

GRANTS IN AID OF RESEARCH AWARDS (GIAR)

March 2026 Grant Cycle

Grant Recipients by State/Country

Alabama					
First Name	Last Name	Education Status	Institution	Field of Research	Study Title
Naga Spurthi	Acharam	Masters Student	Auburn University	Ecology	Quantitative Analysis of Biochar-Induced Architectural Changes in Japanese Maple
Arizona					
First Name	Last Name	Education Status	Institution	Field of Research	Study Title
Purbayan	Ghosh	Doctoral Student	Arizona State University-Tempe	Ecology	Winter warming, Energetic depletion, and Cold injury risk in a Crevice-nesting ant
Arkansas					
Dikshya	Pathak	Masters Student	University of Arkansas	Cell Biology/Biochemistry	TranscriptomeSCN: Multimodal RNA-Seq Integration for Decoding Susceptibility and Tolerance in Glycine max Roots Under Soybean Cyst Nematode (<i>Heterodera glycines</i>) Infection
California					
First Name	Last Name	Education Status	Institution	Field of Research	Study Title
Jennifer	Hu	Masters Student	California State University-Northridge	Conservation Biology	How does amphibian fungal disease in Pacific chorus frogs vary spatially on the California Channel Islands?
Alexis	Hensley	Doctoral Student	Stanford University	Geosciences	Prospecting for Helium-3 on the Moon using regolith magnetic susceptibility measurements
Siobhan	Calhoun	Doctoral Student	University of California-Davis	Behavioral Ecology	Does fear last forever? Investigating the intensity and durability of risk perception patterns across generations using a clonal fish (<i>Poecilia formosa</i>)
Emily	Kracht	Doctoral Student	University of California-Santa Barbara	Anthropology	Refining the Chronology and Potential Interactions of Ancient Puerto Rican Village Sites
Connecticut					
First Name	Last Name	Education Status	Institution	Field of Research	Study Title
Kenny	Cheng	Undergraduate Student	Yale University	Cell Biology/Biochemistry	Structural Basis for Recognition and Cleavage of Bacterial Single-Stranded DNA Triplexes by Specific Endonucleases
Miranda	Margulis-Ohnuma	Doctoral Student	Yale University	Systematics/Evolutionary Biology	Evolutionary identity of the vertebrate pelvis via zebrafish lineage tracing

Delaware					
First Name	Last Name	Education Status	Institution	Field of Research	Study Title
Gabriel	Dasilva	Doctoral Student	University of Delaware	Cell Biology/Biochemistry	Characterizing SIX3-interacting proteins in mouse eye development
Mya	Fillion	Doctoral Student	University of Delaware	Cell Biology/Biochemistry	top-2 is required for proper chromosome structure during meiosis in <i>C. elegans</i>
District of Columbia					
First Name	Last Name	Education Status	Institution	Field of Research	Study Title
Annika	Peterson	Undergraduate Student	Georgetown University	Systematics/Evolutionary Biology	Comparing past pollen and seed gene flow in the disappearing high salt marsh grass <i>Spartina patens</i> using next-generation sequencing
Florida					
First Name	Last Name	Education Status	Institution	Field of Research	Study Title
Dayanne	Antonio	Doctoral Student	Florida International University	Psychology	Preference-Aligned Stress Exposure and Psychological Adaptation
Elise	Samuelson	Doctoral Student	University of South Florida- Main Campus	Physiology/Functional Morphology	Digital Preservation of Endangered Crocodylian Anatomy for Morphological Comparison through Dissection and 3D Reconstruction
Felipe	Stanchak	Doctoral Student	University of South Florida- St Petersburg	Geosciences	Ocean temperature drivers of Late Quaternary East Antarctic Ice Sheet behavior: Insights from Sabrina Coast marine sediments
Georgia					
First Name	Last Name	Education Status	Institution	Field of Research	Study Title
Kayla	Koory	Masters Student	Georgia Southern University	Ecology	Olivine Weathering for Carbon Dioxide Sequestration in a Natural Salt Marsh and Its Impact on <i>Spartina alterniflora</i>
Indiana					
First Name	Last Name	Education Status	Institution	Field of Research	Study Title
Anusha	Shivashankar	Doctoral Student	Trustees of Indiana University	Cell Biology/Biochemistry	Elucidating the role of Tensin3 as a novel target for mechanosensory signaling and intraocular pressure regulation
Joseph	Vecchio	Doctoral Student	University of Notre Dame	Cell Biology/Biochemistry	Improving the immune response to the <i>Mycobacterium bovis</i> BCG vaccine using replication-deficient adenoviruses
Xiaotan	Yu	Doctoral Student	University of Notre Dame	Chemistry	Vancomycin–Oxadiazole Conjugates as Dual-Action Antibacterial Agents to Halt Recurrence of <i>Clostridioides difficile</i> Infection
Kansas					
First Name	Last Name	Education Status	Institution	Field of Research	Study Title
Allison	Ricker	Undergraduate Student	Kansas State University	Conservation Biology	Drought Alters Selective Cardenolide Sequestration in Monarch Butterflies

Kansas (cont.)					
First Name	Last Name	Education Status	Institution	Field of Research	Study Title
Luis Javier	Madrigal Roca	Doctoral Student	University of Kansas	Systematics/Evolutionary Biology	Temporal Meets Spatial: Leveraging Machine Learning to Forecast Evolutionary Responses to Climate Change in <i>Mimulus guttatus</i>
Louisiana					
First Name	Last Name	Education Status	Institution	Field of Research	Study Title
Kelsey	Green	Masters Student	University of Louisiana at Lafayette	Ecology	From facilitation to inhibition: Salinity-mediated shifts in fiddler crab– <i>Spartina alterniflora</i> interactions and implications for marsh resilience
Massachusetts					
First Name	Last Name	Education Status	Institution	Field of Research	Study Title
Julia	Linke	Doctoral Student	Boston University	Engineering	Repurposing known drugs to restore ciliated cell function in fibrotic fallopian tube tissues to find first-of-a-kind, non-invasive treatments of female infertility
Summer	Eubank	Masters Student	Boston University	Anthropology	Understanding Energetic Stress Between Two Orangutan Populations in Gunung Palung National Park, Indonesia
Michigan					
First Name	Last Name	Education Status	Institution	Field of Research	Study Title
Zoe	Swanson	Doctoral Student	Michigan State University	Ecology	Ecological Drivers and Physiological Consequences of Internal Microplastic Accumulation in Terrestrial Birds
Abigail	Areaux	Undergraduate Student	Western Michigan University	Behavioral Ecology	Exploring trade-offs between male singing behavior and nest defense in Chestnut-sided Warblers
Mississippi					
First Name	Last Name	Education Status	Institution	Field of Research	Study Title
Gianna	Mitchell	Doctoral Student	University of Mississippi	Conservation Biology	Investigating coral chimera formation as a conduit for coral conservation
Missouri					
First Name	Last Name	Education Status	Institution	Field of Research	Study Title
Sarah	Guymon	Undergraduate Student	Missouri State University-Springfield	Ecology	Implications of <i>Azolla caroliniana</i> resilience to mild winters in Ozark lakes
Katherine	Nemeth	Doctoral Student	Washington University in St Louis	Anthropology	Longitudinal associations between living conditions, immune function, and childhood bone growth in low-resource U.S. communities

Montana					
First Name	Last Name	Education Status	Institution	Field of Research	Study Title
Yiran "Ryann"	Su	Doctoral Student	The University of Montana	Ecology	The Effects of Heavy Metal Contamination on the Physiology, Behavior, and Fitness of Tree Swallows (<i>Tachycineta bicolor</i>)
New Hampshire					
First Name	Last Name	Education Status	Institution	Field of Research	Study Title
Alexander	Getraer	Doctoral Student	Dartmouth College	Geosciences	Deglaciation of the Laurentide Ice Sheet from its northwestern margin recorded by 10-Be exposure ages
New York					
First Name	Last Name	Education Status	Institution	Field of Research	Study Title
Denice	Moran	Doctoral Student	CUNY Graduate School and University Center	Cell Biology/Biochemistry	Retinal Development
Ashwath	Ram	Undergraduate Student	Monroe Community College	Physics/Astronomy	Characterizing Cosmic Ray Muon Flux Variability and Its Correlation with Barometric Pressure at a Mid-Latitude Urban Site
Laura	Weinstein	Doctoral Student	University at Buffalo	Engineering	CRISPR/Cas9 Deactivator Priming to Increase Selectivity of Focused Ultrasound-Mediated Brain Genome Editing
North Carolina					
First Name	Last Name	Education Status	Institution	Field of Research	Study Title
Emma	Johnson	Doctoral Student	Duke University	Conservation Biology	Investigating molecular and physiological responses to a novel heat-associated disease outbreak in the sea urchin <i>Lytechinus variegatus</i> (Lamarck, 1816)
Maryann Benny	Fernandes	Doctoral Student	Duke University	Physics/Astronomy	Protecting the Night Sky for Planetary Defense: Nanophotonic Ultrablack Coatings for Satellite Straylight Mitigation
Nicole	Burroughs	Doctoral Student	North Carolina State University at Raleigh	Ecology	The Architecture of Assembly: How Spatially Structured Species Pools Shape Microbial Communities
Zachary	Zagon	Doctoral Student	North Carolina State University at Raleigh	Conservation Biology	Genomic insights into the functional role of coral-associated microbial aggregates to thermal bleaching - implications for coral probiotics and restoration strategies
Cameron	McClellan	Masters Student	University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill	Ecology	North Carolina, Bats, and the Missing Geological Context: Breaking Ground in Geo-Ecology
Ohio					
First Name	Last Name	Education Status	Institution	Field of Research	Study Title
Jessica	LaBella	Doctoral Student	Case Western Reserve University	Cell Biology/Biochemistry	Genome Structure and Organization of a Novel Permafrost Bacterium

Oklahoma					
First Name	Last Name	Education Status	Institution	Field of Research	Study Title
Abdullah	Gohar	Doctoral Student	Oklahoma State University Center for Health Sciences	Systematics/Evolutionary Biology	Bone mass increases during the land-to-sea transition in whales
fatih	albayrak	Masters Student	Oklahoma State University- Main Campus	Climate Science	Belowground Microbial Drivers of Forest Carbon Storage Across an Oklahoma Precipitation Gradient
Susanne	Hahs	Masters Student	Oklahoma State University- Main Campus	Physiology/Functional Morphology	The Functional Evolution of Corticotropin-Releasing Hormone Receptors (Crhr) in Sea Lamprey
Ashley	Moelling	Masters Student	University of Oklahoma- Norman Campus	Anthropology	Protecting Ancestral Sites with Indigenous Stewardship: Forest Gardens of the Spiro Mounds
Oregon					
First Name	Last Name	Education Status	Institution	Field of Research	Study Title
Chloé	Le Moing	Doctoral Student	Oregon Health & Science University	Physiology/Functional Morphology	Facilitating insights: The role of short-term plasticity in flexible cognition
Pennsylvania					
First Name	Last Name	Education Status	Institution	Field of Research	Study Title
Leslie	Ponce	Undergraduate Student	Kutztown University of Pennsylvania	Physiology/Functional Morphology	Precision Diagnostics for Zika and Dengue: A CRISPR-Cas12a and Cas13a Validation Study
Justin	Cheetham	Undergraduate Student	Pennsylvania State University-Penn State York	Cell Biology/Biochemistry	Evolutionary Origins of Circadian Genes
Evrin	Ozcan	Doctoral Student	University of Pennsylvania	Computer Science/Mathematics	Artificial Intelligence Derived Risk Stratification for Wound Closure in Pediatric Scoliosis Spinal Fusion Surgery
South Carolina					
First Name	Last Name	Education Status	Institution	Field of Research	Study Title
Ansley	Elkins	Doctoral Student	Clemson University	Cell Biology/Biochemistry	Guardians of the Womb - Investigating Sex-Specific Regulation of Xenobiotic Transporters at the Human Blood–Placenta Barrier
Greg	Aniolek	Masters Student	Clemson University	Conservation Biology	Microplastics in Motion: Comparative Uptake and Immune Responses in Coastal Shark Species
Tennessee					
First Name	Last Name	Education Status	Institution	Field of Research	Study Title
Matthew	Andres	Doctoral Student	The University of Tennessee-Knoxville	Behavioral Ecology	Olfaction as a Potential Mechanism for Disease Detection in Vampire Bats

Texas					
First Name	Last Name	Education Status	Institution	Field of Research	Study Title
Rubi	Mendez	Undergraduate Student	St. Mary's University	Systematics/Evolutionary Biology	The Role of RP1 and Rhodopsin in the Underdeveloped Retina of a Cave Adapted Salamander
Megan	Flanagan	Doctoral Student	Texas State University	Conservation Biology	Effects of early-life predation stress on physiology, behavior, and development across life stages in Leopard frogs, <i>Rana berlandieri</i>
Lauren	Schwartz	Doctoral Student	The University of Texas at San Antonio	Physics/Astronomy	Lab and Numerical Modeling Study of Venusian Pancake Domes
Michael	Vasko	Masters Student	The University of Texas at San Antonio	Psychology	Neural Correlates of Spatial Prediction: An Electroencephalography Study
Virginia					
First Name	Last Name	Education Status	Institution	Field of Research	Study Title
Blessing	Emmanuel	Doctoral Student	Old Dominion University	Cell Biology/Biochemistry	(p)ppGpp-Mediated Regulation of Peptidoglycan Precursor Biosynthesis as a Potential Novel Anti-Sporulation Target in <i>Clostridioides difficile</i>
Johanna	Tsala Ebode	Doctoral Student	Virginia Commonwealth University	Engineering	Localized PLGA Nanoparticle Delivery of Methotrexate and IKK Inhibitor to Target Inflammation and Cell Proliferation in Deep Infiltrating Endometriosis
Benedicta	Ottairoegbu	Doctoral Student	Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University	Ecology	Stress-Induced Shifts in Phytochemistry, Pollination, and Fitness of <i>Physalis philadelphica</i> (tomatillo)
Wisconsin					
First Name	Last Name	Education Status	Institution	Field of Research	Study Title
Ann	Everest	Masters Student	University of Wisconsin-Madison	Geosciences	Structural and Gravitational Constraints, East Pilbara Dome-and-Keel Structures
Wyoming					
First Name	Last Name	Education Status	Institution	Field of Research	Study Title
Prabhat	Neupane	Doctoral Student	University of Wyoming	Chemistry	Albumin-Ruthenium Catalyst for selective delivery of cytotoxic drug to the cancer cells via Bioorthogonal uncaging

International Grant Recipients By Country

Australia					
First Name	Last Name	Education Status	Institution	Field of Research	Study Title
Soumen	Sadhu	Doctoral Student	University of New South Wales	Cell Biology/Biochemistry	The effect of 0.1% topical cyclosporine A eye drops for 12-weeks on the ocular surface innate and adaptive immune response in dry eye disease.

Brazil					
First Name	Last Name	Education Status	Institution	Field of Research	Study Title
Raimundo	Ferreira	Doctoral Student	Universidade Nacional do Rio de Janeiro	Physics/Astronomy	A multi-band study of globular clusters in dwarf galaxies: From dark matter to the history of star formation
Nigeria					
First Name	Last Name	Education Status	Institution	Field of Research	Study Title
Philip	Ogundele	Undergraduate Student	Osun State Univesity	Engineering	Wearable biosensor prototype for the detection and surveillance of Lassa fever infection in low-resource settings
United Kingdom					
First Name	Last Name	Education Status	Institution	Field of Research	Study Title
Caterina	Berardo	Doctoral Student	United Kingdom, Nottingham Trent University	Psychology	"You've got a friend in me": Synchrony and Group Belonging in Infancy