

June 9, 2021

CSUPERB is pleased to announce first round of Graduate Student Research Restart Program awards. CSUPERB is making 25 awards totaling \$165,960 to CSU graduate students at 17 CSU campuses.

(CSUPERB) aims to assist graduate student researchers across the CSU system as they restart, reinitiate and re-engage in existing and established research activities after campus laboratory closures due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Awardees of the Graduate Student Research Restart Program are supported by up to \$5,000 in a student scholarship and up to \$500 for supplies, as well as up to \$2,000 in support for the faculty mentor's laboratory.

This program had a rolling deadline. The announcement will be updated as additional awards are made.

The 2021 Graduate Student Research Restart Program awardees are (in alphabetical order):

1. **Vernon Gil Laylo Benedicto** (Chemistry & Biochemistry, California State University, Long Beach)
Award: \$7000 for the proposal titled "Luteolin Transportation Via Reconstituted High-Density Lipoproteins Containing Apolipoprotein E."
Mentor: Vasanthi Narayanaswami
2. **Meredyth Duncan** (Interdisciplinary Estuarine and Marine Sciences, San Francisco State University)
Award: \$7000 for the proposal titled "Population genetic analysis of the outer coast invasive spread of *Watersipora* spp."
Mentor: Sarah Cohen
3. **Andy Duong** (Biological Sciences, California State University, East Bay)
Award: \$7000 for the proposal titled "The Genetic Control of Neuron Morphology in *C. elegans*."
Mentor: Maria Gallegos
4. **Esther Fernandez** (Biology, California State University, Fresno)
Award: \$7000 for the proposal titled "Exploring parasite-mediated selection and MHC diversity of two seasonally sympatric subspecies of Dark-Eyed Juncos (*Junco hyemalis*)."
Mentor: Joel Slade
5. **Jose Flores** (Electrical and Computer Engineering, California State University, Northridge)
Award: \$5000 for the proposal titled "Implantable motor controller for intravascular ventricular assist devices."
Mentor: John Valdovinos

6. **Alexandra Gresham** (Biological Sciences, California State Polytechnic University, Pomona)
Award: \$7000 for the proposal titled "Oxidative stress and Lead (Pb) toxicity in migrant and resident populations of Turkey Vulture (*Cathartes aura*)."
Mentor: Andrea Bonisoli Alquati
7. **Luis Hernandez** (Biological Sciences, California State University San Marcos)
Award: \$7000 for the proposal titled "Elucidation of CCTG/CAGG DNA repeat induced chromosome fragility in *Saccharomyces cerevisiae*."
Mentor: Jane Kim
8. **Ryan Hesse** (Biology, San Diego State University)
Award: \$6500 for the proposal titled "Elucidating the Elasmobranch Epidermal Virome."
Mentor: Elizabeth Dinsdale
9. **Ryan Hicken** (Chemistry and Biochemistry, California State University, Fullerton)
Award: \$7000 for the proposal titled "Establishing a Method for Selective Aldol Condensations in Continuous Flow."
Mentor: Nicholas Salzameda
10. **Suzanne Holt** (Chemistry, California State University, Sacramento)
Award: \$7000 for the proposal titled "Synthesis of Glycopolymers for the Inhibition of HIV."
Mentor: Katherine McReynolds
11. **Codey Huang** (Biological Sciences, San José State University)
Award: \$7000 for the proposal titled "Characterizing Metabolic Changes in Cancer Cells after Treatment with Plant Derived Polyphenolic Compounds."
Mentor: Brandon White
12. **Jennifer Juarez-Ayala** (Biology, California State University, San Bernadino)
Award: \$7000 for the proposal titled "A developmental toxicology in vitro assay evaluating open-system based e-liquid and its effects on *Drosophila melanogaster*."
Mentor: Nicole Bournias-Vardiabasis
13. **Margaux Karp** (Biology, Humboldt State University)
Award: \$3950 for the proposal titled "Biogeography of *Alicyclobacillus* species."
Mentor: Mark Wilson
14. **Andrew MacLeod** (Chemistry and Biochemistry, San Diego State University)
Award: \$7000 for the proposal titled "Molecular Mechanisms of Membrane-Dependent Activation and Inhibitor Resistance of RAF Kinases."
Mentor: Youngkwang Lee
15. **Cynthia Martinez** (Biological Sciences, California State University, East Bay)
Award: \$7000 for the proposal titled "Understanding Transcriptional Regulation of *Toxoplasma gondii* Developmental Differentiation and Virulence."
Mentor: Pascale Guiton

16. **Devons Mo** (Biological Sciences, San José State University)
Award: \$7000 for the proposal titled “Microbial Factors That Promote Respiratory Infections.”
Mentor: Walter Adams
17. **Sabrina Nelson** (Biomedical Engineering, California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo)
Award: \$7000 for the proposal titled “Assessing the effects of oxaliplatin on an in vitro 3D human colorectal cancer model.”
Mentor: Christopher Heylman
18. **Emalee Ousley** (Biological Sciences, California State University, Sacramento)
Award: \$5525 for the proposal titled “Investigating the Relationship Between the Gut Microbiome and Host Thermal Tolerance in the Economically Important Red Abalone, *Haliotis rufescens*.”
Mentor: Lani Gleason
19. **Christian Preston Rubio** (Biological Sciences, California State University San Marcos)
Award: \$6985 for the proposal titled “Functional analysis of AtGRXS6 and AtGRXC11 in *Arabidopsis thaliana*.”
Mentor: Matthew Escobar
20. **Favian Ramirez** (Biology, California State University, Bakersfield)
Award: \$5000 for the proposal titled “Unraveling the molecular mechanisms driving the recently revealed motility of *Rhodococcus fascians*.”
Mentor: Isolde Francis
21. **Zita Sárközi** (Biology, California State University, Fresno)
Award: \$7000 for the proposal titled “Using CRISPR to test gene products as possible targets of chalcones in *Caenorhabditis elegans*.”
Mentor: Alejandro Calderón-Urrea
22. **Natalie Shink** (Biological Science, California State University, Fullerton)
Award: \$7000 for the proposal titled “The role of Transmembrane 163 (Tmem163) protein in tissue zinc metabolism.”
Mentor: Math Cuajungco
23. **Bryan Van Orman** (Biology and Chemistry, California State University, Monterey Bay)
Award: \$7000 for the proposal titled “The relationship between the gut microbiome and dietary targets in *Oncorhynchus mykiss* juveniles harboring different migratory genotypes.”
Mentor: Nathaniel Jue
24. **Charnelle Wickliff** (Marine Science, California State University, Monterey Bay)
Award: \$7000 for the proposal titled “Investigating effectiveness of aerial imaging of Santa Catalina Island rhodolith beds.”
Mentor: Alison Haupt

25. **Stacy Zamora** (Biology, California State University, Dominguez Hills)

Award: \$7000 for the proposal titled “Examining alteration of Δ FosB, TH, and ALK protein expression in mesolimbic structures of the rodent brain after exposure to cocaine and ethanol.”

Mentor: Philip Vieira

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 Ikhide Imumorin (Executive Director, CSUPERB; iimumorin@sdsu.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/>.