

## Graduate Program in Genetics: 2021 Entering Class



**Luiz Carlos de Oliveira Jr:** Luiz Carlos received his B.S. in Biological Science from University of São Paulo, Brazil. He started his career studying deleterious SNPs in HLA genes. In his master's degree, he investigated deleterious SNPs near sites under positive and balancing selection using human populations. He is most interested in human genetic diversity and expects to follow this path during his PhD training at SBU.

Likes: Music, soccer and coffee - very Brazilian!



**Katie Donnelly:** Katie graduated with a B.S. in Bioscience with a minor in Chemistry from Farmingdale State College in 2018 and earned her M.S. in Biochemistry and Cellular Biology from Stony Brook University in 2020. Her master's research consisted of studying spindle pole body segregation in meiosis of *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* in Dr. Aaron Neiman's lab.

Likes: Spending time with my dogs, video games, going to the beach, and food (particularly sushi)



**Onur Eskiocak:** Onur was born and grew up in Turkey. He received his B.S. in Molecular Biology and Genetics from Istanbul Technical University in 2018. He then worked at Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory, where he investigated the epigenetic mechanisms of intestinal stem cell reprogramming in response to dietary fatty acids. He is broadly interested in epigenetic regulation of gene expression.

Likes: Playing guitar, traveling and hiking



**Santiago Espinosa de los Reyes:** Santiago graduated from U of Richmond in 2017 with a B.S. in Biology and a minor in Computer Science. He then joined the Alushin lab at the Rockefeller U, where he worked on mechanosensitive proteins and the structural landscape of F-actin under different nucleotide states. Santiago began Stony Brook's MSTP in 2019, and he is in the lab of Dr. Christopher Vakoc at CSHL. He is looking forward to investigating transcriptional dependencies in different types of cancer to improve therapies for cancer patients.

Likes: Manchester United, cooking, traveling



**Cassandra Greco:** Cassie graduated with a B.S. in Biology from Molloy College in 2018 and earned her M.S. in Molecular Biology from Adelphi University in 2020. Her undergraduate lab work focused on modes of chemoresistance in ovarian cancer. For her master's thesis she aimed at identifying epigenetically silenced genes in medulloblastoma, specifically, to study if medulloblastoma cells take advantage of alterations in methylation to become resistant to treatment.

Likes: spending time with family and friends, traveling, and Dunkin!



**Kimberly Hane:** Kim graduated from Cedar Crest College in 2021 with two B.S. degrees, one in Genetic Engineering & Biotechnology and the other in Forensic Science. During her time at Cedar Crest, she conducted research in the field of forensic biology, using genetic tools to identify bodily fluids collected at crime scenes. Kim's main project utilized the differences in DNA methylation patterns across various tissues to distinguish commonly found fluids from one another.

Likes: Anime, watching TV shows, reading, listening to music, attending live performances, playing video and tabletop games, animals, and hot tea



**Qingting Hu:** Qingting received an MS degree from China Three Gorges University and a Doctor of Medicine degree from Hubei Minzu University. She subsequently worked as a Research Associate in cancer research at both University of Kansas Medical Center and Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory. At KUMC, she focused on the role of CCL2 signaling in breast ductal carcinoma in situ progression. Qingting's main project at CSHL has been to study the role of PTPs in the neuronal disease CDKL5 deficiency disorder.

Likes: Movies, traveling, and painting



**Steven Lewis:** Steven graduated with a B.S. in Molecular, Cellular and Developmental Biology and History from Yale University in 2018. After staying at Yale for a year studying red blood cell transfusion rejection immunity in the lab of Dr. Stephanie Eisenbarth, Steven joined the MSTP at Stony Brook in 2019. Steven is currently working in the lab of Dr. Camila dos Santos at CSHL and excited to combine an epigenetic and immunological perspective to better understand BRCA1 breast cancer tumor progression.

Likes: Running, biking, and watching the Mets



**Jordan Pearson:** Jordan earned her BA in Biological Basis of Behavior at U of Pennsylvania. There she studied the relationship between taste and energy density under Dr. Michael Tordoff at Monell Chemical Senses Center. She then spent two years in Dr. Paul Greengard's lab at Rockefeller U studying Parkinson's disease with a focus on senescence in dopaminergic neurons in the midbrain. In 2019, she joined the MSTP at Stony Brook and is currently in Dr. Doug Fearon's Lab at CSHL, where she is studying how cancer cells evade the immune system.

Likes: Running, hiking, cooking, all the desserts, and all the dogs



**Lucia Yang:** Lucia graduated with a BS in Neuroscience and a minor in global studies from the University of California, Los Angeles in 2019. As an undergrad, she worked in the lab of Dr. X. William Yang investigating the pathological cell-cell interactions in Huntington's disease and characterizing the pathways behind Huntington's disease modifiers. She joined the MSTP at Stony Brook in 2019 and is now working in Dr. Adrian Krainer's lab at CSHL. Her research interests are in alternative splicing and its role in disease.

Likes: baking, trivia, movies and tv, sports, and annoying my cat