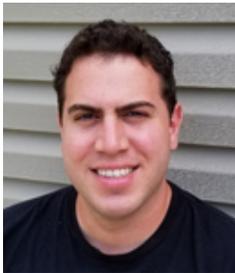


Graduate Program in Genetics: 2019 Entering Class



Isobel Bolger: Isobel earned her BA in Human Genetics from Trinity College Dublin in 2019. Her main area of interest is neurodegeneration with a focus on the entire microenvironment of the brain, including the neurovasculature and immune system. Undergraduate research experience includes examining the role of the neurovascular unit in temporal lobe epilepsy. She also interned in Dr. Dubnau's lab at Stony Brook utilizing a *Drosophila* amyotrophic lateral sclerosis model to investigate candidate genes in the disease's pathology.



Sam Chiappone: Sam graduated in 2013 with a BS in Biochemistry from SUNY Geneseo with a secondary major in Philosophy. Geneseo cultivated in him a passion for science he had from a young age. Sam earned an MS from Stony Brook University in Biochemistry and Cell Biology in 2016, studying CRISPR-Cas9, data analysis, and metabolism. He is interested in research at the intersection of biology and chemistry, as well as of metabolism and medicine. Sam is a bit of a foodie – but only if someone else is doing the cooking, to be honest. Sam is a fan of tennis and plays tennis casually.



Nelson Gautier: Nelson graduated from the University of Georgia in 2019 with a BS in Genetics. As an undergrad, he worked with thermophilic anaerobic bacteria in an effort to better utilize untreated biomass for biofuel production under the guidance of Dr. Janet Westpheling. He then worked on the genetic characterization of switchgrass, a DOE biofuel candidate crop, in Dr. Katrien Devos's lab. Nelson's research interests include disease genetics, parasite host interactions, and the unraveling of evolutionary relationships.

Likes: Cooking, traveling, food, listening to music, and water activities



Xiao Han: Xiao earned her B.S. in Biological Science from Sichuan University in 2019 and studied at the University of Notre Dame in 2018 as an exchange student, concentrating on prostate cancer immunotherapy and molecular mechanisms in penile cancer oncogenesis. Xiao is interested in cancer immunology, the molecular mechanisms within the tumor microenvironment, and cellular interactions between cancer cells and immune cells.

Likes: Cooking, baking, traveling, snorkeling, cats



Samantha Henry: Samantha received her BS in Biology and a double minor in Chemistry and Computer Science from SUNY Polytechnic Institute in 2019. As an undergraduate, her research focused on investigating elements in the mobile genome of *Daubentonia madagascariensis*. While she continues to remain interested in the mobile genome, she is also looking forward to pursuing other research opportunities at Stony Brook University.

Likes: Reading, traveling, hiking, board games, volleyball, cooking, and watching Celtics, Green Bay Packers, and Aston Villa F.C. games



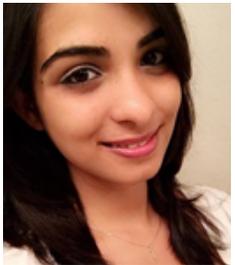
Lingjie Liu: Lingjie graduated with a BS in Biology from Southern University of Science and Technology, China, in 2019. As an undergraduate, she participated in analyzing high-throughput sequencing data in several projects that focused on transcriptional regulation and chromatin accessibility in the lab of Dr. Wei Chen. Lingjie is interested in cancer genomics and computational biology.
Likes: reading, playing the violin, Chinese tea, and movies



Craig Marshall: Craig earned his BS in Biochemistry and Molecular & Cellular Biology from the University of Arizona in 2016. During his time there, he worked in a neurodegenerative lab and then in an asthma lab during his post-baccalaureate year. In 2017, Craig joined the MSTP at Stony Brook and is working in Dr. Molly Hammell's group at CSHL, where he is studying the role of transposable elements in the pathophysiology of amyotrophic lateral sclerosis.
Likes: Trying new restaurants, cats, the beach, and sci-fi



Philip Moresco: Phil graduated with a BA in Biology from Mount Saint Mary College in 2016. As an undergraduate, he studied the effects of the pneumococcal cell wall on mouse fetal neural precursor cells and adult neurons in Dr. Elaine Tuomanen's lab at St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. He joined the MD program at Stony Brook in 2016 and the MSTP in 2018. His work in Dr. Douglas Fearon's lab at CSHL studies the binding of CXCL12 to pancreatic cancer cells via TGM2. His research interests are tumor immunology and microbial immunology.
Likes: Video games, golf, Pokemon, and basketball



Joanne Saldanha: Joanne received her BS in Biology with an Honors in the Major from the University of Central Florida in 2018. She dabbled in ecology, studying herpesvirus in gopher tortoises, before finding her passion for genetics. For a year, she studied genes involved in the polyamine transport system in *Drosophila melanogaster*. She hopes to couple her interests in cancer research and genetics here at Stony Brook.
Likes: Board games, reading, writing, playing the guitar, binging Netflix and food!



Courtney Tello: Courtney earned a BS in Biochemistry from St. Thomas Aquinas College in 2018. As an undergraduate, she completed two REU programs. At Colorado State, she investigated the localization of the SHE1 protein in *S. cerevisiae* to help determine how SHE1 inhibits dynein and spindle movement during mitosis. At Clemson U, she built the cloning vector pcDNA3.1/Zeo(+)/hFas and transfected it into HeLa cells, with the aim of introducing human Fas protein into cancer cells. She hopes to one day be the PI of a cancer research lab.
Likes: Running, dancing, hiking, drawing, being with family and friends



John Yuen: John earned his BA in Biology from New York University in 2016. He did research in the lab of Dr. Matthew Rockman, also at NYU, focusing on the molecular and evolutionary mechanisms that shape heritable phenotypes in *Caenorhabditis* nematodes, before joining Stony Brook's MSTP in 2017. John is currently working under the guidance of Dr. Jingfang Ju in the Department of Pathology on the role of microRNAs in the tumor microenvironment.