August 9, 2023

CSUBIOTECH is pleased to announce the 2023 Faculty-Graduate Student Research Collaboration Program awards. CSUBIOTECH is making 20 awards totaling $196,725.98 to CSU faculty-graduate student teams at 16 CSU campuses.

(CSUBIOTECH) aims to support faculty-graduate student research collaborations across the California State University (CSU) system.

Awardees of the Faculty-Graduate Student Research Collaboration Program are supported by up to a total of $10,000 for student salary and of which $2,500 can be used for supplies, equipment and services to support the faculty mentor’s laboratory.

The 2023 Faculty-Graduate Student Research Collaboration Program awardees are (in alphabetical order):

1. Romualda Aquino (Chemistry & Biochemistry, California State Polytechnic University, Pomona)
   Award: $10000 for the proposal titled “Effect of modifying nickel catalyst wingtips for C-F activation in pharmaceutical synthesis”
   Mentor: S. Chantal E. Stieber

2. Dennis Ashong (Chemistry & Biochemistry, California State University, Fresno)
   Award: $10000 for the proposal titled “Fighting Prostate Cancer with JJ-450 Based PROTACs”
   Mentor: Qiao-Hong Chen

3. Ryan Bench (Biological Sciences, California State University San Marcos)
   Award: $10000 for the proposal titled “Exploring the influence of adipocytes on breast cancer metastasis”
   Mentor: Carlos Luna Lopez

4. Justin Brasil (Biology, Sonoma State University)
   Award: $10000 for the proposal titled “Phenotypic Consequences of Variation at a Metabolic Gene, Succinate Dehydrogenase, Involved in the Response to Stress in a Montane Leaf Beetle”
   Mentor: Nathan Rank

5. Zikai Kevin Chen (Animal Science, California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo)
   Award: $10000 for the proposal titled “Integrated OMICs and Machine Learning Approaches to Understand Mastitis Development in Dairy Cows”
   Mentor: Mohammed Abo Ismail
6. **Ulysses Hernandez** (Biological Sciences, California State University, Los Angeles)  
Award: $10000 for the proposal titled “Improving environmental DNA (eDNA) detection of California marine ostracod crustaceans.”  
Mentor: Elizabeth Torres

7. **Noorulhoda Kazemi** (Physics and Astronomy, California State University, Northridge)  
Award: $10000 for the proposal titled “Optical studies of microplastics with optical tweezers and Raman spectroscopy”  
Mentor: Anna Bezryadina

8. **Ellen Kuang** (Chemistry and Biochemistry, San Diego State University)  
Award: $10000 for the proposal titled “Elucidating the biochemical mechanism behind the non-lethal intercolony inhibition ("sibling rivalry") in Marinobacter and its effects on harmful algal blooms”  
Mentor: Christopher Harrison

9. **Giuseppina Lanzilli** (Biological Sciences, California State Polytechnic University, Humboldt)  
Award: $10000 for the proposal titled “The molecular and cellular basis of olfaction in salamanders with diverse life histories”  
Mentor: Karen Kiemnec-Tyburczy

10. **Laura Martins** (Biological Sciences, San José State University)  
Award: $10000 for the proposal titled “Identifying Proteins that Mediate Cellular Behaviors in Response to Higher Intracellular pH”  
Mentor: Bree Grillo-Hill

11. **Christopher Nunez** (Chemistry and Biochemistry, California State University, Fullerton)  
Award: $10000 for the proposal titled “Determining the role of acetylation in PTBP1 RNA binding affinity”  
Mentor: Niroshika Keppetipola

12. **Janelli Pineda** (Chemistry and Biochemistry, California State University, Northridge)  
Award: $10000 for the proposal titled “Investigation of Yen1-RFP in Double Strand Break Repair in S. cerevisiae”  
Mentor: Paula Fischhaber

13. **Melanie Ponce** (Biological Sciences, California State University San Marcos)  
Award: $10000 for the proposal titled “Bioprospecting for Multi-functional Cellulases in the Cow Rumen Microbiome”  
Mentor: Matthew Escobar

14. **Dikshant Sagar** (Computer Science, California State University, Los Angeles)
Award: $10000 for the proposal titled “Unsupervised Deep Learning-Based Clustering of Cytometric Data for Identification of Multiple Myeloma Blood Cancer Cells”
Mentor: Navid Amini

15. **Preeti Sundaramurthi** (Biology, California State University, East Bay)
   Award: $10000 for the proposal titled “Octopamine-mediated circuits and molecular basis of sleep and wakefulness”
   Mentor: Divya Sitaraman

16. **Andrew Tompkins** (Psychology, California State University, Dominguez Hills)
   Award: $10000 for the proposal titled “Changes in neuroproteomics associated with drug abuse”
   Mentor: Philip Vieira

17. **Grace Tuthill** (Biology, San Francisco State University)
   Award: $10000 for the proposal titled “Elusive and Vulnerable: Evaluating spatial and temporal variation in the distribution of the Reef Manta (Mobula alfredi) using Environmental DNA”
   Mentor: Karen Crow

18. **Kameron Wong** (Biological Sciences, California State University, Long Beach)
   Award: $10000 for the proposal titled “Sex specific responses of adult zebrafish exposed to tetrobromobisphenol A”
   Mentor: Erika Holland

19. **Joseph Yull** (Biological Sciences, California State University, Sacramento)
   Award: $10000 for the proposal titled “Determining the neurodevelopmental impact of bisphenol S exposure using Drosophila melanogaster as a model”
   Mentor: Kimberly Mulligan

20. **Shengpeng Zhuo** (Chemical and Materials Engineering, San José State University)
   Award: $10000 for the proposal titled “Production of alpha-ionone from baker’s yeast”
   Mentor: Katy Kao

For more information about this program, see the program portfolio at the CSUBIOTECH website (https://www2.calstate.edu/impact-of-the-csu/research/CSUBIOTECH/Pages/grants-and-awards-programs.aspx) or contact Ikhide Imumorin (Executive Director, CSUBIOTECH; iimumorin@sdsu.edu). All CSUBIOTECH grants and awards can be searched at the program’s database: http://CSUBIOTECH.org/grants/database. Program impacts, including student outcomes and annual reports, can be found at the program dashboard: https://CSUBIOTECH.org/grants/CSUBIOTECH-data-dashboard.