

## GRANTS IN AID OF RESEARCH AWARDS (GIAR)

October 2025 Grant Cycle

Grant Recipients by Discipline

ANTHROPOLOGY				
First Name	Last Name	Education Status	Institution	Study Title
Tabitha	Dentice	Masters Student	Georgia, University of Georgia	Examination of Weaning Practices at Himera: Isotopic Analysis of Permanent Dentition
Maggie	Duris	Doctoral Student	New York, Binghamton University	Does Feeding in Infancy (Breast Milk vs Formula) Affect Milk Content in Adulthood? An Exploratory Study
BEHAVIORAL ECOLOGY				
First Name	Last Name	Education Status	Institution	Study Title
Darcy	Chang	Doctoral Student	Rhode Island, Brown University	Testing the Role of Conditioning in the Movement and Behaviors of Client Fish in Cleaning Interactions
Zachary	Hagen	Masters Student	Ohio, Bowling Green State University-Main Campus	How does anthropogenic noise pollution affect foraging behavior in fragmented ecosystems?
Ravi	Timsina	Doctoral Student	Illinois, Illinois State University	Social resurrection: Exploring if social interactions restore disturbed beneficial microbial communities of bumble bees
CELL BIOLOGY/BIOCHEMISTRY				
First Name	Last Name	Education Status	Institution	Study Title
Samson	Adeboye	Doctoral Student	Nigeria, Covenant University	Unravelling permethrin-induced shifts in Anopheles gambiae gut microbiota to understand links with insecticide resistance and Plasmodium transmission
Jiniya	Chakradhar	Doctoral Student	Delaware, University of Delaware	Functional characterization of the cataract-linked RNA-binding proteins Celf1 and Elavl1 in lens development and cataract
Jennifer	Crainic	Doctoral Student	Washington, University of Washington-Seattle Campus	Cysteine Scavenging of Covalent Inhibitors Drives Drug Resistance in NRF2-activated Cancers
Emily	Delle	Masters Student	Virginia, James Madison University	Determining Ontogeny of Intrinsic Iridial Photoreceptors in Vertebrates
Bijeta	Gautam	Masters Student	Massachusetts, University of Massachusetts-Boston	Determining the role of Hmx1 in photoreceptor fate decisions and opsin expression in zebrafish
Han-Yin	Jeng	Doctoral Student	Texas, Baylor College of Medicine	The inflammatory cytokines TNF- $\alpha$ and IL-1 $\alpha$ promote retinal ganglion cell survival and axon regeneration

CELL BIOLOGY/BIOCHEMISTRY CONT.				
First Name	Last Name	Education Status	Institution	Study Title
Aasim	Khan	Undergraduate Student	South Carolina, College of Charleston	Structural and functional characterization of YloC, a novel bacterial nuclease
Shannon	Lyons	Doctoral Student	West Virginia, West Virginia University	Using Reactive Oxygen Species (ROS) Probes to Analyze Subcellular Phenotypes of Light-Stress in Mouse Rod Photoreceptors
Neda	Malekikhas	Doctoral Student	Ohio, Miami University-Oxford	Protective Roles of Estrogen and GLP-1 Receptor Agonists in Obesity-Associated Colorectal Cancer
Colin	Raddant	Undergraduate Student	North Carolina, University of North Carolina at Charlotte	Investigation of the third domain of copper chaperone for superoxide dismutase
S M	Rakib Uz Zaman	Doctoral Student	Delaware, University of Delaware	Investigating the mechanisms by which Gremlin1 regulates fibrotic lens disease
CHEMISTRY				
First Name	Last Name	Education Status	Institution	Study Title
Punnya	Anil Kumar Jeeja	Doctoral Student	North Carolina, University of North Carolina at Charlotte	Bacterial OMV-coated MSNs for combined chemo and immunotherapy for the treatment of triple negative breast cancer
Saikiran	Motati	Undergraduate Student	California, Stanford University	Probing Extracellular Domain Dynamics in Ligand Binding and Activation of Class B GPCRs
COMPUTER SCIENCE/MATHEMATICS				
First Name	Last Name	Education Status	Institution	Study Title
Naji	Sarsam	Doctoral Student	North Carolina, Duke University	Singularity Suppression and Formation in Porous Media Fluid Flows
CONSERVATION BIOLOGY				
First Name	Last Name	Education Status	Institution	Study Title
Lucia	Martinez Retta	Doctoral Student	Argentina, Universidad Nacional del Comahue	The landscape of fear as a tool for mitigating invasive species impacts
Matthew	Naczi	Undergraduate Student	Connecticut, Western Connecticut State University	Natural History and Diversity of Fen-Specializing Beetles of the Northeastern United States.
Mason	Polencheck	Masters Student	Minnesota, University of Minnesota-Twin Cities	Characterizing the Effects of Natural and Artificial Barriers on the Genetic Diversity of the Common Mudpuppy

ECOLOGY				
First Name	Last Name	Education Status	Institution	Study Title
Mary	Adebote	Doctoral Student	Virginia, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University	Illuminating Hidden Harvests: Fishers' Ecological Knowledge and Coastal Small-Scale Fisheries in Lagos State, Nigeria
Torri	Bradley-Mowat	Undergraduate Student	United Kingdom, University of Glasgow	Resource Limitation in Ant-Plants: Consequences for Mutualistic Interactions
Erin	Brosnan	Doctoral Student	Florida, University of Central Florida	Fulfilling Koch's postulates to establish amphibian-Perkinsea as a causative agent of mortality
Holly	Gamblin	Doctoral Student	Manitoba, University of Manitoba	Changing biomes: Implications of a rapidly shifting landscape on Arctic fox dynamics
Arina	Martin	Doctoral Student	Oregon, Oregon State University	Demographic and evolutionary consequences of non-consumptive predator effects on marine prey populations
Luke	Stoeber	Masters Student	South Carolina, Clemson University	Investigating the Influence of Structural Complexity on Cryptofauna Communities
Andrew	Veselka	Doctoral Student	Colorado, University of Colorado Boulder	Distinguishing the Effect of Fragmentation and Megafire in a Long-Term Experiment
Mel	Walker	Masters Student	South Carolina, Clemson University	Linking Feeding Ecology to PFAS and Mercury Contaminant Loads in Sharks
ENGINEERING				
First Name	Last Name	Education Status	Institution	Study Title
Brianna	Samson	Masters Student	Nova Scotia, Dalhousie University	Biomechanical Characterization of the Human Retina
Kurt	Schalper	Doctoral Student	Connecticut, University of Connecticut	CRISPR-Programmable Gold Nanoparticle Surface Modulation for Semi-Quantitative Colorimetric Detection
Emily	Song	Undergraduate Student	North Carolina, Duke University	Injectable Polypeptide Scaffold to Promote Vascularization and Neurogenesis in Spinal Cord Injuries
GEOSCIENCES				
First Name	Last Name	Education Status	Institution	Study Title
Tiana	Dinham	Undergraduate Student	North Carolina, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill	Neodymium Isotopes as Tracers for Phosphate Rock Sources
Lorenza	Ferrari	Doctoral Student	Nebraska, University of Nebraska-Lincoln	From Topology to Petrography: A multiproxy framework for fracture-controlled CO <sub>2</sub> storage in the Teton Anticline
Isabelle	Rein	Doctoral Student	Indiana, Purdue University-Main Campus	Filtered geochemical constraints on the environmental drivers and timing of early animal extinction

GEOSCIENCES CONT.				
First Name	Last Name	Education Status	Institution	Study Title
Ariana	Rivera	Masters Student	Montana, Montana Technological University	Fire effects on ponderosa pine forest soil low-molecular-weight organic acids
PHYSICS/ASTRONOMY				
First Name	Last Name	Education Status	Institution	Study Title
Jodie	Kiyokawa	Doctoral Student	Wisconsin, University of Wisconsin-Madison	Reverberation Mapping of Distant Black Holes at the Peak of Cosmic Growth
PHYSIOLOGY/FUNCTIONAL MORPHOLOGY				
First Name	Last Name	Education Status	Institution	Study Title
Ilemona	Ameadaji	Doctoral Student	Missouri, Washington University in St Louis	The Effects of Chronic and Acute Fibroblast Growth Factor Receptor Inhibition on Osteocyte Survival and Bone Integrity
Annalise	DiCicco	Undergraduate Student	Pennsylvania, Swarthmore College	Verifying stimulatory effects of glucocorticoids on metabolic rate: a causation study
Eva	Greco	Masters Student	California, California State University-Northridge	Have Island Fence Lizards Adjusted their Thermal Biology to Compensate for the Cooler Climates of the Northern Channel Islands?
Randolph	Kwaw	Doctoral Student	Texas, University of Houston	Dose Optimization of Tetrodotoxin for Effective Treatment of Monocular Deprivation Amblyopia in Primates
Mycha	Van Allen	Doctoral Student	Texas, Texas A & M University-College Station	Immunotoxic Effects of Pesticides on Wildlife Health: Sublethal Impact on Immune Function in Free-Ranging Lizards
PSYCHOLOGY				
First Name	Last Name	Education Status	Institution	Study Title
Meet	Parikh	Doctoral Student	Missouri, University of Missouri-Columbia	Underlying mechanism behind sleep disturbances in post-traumatic stress disorder
Madeline	Uretsky Resnick	Doctoral Student	Connecticut, University of Connecticut	Neuropsychological Assessment of Stunt Performers

SYSTEMATICS/EVOLUTIONARY BIOLOGY				
First Name	Last Name	Education Status	Institution	Study Title
Arushi	Gupta	Doctoral Student	Florida, University of Miami	Unveiling the role of maternal factors in regulating egg polarity and Wnt/ $\beta$ -catenin signaling during early embryogenesis in the cnidarian <i>Nematostella</i>
Gregory	Pandelis	Doctoral Student	Texas, The University of Texas at Arlington	How to eat a snail: convergence and divergence in skull shape among a sympatric assemblage of snail-eating snakes
Patricia	Sotelo Chavira	Masters Student	New Mexico, University of New Mexico-Main Campus	History Provides Clues to Future Persistence of Montane Shrews in the Southwest