

May 11, 2021

CSUPERB is pleased to announce the first-round of 2021 class of Presidents' Commission Scholars. This year 6 undergraduates will be carrying out faculty-mentored biotechnology research projects on 6 different CSU campuses.

CSUPERB recognizes that research experiences are critical to engaging and graduating students interested in biotechnology careers. The focus of this program is to increase the number of lower-division undergraduates who have access to a full-time research experience. The Presidents' Commission Scholars are supported by a \$6,000 scholarship, in addition to \$2,000 in support for the faculty mentor's laboratory.

This program had a rolling deadline to April 19, 2021. This announcement will continue to be updated as the second round of awards are made.

The 2021 CSUPERB Presidents' Commission Scholars are (in alphabetical order):

1. **Anma Arora** (1st Year, Molecular Cell Biology and Physiology, California State University, Long Beach), "Role of Cyclin Dependent Kinase 5 in Insulin Mediated Glucose Transporter Translocation."
Mentor: Deepali Bhandari
2. **Nairi Azazian** (2nd Year, Biological Sciences, California Polytechnic State University, Pomona), "Implementation of a Diabetes Prevention Program in Los Angeles County"
Mentor: Juanita Jellyman
3. **Gilda Castellanos** (2nd Year, Biotechnology, California State University, San Marcos), "Modeling the metastasis of bioprinted breast cancer tumors using the chorioallantoic membrane of the chick embryo."
Mentor: Carlos Luna Lopez
4. **Vinita Raj** (2nd Year, Biology, California State University, Fresno), "Identification of small molecule inhibitors of full length Myo10 proteolysis."
Mentor: Karine Gousset
5. **Stephanie Sanchez** (2nd Year, Biological Sciences, California State University, East Bay), "Evaluation of pain relief produced by Cannabis-related terpenes."
Mentor: Ike Kang
6. **Luke Tomaneng** (2nd Year, Biology, Cellular & Molecular, California State University, Northridge), "Identifying the RAI14-Dependent Single-Cell Proteome/Phosphoproteome in Pancreatic Cancer using CycIF."
Mentor: Jonathan Kelber

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 Bianca Mothè (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/>.