

May 1, 2018

CSUPERB is pleased to announce the 2018 class of Presidents' Commission Scholars. Eleven undergraduates will be carrying out faculty-mentored biotechnology research projects on 7 different CSU campuses this summer.

CSUPERB recognizes that research experiences are critical to engaging and graduating students interested in biotechnology careers. The Presidents' Commission Scholars are supported by a \$6,000 scholarship, in addition to \$2,000 for the faculty mentor's laboratory.

CSUPERB received 38 applications from 15 CSU universities in response to this year's request for proposals.

The 2018 CSUPERB Presidents' Commission Scholars are (in alphabetical order):

1. **Kendall Block** (Sophomore, Chemistry and Biochemistry, CSU Chico), "Taking a page from nature's playbook: using the chemistry of co-enzyme B12 and similar cobalt complexes for the addition of carbon radicals to imines."  
Mentor: Daniel Everson
2. **Sophia Carpinelli** (Freshman, Biology, CSU San Marcos), "Unraveling the roles of class III glutaredoxins in plant growth regulation."  
Mentor: Matthew Escobar
3. **Codey Huang** (Sophomore, Biology, San José State University), "The Assessment of Valproic Acid to Enhance Gene Targeting Efficiency."  
Mentor: Jennifer Johnston
4. **Michelle Leclere** (Freshman, Mechanical Engineering, Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo), "Assessing the Effects of Fluid Flow on Human Capillary Formation."  
Mentor: Christopher Heylman
5. **Shaina Nguyen** (Freshman, Biochemistry, CSU Fullerton), "Discovery of Small Molecule Inhibitors as Potential Treatment for Parasitic Chagas Disease."  
Mentor: Nicholas Salzameda
6. **Jennifer Phan** (Sophomore, Biochemistry, CSU Fresno), "Synthesis and Enzymatic Resolution of Racemic Hydnocarpin D as Prostate Cancer Chemotherapeutics."  
Mentor: Qiao-Hong Chen
7. **Christian Ramirez** (Sophomore, Mechanical Engineering, San Diego State University), "Body Worn Microphone Network For Measuring Ventilation Patterns."  
Mentor: Shawn O'Connor
8. **Vanessa Saccomanno** (Sophomore, Biology, CSU Fullerton), "Characterization of the interaction between a 70-kDa heat shock protein, HspA1A, and phosphatidylinositol 4-phosphate in stressed human cells."  
Mentor: Nikolas Nikolaidis

9. **Sukhjiwan Singh** (Sophomore, Biomedical Engineering, San José State University), “Validation and Characterization of CRISPR guide RNAs for the treatment of Hemophilia A.”  
Mentor: Jennifer Johnston
10. **Skylar Tomasetti** (Freshman, Biology, CSU Chico), “Genetic Control of Hematopoietic Progenitor Cell Generation and Differentiation.”  
Mentor: David Stachura
11. **Harnoor Virk** (Sophomore, Biology, San José State University), “Roles for pHi Regulation of Cell Cycle Dynamics.”  
Mentor: Bree Grillo-Hill

For more information about the CSUPERB Presidents’ Commission Scholars, see the CSUPERB website (<https://www2.calstate.edu/impact-of-the-csu/research/csUPERB>) or contact the program office (619-594-2822).