAK TRIP**
REU fellows were able to get creative while connecting with CIE scholars in order to learn more about graduate school.

---
2022 REU Nanotechnology Scholars

Darienne Rogers
Duke University
Dr. Mei Lin (Ete) Chan
Biomedical Engineering

Diya Rai-Gersappe
Vassar College
Drs. Miriam Rafailovich & Michael Cuiffo
Materials Science & Chemical Engineering

Jonah Torres
Suffolk County Community College
Dr. Amy Marschilok
Materials Science & Chemical Engineering

Lilia Bartolotta
Binghamton University
Dr. Esther Takeuchi
Materials Science & Chemical Engineering

Paola García Polanco
University of Puerto Rico at Cayey
Dr. Wei Yin
Biomedical Engineering

Ryan Hulchanski
Clarkson University
Drs. Jason Trelewicz & Gary Halada
Materials Science & Chemical Engineering

Settara Dost
Middlesex County College
Dr. David Rubenstein
Biomedical Engineering

Sophia Arecena
SUNY Old Westbury
Drs. Taeejin Kim & Gary Halada
Materials Science & Chemical Engineering

Swaneet Jha
Stony Brook University
Dr. Thomas Woodson
Technology and Society
REU: Nanotechnology Highlights

SUMMER RESEARCH PROGRAM SYMPOSIUM

The Summer Research Program Symposium is an annual event jointly organized by the Center for Inclusive Education and Undergraduate Research & Creative Activities (URECA), which showcases the work of undergraduate students participating in department-sponsored summer programs with SBU faculty mentors. The 2022 Symposium was held on August 4th in the Charles B. Wang Center. Each of our nine REU scholars presented posters on their research.

BROOKHAVEN NATIONAL LABORATORY VISIT

REU Nanotechnology Scholars participated in a tour of Brookhaven National Lab. The tour focused on the Center for Functional Nanomaterials. While at BNL, students were able to see the National Synchrotron Light Source II, one of the newest, most advanced synchrotron light sources in the world. The event culminated with a workshop educating the REU students on future fellowship opportunities at BNL.
NIKUNJ MITTAL
Nikunj joined the Center in Fall 2022. He maintains and updates the CIE website. In his spare time, he enjoys swimming, listening to music and reading about new advances in technology. Nikunj is in his first year of his Master’s in Computer Science.

SAM CHEN
Sam joined the Center in Summer 2022 as a graduate student assistant. She assists with the NIH IMSD MERGE T32, Dr. W. Burghardt Turner, and GEM Fellowship. Sam is also an Integrative Neuroscience PhD student, studying loneliness, personality and age.

ASHLEY BARRY
Ashley joined the Center in March 2022 through the IDEA Graduate Fellowship. As the CIE Mental Health Specialist, Ashley helps develop programming around wellness and neurodiversity.

SHAFIRA WIDJAJA
Shafira joined the Center in Fall 2022 and is currently pursuing a PhD in Economics. She updates and creates content for the CIE’s social media accounts. In her spare time, she enjoys watching TV shows, reading fiction, going to concerts, and going for runs. She also runs her own book club!

GRACE WIVELL
Grace first joined the Center in 2017 when she was completing her Masters in TESOL, and returned after starting her PhD in Linguistics. She works on events across the many CIE Programs, and also works closely with the Community of Student Mentors.

VICTORIA RIZZUTO
Joining the Center in July 2022, Victoria supports AGEP and IRACDA. She is currently pursuing the Master of Public Health portion of her combined MD/MPH degree. She is excited to be applying to OB/GYN residencies this year.

NIKUNJ MITTAL
VICTORIA RIZZUTO
SAM CHEN
ASHLEY BARRY
SHAFIRA WIDJAJA
GRACE WIVELL
PAGE 22
CIE Staff

Karian Wright
Director
Assistant Dean for Diversity & Inclusion, The Graduate School

Erica Valdez
Administrator

Lisa Ospitale
Program Manager
AGEP, IRACDA, REU, SREB & CSM

Rosalia Davi
Program Manager
GEM, IMSD & Turner

Elizanne Warren-Russell
Program Coordinator
GEM, IMSD & Turner

Welcome our newest Program Coordinator!

Jessica Triola
"Beloved community is formed not by the eradication of difference but by its affirmation, by each of us claiming the identities and cultural legacies that shape who we are and how we live in the world."

~ bell hooks
Contact us!

CIE@stonybrook.edu
631-632-1386
stonybrook.edu/CIE

@CIEStonyBrook
@CIEStonyBrook
@CIEStonyBrook
facebook.com/StonyBrookCIE