

## GRADUATE PROGRAM IN GENETICS – CLASS OF 2020



### **Maryam Azmi**

To Maryam, Stony Brook University is her second home. Graduating in 2019 with a Bachelor's in Biology from SBU, Maryam specialized in developmental genetics and joined the Biochemistry and Cellular Biology Master's Program in Fall 2019. From there, she transitioned into the PhD Program in Genetics in Fall 2020. During her master's training, Maryam worked in Dave Matus's lab to study the transcriptional regulators of cell migration, proliferation, and differentiation in the sex myoblast cells of *C. elegans*.

Likes: anime, video games, nail art, serving masala chai and desserts to guests and loved ones, family, and being called by her nickname, Minnie



### **Alexander Kwakye**

Alex obtained his BS in Medical Laboratory Technology from Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology in Ghana in 2016. He continued to pursue his Master's in Biomedical Science at Florida Atlantic University, where he used bioinformatic tools to explore differential gene expression in Alzheimer's disease. At Stony Brook, Alex hopes to continue exploring mechanisms of gene regulation and expression.

Likes: Reading, writing, biking and watching soccer



### **Jessica Lioy**

Jessica graduated from SUNY Fredonia with her BS in Molecular Genetics in 2019. As an undergraduate, she worked in various labs and in industry internships at Ichor Therapeutics. At Fredonia, Jessica studied in Dr. Scott Medler's lab exploring hybrid and asymmetric muscle fibers in mice with the goal of defining how muscle fibers are exchanged during normal development. At Ichor Therapeutics, she worked on a large array of projects. In 2019, during her senior year of college, she accepted a full-time job at Ichor and split her time between school and lab work as she finished her degree.

Likes: Being a corgi mom, yoga, soccer, lacrosse, and wine



### **Dillon Voss**

Dillon earned his BS in Biology from California University of Pennsylvania in 2013 and an MS in Medical Physiology from Case Western Reserve University in 2017. While at Case Western, in the lab of Dr. Eli Bar, he worked on identifying cancer stem cell maintenance pathways in glioblastoma cells in the hypoxic tumor microenvironment. In 2018, Dillon joined the MSTP at Stony Brook and is currently working with Dr. Adrian Krainer at CSHL, where he is studying the role of alternative splicing in the pathogenesis and maintenance of various diseases.

Likes: Swimming, cycling, running, cooking



### **Tiara White**

Tiara graduated from Delaware State University with a BS in Biology Health Profession and a minor in Chemistry in 2020. As an undergraduate, she worked in an Alzheimer's mouse model lab for three years. She was also a part of the Delaware IDeA Network of Biomedical Research Excellence program. At Delaware State University, she did research on TDP-43 and VDAC1. The major goal of the VDAC1 project was to see if the reduction of VDAC1 protein in an APP/PSEN1 background would reduce plaque in the brains of mice. Currently, Tiara is a Turner Fellow at Stony Brook.

Likes: swimming, dancing, eating new foods, and traveling the world