

July 30, 2021

CSUPERB is pleased to announce the recipients of the 2021 Graduate Student Research Restart Program awards. CSUPERB is making 38 awards totaling \$251,960 to CSU graduate students at 18 CSU campuses.

(CSUPERB) aims to assist graduate student researchers across the CSU system as they restart, reinitiate and re-engage in existing and established research activities after campus laboratory closures due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Awardees of the Graduate Student Research Restart Program are supported by up to \$5,000 in a student scholarship and up to \$500 for supplies, as well as up to \$2,000 in support for the faculty mentor's laboratory.

The 2021 Graduate Student Research Restart Program awardees are (in alphabetical order):

1. **Patrick Allen** (Chemistry and Biochemistry, California State University, Long Beach)  
Award: \$6000 for the proposal titled "Forbidden Protein Angles: Exploitation of Unfavorable Dihedrals for the Enhancement of Human-Designed Enzymes."  
Mentor: Jason Schwans
2. **Jonathan Baello** (Biology, California State University, Dominguez Hills)  
Award: \$7000 for the proposal titled "Profiling Gut Microbiome Dynamics in Zebrafish, Danio Rerio, to Understand Host-Microbiome Interactions."  
Mentor: Fang Wang
3. **Vernon Gil Laylo Benedicto** (Chemistry & Biochemistry, California State University, Long Beach)  
Award: \$7000 for the proposal titled "Luteolin Transportation Via Reconstituted High-Density Lipoproteins Containing Apolipoprotein E."  
Mentor: Vasanthi Narayanaswami
4. **Ryan Boggess** (Chemistry & Biochemistry, California State University, Northridge)  
Award: \$7000 for the proposal titled "Investigating metformin as a scavenger for methylglyoxal."  
Mentor: Daniel Tamae
5. **Hannah Bow** (Biological Sciences, California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo)  
Award: \$5500 for the proposal titled "Effects of feeding on neural cell proliferation and survival in ball pythons."  
Mentor: Christy Strand

6. **Meredyth Duncan** (Interdisciplinary Estuarine and Marine Sciences, San Francisco State University)  
Award: \$7000 for the proposal titled "Population genetic analysis of the outer coast invasive spread of *Watersipora* spp."  
Mentor: Sarah Cohen
7. **Andy Duong** (Biological Sciences, California State University, East Bay)  
Award: \$7000 for the proposal titled "The Genetic Control of Neuron Morphology in *C. elegans*."  
Mentor: Maria Gallegos
8. **Esther Fernandez** (Biology, California State University, Fresno)  
Award: \$7000 for the proposal titled "Exploring parasite-mediated selection and MHC diversity of two seasonally sympatric subspecies of Dark-Eyed Juncos (*Junco hyemalis*)."  
Mentor: Joel Slade
9. **Jose Flores** (Electrical and Computer Engineering, California State University, Northridge)  
Award: \$5000 for the proposal titled "Implantable motor controller for intravascular ventricular assist devices."  
Mentor: John Valdovinos
10. **Michael Glaab** (Biological Science, California State University, Fullerton)  
Award: \$7000 for the proposal titled "Investigating MAGP2's potential regulation of the TGF- $\beta$  signaling pathway, and its role in heritable FTAAD."  
Mentor: Alison Miyamoto
11. **Alexandra Gresham** (Biological Sciences, California State Polytechnic University, Pomona)  
Award: \$7000 for the proposal titled "Oxidative stress and Lead (Pb) toxicity in migrant and resident populations of Turkey Vulture (*Cathartes aura*)."  
Mentor: Andrea Bonisoli Alquati
12. **Justin Griffin** (Biological Sciences, California State University, Long Beach)  
Award: \$7000 for the proposal titled "Polychlorinated Biphenyls Display Additivity Towards the Dopamine Transporter."  
Mentor: Erika Holland
13. **Luis Hernandez** (Biological Sciences, California State University San Marcos)  
Award: \$7000 for the proposal titled "Elucidation of CCTG/CAGG DNA repeat induced chromosome fragility in *Saccharomyces cerevisiae*."  
Mentor: Jane Kim
14. **Jennifer Herrmann** (Biological Sciences, California State University, Sacramento)  
Award: \$7000 for the proposal titled "The isolation and characterization of gene amplification intermediates prior to exposure to selective stress in *Acinetobacter baylyi*."  
Mentor: Andrew Reams

15. **Ryan Hesse** (Biology, San Diego State University)  
Award: \$6500 for the proposal titled "Elucidating the Elasmobranch Epidermal Virome."  
Mentor: Elizabeth Dinsdale
16. **Ryan Hicken** (Chemistry and Biochemistry, California State University, Fullerton)  
Award: \$7000 for the proposal titled "Establishing a Method for Selective Aldol Condensations in Continuous Flow."  
Mentor: Nicholas Salzameda
17. **Suzanne Holt** (Chemistry, California State University, Sacramento)  
Award: \$7000 for the proposal titled "Synthesis of Glycopolymers for the Inhibition of HIV."  
Mentor: Katherine McReynolds
18. **Codey Huang** (Biological Sciences, San José State University)  
Award: \$7000 for the proposal titled "Characterizing Metabolic Changes in Cancer Cells after Treatment with Plant Derived Polyphenolic Compounds."  
Mentor: Brandon White
19. **Jennifer Juarez-Ayala** (Biology, California State University, San Bernadino)  
Award: \$7000 for the proposal titled "A developmental toxicology in vitro assay evaluating open-system based e-liquid and its effects on Drosophila melanogaster."  
Mentor: Nicole Bournias-Vardiabasis
20. **Margaux Karp** (Biology, Humboldt State University)  
Award: \$3950 for the proposal titled "Biogeography of Alicyclobacillus species."  
Mentor: Mark Wilson
21. **Helena Kisor** (Animal and Veterinary Sciences, California State Polytechnic University, Pomona)  
Award: \$7000 for the proposal titled "Effects of Age at Weaning on Salivary Cortisol Levels in Piglets."  
Mentor: Eeman At-Taras
22. **Andrew MacLeod** (Chemistry and Biochemistry, San Diego State University)  
Award: \$7000 for the proposal titled "Molecular Mechanisms of Membrane-Dependent Activation and Inhibitor Resistance of RAF Kinases."  
Mentor: Youngkwang Lee
23. **Cynthia Martinez** (Biological Sciences, California State University, East Bay)  
Award: \$7000 for the proposal titled "Understanding Transcriptional Regulation of Toxoplasma gondii Developmental Differentiation and Virulence."  
Mentor: Pascale Guiton
24. **Joel Martinez** (Chemistry and Biochemistry, California State University, San Francisco)  
Award: \$7000 for the proposal titled "Transforming Phenylacetaldehyde Dehydrogenase into a N-acetylcysteamine thiolacylating enzyme."  
Mentor: George Gassner

25. **Devons Mo** (Biological Sciences, San José State University)  
Award: \$7000 for the proposal titled “Microbial Factors That Promote Respiratory Infections.”  
Mentor: Walter Adams
26. **Sabrina Nelson** (Biomedical Engineering, California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo)  
Award: \$7000 for the proposal titled “Assessing the effects of oxaliplatin on an in vitro 3D human colorectal cancer model.”  
Mentor: Christopher Heylman
27. **Emalee Ousley** (Biological Sciences, California State University, Sacramento)  
Award: \$5525 for the proposal titled “Investigating the Relationship Between the Gut Microbiome and Host Thermal Tolerance in the Economically Important Red Abalone, *Haliotis rufescens*.”  
Mentor: Lani Gleason
28. **Jaclyn Patmore** (Biological Sciences, Humboldt State University)  
Award: \$5000 for the proposal titled “Cellular changes during olfactory metamorphosis in the Koh Tao Island Caecilian (*Ichthyophis kohtaoensis*).”  
Mentor: John Reiss
29. **Christian Preston Rubio** (Biological Sciences, California State University San Marcos)  
Award: \$6985 for the proposal titled “Functional analysis of AtGRXS6 and AtGRXC11 in *Arabidopsis thaliana*.”  
Mentor: Matthew Escobar
30. **Favian Ramirez** (Biology, California State University, Bakersfield)  
Award: \$5000 for the proposal titled “Unraveling the molecular mechanisms driving the recently revealed motility of *Rhodococcus fascians*.”  
Mentor: Isolde Francis
31. **Zita Sárközi** (Biology, California State University, Fresno)  
Award: \$7000 for the proposal titled “Using CRISPR to test gene products as possible targets of chalcones in *Caenorhabditis elegans*.”  
Mentor: Alejandro Calderón-Urrea
32. **Natalie Shink** (Biological Science, California State University, Fullerton)  
Award: \$7000 for the proposal titled “The role of Transmembrane 163 (Tmem163) protein in tissue zinc metabolism.”  
Mentor: Math Cuajungco
33. **Rebecca Tambunan** (Biology, California State University, San Bernadino)  
Award: \$6500 for the proposal titled “Determining How Rab GAP Gyp2 Regulates Transport Between Golgi & Endosome.”  
Mentor: Daniel Nickerson

34. **Jessica Valdez** (Biological Sciences, California State University, Chico)  
Award: \$7000 for the proposal titled “Role of cholinergic signaling during development in acetylcholine synthesis in neurons.”  
Mentor: Kodeeswaran Parameshwaran
35. **Bryan Van Orman** (Biology and Chemistry, California State University, Monterey Bay)  
Award: \$7000 for the proposal titled “The relationship between the gut microbiome and dietary targets in *Oncorhynchus mykiss* juveniles harboring different migratory genotypes.”  
Mentor: Nathaniel Jue
36. **Charnelle Wickliff** (Marine Science, California State University, Monterey Bay)  
Award: \$7000 for the proposal titled “Investigating effectiveness of aerial imaging of Santa Catalina Island rhodolith beds.”  
Mentor: Alison Haupt
37. **Sitong Wu** (Chemistry and Biochemistry, California State University, Fresno)  
Award: \$7000 for the proposal titled “Silibinin-Based AR Modulators for Castration-Resistant Prostate Cancer.”  
Mentor: Qiao-Hong Chen
38. **Stacy Zamora** (Biology, California State University, Dominguez Hills)  
Award: \$7000 for the proposal titled “Examining alteration of  $\Delta$ FosB, TH, and ALK protein expression in mesolimbic structures of the rodent brain after exposure to cocaine and ethanol.”  
Mentor: Philip Vieira

For more information about this program, see the program portfolio at the CSUPERB website (<https://www2.calstate.edu/impact-of-the-csu/research/csuperb/Pages/grants-and-awards-programs.aspx>) or contact Ikhide Imumorin (Executive Director, CSUPERB; [iimumorin@sdsu.edu](mailto:iimumorin@sdsu.edu)). All CSUPERB grants and awards can be searched at the program’s database: <http://csuperb.org/grants/database/>. Program impacts, including student outcomes and annual reports, can be found at the program dashboard: <https://csuperb.org/grants/csuperb-data-dashboard/>.