

LSU Health New Orleans

Summer Research Internship Program

High School, Undergraduates, and Research Experiences for Undergraduates (REU)

2023 Alumni News Letter

DEAR STUDENTS, PROGRAM ALUMNI, FACULTY, AND FRIENDS,

We hope you are doing well! Through this newsletter, we hope to provide updates on the program, as well as share the academic and professional achievements of program participants with our community. If you are a program alumnus and would like to be featured in the next newsletter, please email us (summerresearch@lsuhsc.edu) and add "Alumni Newsletter" on the subject line.



Jamal Jordan

UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAM PARTICIPANT 2018
HOWARD UNIVERSITY

Jamal Jordan graduated from Howard University in 2021. At LSUHSC, he worked with Dr. Jason Gardner in the Department of Physiology investigating the effects of inhaled nicotine on cardiac collagen expression. He also learned many valuable laboratory techniques like cell culturing, Western blotting, gel electrophoresis. He is currently a Medical Laboratory Scientist at Henry Ford Health in Detroit, Michigan.

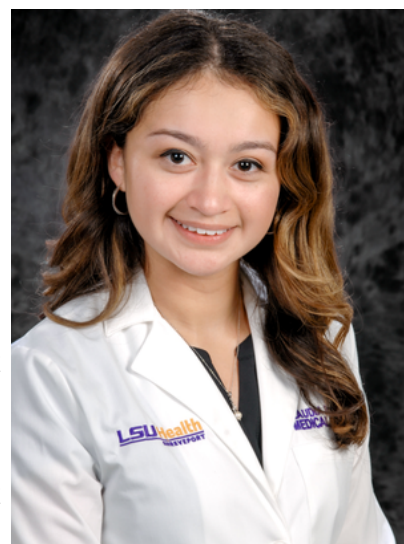
Claudia Rodriguez

REU PROGRAM PARTICIPANT 2018 & 2019
LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY

Claudia Rodriguez graduated from LSU Magna Cum Laude with a Bachelor's degree in Biological Sciences in May 2020. Claudia worked with Dr. Hong Xin, in the Department of Microbiology, Immunology, and Parasitology investigating Intravenous Immunoglobulin G (IVIG) as a possible treatment against the superbug,

Candida auris using an *in vitro* mouse model. She continued with this project where she explored the protective effects and immune response of monoclonal antibodies (mAb) against *Candida auris* infections. Currently, she is a medical student at LSU Health Shreveport

School of Medicine.





Tommy Giang

UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAM PARTICIPANT 2018

XAVIER UNIVERSITY OF LOUISIANA

Tommy Giang is a 3rd-year student at LSUHSC Medical School. At LSUHSC, he worked in the Emergency Department, with Dr. Lisa Moreno-Walton. His research focused on a Quality Improvement project on HIV at University Medical Center. The summer program exposed him to clinical research, strengthened his foundation in current methodology, and made connections with many individuals that have shaped him into who he is today.



Michael Milo

UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAM PARTICIPANT 2018

TULANE UNIVERSITY

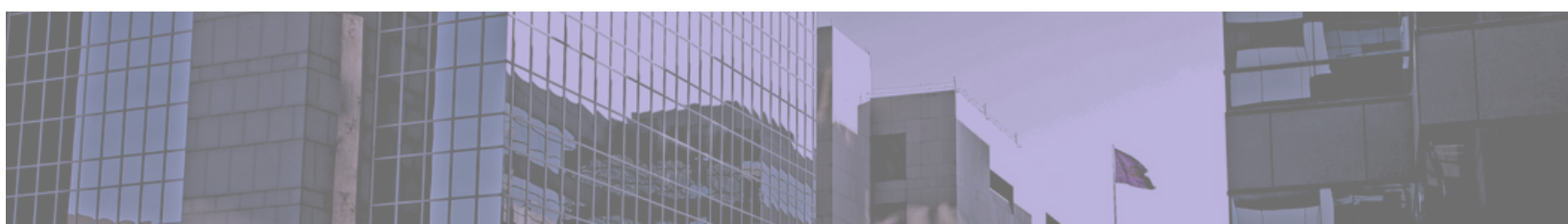
After graduating from Tulane University, Michael Milo became a Biomedical Engineering Patent Examiner for the United States Patent and Trademark Office to continue to be at the forefront of medical innovation. At LSUHSC he worked with Jason Middleton in the Department of Cell Biology and Anatomy & Neuroscience. His research focused on Applying Power Spectral Analysis to a Genetic Calcium Imaging from Deep Brain Fiber Photometry in Stressed and Naive Rats. The summer program guided him toward a better understanding of research and bio innovation.

Kenneth Terry II

REU PROGRAM PARTICIPANT 2016 & 2017

UNIVERSITY OF NEW ORLEANS

After graduating from the University of New Orleans, Kenneth Terry II started medical school at Edward Via College of Osteopathic Medicine. Currently, Kenneth Terry II is in fourth year medical student and applying to Psychiatry upcoming match cycle. The REU Program exposed him early to the crucial importance of neurotransmitters and their many different roles. During the first year he won first place in Biomedical Research at the 3rd Annual VCOM Research Day.





Marvin Hudson, Jr.
HIGH SCHOOL, UNDERGRADUATE, & REU
PROGRAM PARTICIPANT 2015, 2017, 2018
BROTHER MARTIN HIGH SCHOOL, THE
UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA

Marvin Hudson, Jr. graduated from the University of Alabama in 2020 and completed a Master's of Science degree at West Virginia University Health Sciences in Morgantown. During his internship, he worked on "LSUHSC Summer Research Program Midpoint Evaluation", "Characteristics of Patients Who Test False Positive On HIV Screening in the Emergency Department", and "Metabolism Shifts Through Inhibition of KSHV MicroRNAs by CRISPR/Cas9". He is now a Clinical Research Coordinator at WVU Medicine in the Heart and Vascular Institute.



Fernando Blank
REU PROGRAM PARTICIPANT 2017
THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

Fernando Blank graduated magna cum laude with a Neuroscience degree in April 2019. At LSUHSC, he joined Dr. Hamilton Farris' lab investigating the anatomical differences in the visual system of nocturnal vs diurnal amphibian and reptile species. Now he is pursuing his MD at the University of Cincinnati, Ohio. While in medical school, his research interests have focused on focal therapy treatment outcomes for prostate cancer. Last May, he presented his work at the national American Urologic Association conference. He recently matched into his dream specialty, Urology, at his home institution.



Althea Jem D. Tapales
REU PROGRAM PARTICIPANT 2017, THE
UNIVERSITY OF GUAM

Since graduating from the University of Guam, Althea Jem D. Tapales worked as a medical assistant in Guam and became the Program Coordinator of a medical outreach program at Saipan. At LSUHSC, she worked with Dr. Li Shen in the Department of Microbiology investigating "Detection Strategies to Simultaneously Evaluate Antibacterial Activity and Cytotoxicity of Berberine on Vero-GFP Cells Infected with *Chlamydia trachomatis*". After finishing summer program, she presented her research at the Annual Biomedical Research Conference for Minoritized Scientists (ABRCMS) as a Travel Scholarship Awardee. Currently, she is a medical student at Robert Larner College of Medicine, University of Vermont.



Ann Byerley

HIGH SCHOOL PROGRAM PARTICIPANT 2018 & UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAM PARTICIPANT 2019 MANDEVILLE HIGH SCHOOL AND ROCHESTER INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

After completing her undergraduate degree, Ann Byerley did an internship in biomedical research at Wake Forest Institute for Regenerative Medicine in 2021. At LSUHSC, she joined Dr. Martin Ronis and at Tulane, Dr. Bruce Bunnell focusing on "Antioxidant's ability to protect the liver from binge alcohol consumption" and "Characterization of Human Amniotic Fluid Stem Cells (hAFSCs)". Ann Byerley developed many professional skills such as presenting a research poster and learning how to write an abstract which helped her in college and the biopharmaceutical industry. She also worked at GlaxoSmithKline at Conshohocken, PA, and Moderna, Inc. While at RIT, she works in a microfluidic devices lab studying collagen alignment and cellular-substrate interactions in which she has been a co-author on publications. She is currently studying Biomedical Engineering at the Rochester Institute of Technology (RIT) in Rochester, NY.