



May 27, 2021

CSUPERB is pleased to announce the class of 2021 Presidents' Commission Scholars. This year 11 undergraduates will be carrying out faculty-mentored biotechnology research projects on 8 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.

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. **Debra Duguil** (2nd Year, Biochemistry, California State University, Northridge), "Learning about protein stability and allostery through a conservative mutation."
Mentor: Karin Crowhurst
5. **Kaitlyn Duong** (2nd Year, Food Science, California State University, San Luis Obispo), "Upgrade of grape pomace from California winery byproduct for nanocrystal cellulose-based sustainable materials."
Mentor: Yiming Feng
6. **Christina Feng** (1st Year, Psychology, California State University, Los Angeles), "Real-time determination of alpha-synuclein pre-formed fibrils induced membrane disruption at neuroblastoma cells."
Mentor: Yixian Wang
7. **Kevin Nguyen** (1st Year, Computer Science, California State University, Long Beach), "Slowing infection spread with crowd-sourced reporting."
Mentor: Daniel Whisler

8. **Vinita Raj** (2nd Year, Biology, California State University, Fresno), “Identification of small molecule inhibitors of full length Myo10 proteolysis.”
Mentor: Karine Gousset
9. **Stephanie Sanchez** (2nd Year, Biological Sciences, California State University, East Bay), “Evaluation of pain relief produced by Cannabis-related terpenes.”
Mentor: Ram Kandasamy
10. **Luke Tomaneng** (2nd Year, Biology, Cellular & Molecular, California State University, Northridge), “Identifying the RAI14-Dependent Single-Cell Proteome/Phosphoproteome in Pancreatic Cancer using CyclF.”
Mentor: Jonathan Kelber
11. **Tung Tran** (2nd Year, Mechanical Engineering, California State University, Long Beach), “Study of Self-Healing Concrete for Resilient Infrastructures.”
Mentor: Andrea Calabrese

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/>.