



CSUPERB Announces 40 COVID-19 Research Recovery Microgrant Program Awards to CSU Faculty at 15 Campuses

March 1, 2021

The California State University Program for Education and Research in Biotechnology (CSUPERB) is pleased to announce its ongoing COVID-19 Research Recovery Microgrant Program awards. Overall CSUPERB is making 40 awards totaling \$59,549 to CSU faculty at 15 CSU universities.

Awards were made as part of this ongoing initiative to assist tenured/tenure track faculty researchers and their students across the California State University (CSU) system as they restart, reinstate and reengage in existing and established research activities after campus laboratory closures due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

This program has a rolling deadline throughout the 2020/2021 academic year and will continue making awards until the budgeted funds have been exhausted. This announcement will continue to be updated as additional awards are made. Interested faculty can find out more about the program by reading the full Request for Proposals (RFP) on the CSUPERB homepage at – www.calstate.edu/csUPERB.

40 CSUPERB COVID-19 Research Recovery Microgrant Program awards were made to:

1. **Ana Almeida** (Biological Sciences, California State University, East Bay)
Award: \$1,500 for the proposal titled “Comparative transcriptomics of plantlet development in *Kalanchoe marnieriana*: recovery microgrant to support graduate student re-engagement in research.”
2. **Taro Amagata** (Chemistry & Biochemistry, San Francisco State University)
Award: \$1,500 for the proposal titled “Investigation of prostate cancer selective cytotoxicity for the two novel meroterpenoids isolated from the deep-water sediment-derived *Streptomyces* sp. CP55-76.”
3. **Mark Barash** (Justice Studies, San José State University)
Award: \$1,500 for the proposal titled “Expanding capabilities of forensic DNA analysis by utilizing massively parallel sequencing.”
4. **Gregory Barding** (Chemistry & Biochemistry, California State Polytechnic University, Pomona)
Award: \$1,500 for the proposal titled “Expanding capabilities of forensic DNA analysis by utilizing massively parallel sequencing.”
5. **Anna Bezryadina** (Physics & Astronomy, California State University, Northridge)
Award: \$1,500 for the proposal titled “Mycelium – a light-guiding material.”

6. **Jason Burke** (Chemistry & Biochemistry, California State University, San Bernardino)
Award: \$1,481 for the proposal titled “Biochemical Characterization of Missense Mutations in the Retinoblastoma Protein.”
7. **Alejandro Calderon-Urrea** (Biology, California State University, Fresno)
Award: \$1,500 for the proposal titled “Understanding the action mechanisms of chalcones and CED4 peptides on nematodes.”
8. **Lily Chen** (Biology, San Francisco State University)
Award: \$1,500 for the proposal titled “A Bacterial Battleground: Lactobacilli interfere with the adhesion and cytotoxicity of Group B Streptococcus on human cervical cells.”
9. **Qiao-Hong Chen** (Chemistry, California State University, Fresno)
Award: \$1,500 for the proposal titled “Development of Natural Product-Based Androgen Receptor Modulators.”
10. **Cynthia Crawford** (Psychology, California State University, San Bernardino)
Award: \$1,500 for the proposal titled “Effects of ethanol and dopamine depletion on passive avoidance learning and psychostimulant-induced locomotor activity.”
11. **Rafael Cuevas Uribe** (Fisheries Biology, Humboldt State University)
Award: \$1,500 for the proposal titled “Seaweed nursery system.”
12. **George Gassner** (Chemistry & Biochemistry, San Francisco State University)
Award: \$1,500 for the proposal titled “Bioengineering Enzymes from the Styrene Catabolic and Detoxification Pathway.”
13. **Elena Grintsevich** (Chemistry & Biochemistry, California State University, Long Beach)
Award: \$1,500 for the proposal titled “Isoform-dependent regulation of actin cytoskeleton.”
14. **Pascale Guiton** (Biological Sciences, California State University, East Bay)
Award: \$1,500 for the proposal titled “Deletion of rop28, a developmentally regulated gene encoding the pseudokinase ROP28 in *Toxoplasma gondii*.”
15. **Yoshie Hanzawa** (Biology, California State University, Northridge)
Award: \$1,500 for the proposal titled “Cultivated Versus Wild Soybean: Revealing Differing Small RNA Expression Patterns.”
16. **Benjamin Hawkins** (Biomedical Engineering, California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo)
Award: \$1,484 for the proposal titled “Microfluidic Co-culture of Primary Epidermal Keratinocytes (HEKa) and NIH 3T3 Fibroblasts.”

17. **Christopher Heylman** (Biomedical Engineering, California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo)
Award: \$1,500 for the proposal titled “Vascularized Human Tumors on a Chip for Drug Screening.”
18. **Julie Jameson** (Biology, California State University, San Marcos)
Award: \$1,500 for the proposal titled “Recovery of lost cell lines due to COVID-19 shut down.”
19. **Juanita Jellyman** (Biological Sciences, California State Polytechnic University, Pomona)
Award: \$1,500 for the proposal titled “Roots of Hope: Diabetes Prevention.”
20. **Ike Kang** (Animal Science, California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo)
Award: \$1,500 for the proposal titled “Improvement of Bacterial Reduction, Product Quality, and Processing Efficiency of Turkey using Sub-zero Saline Chilling Technology.”
21. **Niroshika Keppetipola** (Chemistry & Biochemistry, California State University, Fullerton)
Award: \$1,402 for the proposal titled “Restart Tissue Culture Work to Investigate Gene Expression in Neuronal Cells.”
22. **Youngkwang Lee** (Chemistry & Biochemistry, San Diego State University)
Award: \$1,500 for the proposal titled “Reinitiating the Project “Molecular Mechanisms of Membrane-Dependent Activation of RAF Kinases.”
23. **Carlos Luna-Lopez** (Biology, California State University San Marcos)
Award: \$1,403 for the proposal titled “Cancer-associated adipocytes: Investigating the crosstalk between MD-MBA-231 and adipose.”
24. **Kalyani Maitra** (Chemistry, California State University, Fresno)
Award: \$1,500 for the proposal titled “Lipid and Protein Accumulation in Algal Cells Grown in Wastewater.”
25. **Justus Ortega** (Kinesiology, Humboldt State University)
Award: \$1,500 for the proposal titled “HSU Locomotion and Concussion Biomechanics Research Program Recovery.”
26. **Stefan Paula** (Chemistry, California State University, Sacramento)
Award: \$1,357 for the proposal titled “Preparation of enzyme samples needed for a drug discovery project.”
27. **Dan Peterson** (Animal Science, California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo)
Award: \$1,500 for the proposal titled “Repair of Baker SG403A biosafety cabinet for resumption of cell culture and stem cell biology research and training activities.”

28. **Joseph Ross** (Biology, California State University, Fresno)
Award: \$1,427 for the proposal titled “Paternal mitochondrial transmission patterns in hybrid worms.”
29. **Parvin Shahrestani** (Biological Science, California State University, Fullerton)
Award: \$1,500 for the proposal titled “The evolutionary genetics of host-microbiome interactions.”
30. **Katarzyna Slowinska** (Chemistry & Biochemistry, California State University, Long Beach)
Award: \$1,500 for the proposal titled “Testing the biological activity of peptide-based carriers for combination therapy on MCF-7 cells.”
31. **Arun Sethuraman** (Biological Sciences, California State University San Marcos)
Award: \$1,500 for the proposal titled “Deciphering the Evolutionary History of *Dinocampus coccinellae* (Hymenoptera: Braconidae).”
32. **Christy Strand** (Biological Sciences, California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo)
Award: \$1,500 for the proposal titled “Effects of feeding on neural cell proliferation and survival in ball pythons.”
33. **Rory Telemeco** (Biology, California State University, Fresno)
Award: \$1,500 for the proposal titled “What is stress? Defining the physiological response to stressors with different energetic consequences.”
34. **Tricia Van Laar** (Biology, California State University, Fresno)
Award: \$1,500 for the proposal titled “Evolution of Antibiotic Resistance in *Klebsiella pneumoniae*.”
35. **George Vourlitis** (Biology, California State University San Marcos)
Award: \$1,500 for the proposal titled “Interactions between carbon type and nitrogen pollution on soil microbial activity and abundance.”
36. **Fang Wang** (Biology, California State University, Dominguez Hills)
Award: \$1,500 for the proposal titled “Reestablish zebrafish facility for research and teaching in biology.”
37. **Sandra Ward** (Chemistry & Biochemistry, California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo)
Award: \$1,495 for the proposal titled “Glutathione sensitive Vesicles loaded into a pH sensitive hydrogel for multi-drug selective release.”
38. **Daniel Whisler** (Mechanical Engineering, California State University, Long Beach)
Award: 1500 for the proposal titled “Restarting Impact Science and Engineering (RISE) Projects.”

39. **Brandon White** (Biological Sciences, San José State University)

Award: \$1,500 for the proposal titled “Re-establishing Cell Culture Studies in the White Laboratory at SJSU.”

40. **Marie Yeung** (Biology, California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo)

Award: \$1,500 for the proposal titled “Immobilization of bioactive agents on packaging film for enhancing microbial safety and extending the shelf life of fresh cheese.”

For more information about these grant programs, 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 Bianca Mothé (Interim Executive Director, CSUPERB; bmothe@csusm.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/>.