



## CSUPERB Announces 21 COVID-19 Post Pandemic Faculty Support Program Awards to CSU Faculty at 13 Campuses

November 3, 2021

The California State University Program for Education and Research in Biotechnology (CSUPERB) is pleased to announce its COVID-19 Post Pandemic Faculty Support Program awards. Overall CSUPERB is making 21 awards totaling \$154,940 to CSU faculty at 13 CSU universities.

Awards were made as part of this initiative to assist tenured and tenure-track Assistant and Associate CSU Professors whose research programs were explicitly disrupted by the COVID-19 pandemic through the loss of research progress and/or student researchers that will not be returning to the lab post pandemic.

21 CSUPERB COVID-19 Post Pandemic Faculty Support awards were granted to:

1. **Reza Akhavian** (Civil, Construction, and Environmental Engineering, San Diego State University)  
Award: \$7,500 for the proposal titled “Construction Workers Safety and Health Assessment via Wearable Biosensors and Machine Learning.”
2. **Mikael Bergdahl** (Chemistry and Biochemistry, San Diego State University)  
Award: \$7,500 for the proposal titled “Project Relaunch of Azaspirene – a Powerful Angiogenesis Inhibitor.”
3. **Catherine Brennan** (Biological Science, California State University, Fullerton)  
Award: \$7,500 for the proposal titled “Determining the Function of Macrophage Lipid Droplets in Drosophila Inflammation.”
4. **Jaime Chaves** (Biology, San Francisco State University)  
Award: \$7,500 for the proposal titled “Genetic evolution in the Galapagos islands.”
5. **Qiao-Hong Chen** (Chemistry and Biochemistry, California State University, Fresno)  
Award: \$7,500 for the proposal titled “Zampanolide Mimics as Chemotherapeutics for Castration-Resistance Prostate Cancer.”
6. **Susan Cohen** (Biological Sciences, California State University, Los Angeles)  
Award: \$7,500 for the proposal titled “Elucidating the roles for RNA binding proteins in regulating the circadian clock.”
7. **Christopher Heylman** (Biomedical Engineering, California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo)  
Award: \$7,500 for the proposal titled “Vascularized Human Tumors on a Chip for Drug Screening.”

8. **Angela Horner** (Biology, California State University, San Bernadino)  
Award: \$7,000 for the proposal titled “Can high-impact juvenile exercise build a stronger adult tendon? Part II: comparison to post-juvenile exercise.”
9. **Xiaoxu Jiang** (Chemistry and Biochemistry, California State University, San Bernadino)  
Award: \$7,500 for the proposal titled “Structure/Function of CscB, the Sucrose Transporter of Escherichia coli.”
10. **Zhaoshuo Jiang** (School of Engineering, San Francisco State University)  
Award: \$7,500 for the proposal titled “Inferring At Home Gait Parameters of Older Adults Using Floor Vibrations.”
11. **Ehsan Madadi** (Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering, California State University, Long Beach)  
Award: \$7,500 for the proposal titled “Computational framework for simulation of functional nanoparticles.”
12. **Kalyani Maitra** (Chemistry and Biochemistry, California State University, Fresno)  
Award: \$7,500 for the proposal titled “Synthesis of designed polypeptide and peptidomimetics to screen against a breast cancer model of metastasis.”
13. **Nazzy Pakpour** (Biology, California State University, East Bay)  
Award: \$7,500 for the proposal titled “Restart of Anopheles mosquito colony and studies.”
14. **Andrew Reams** (Biological Sciences, California State University, Sacramento)  
Award: \$7,500 for the proposal titled “Elucidating the Role of Selective Nutrient Starvation Stress on Gene Amplification Mutations.”
15. **Melanie Sacco** (Biological Science, California State University, Fullerton)  
Award: \$6,055 for the proposal titled “Post-Pandemic Graduate Student Training in Molecular Virology Skills.”
16. **Erica Sanchez** (Biology, San Francisco)  
Award: \$7,500 for the proposal titled “Determining the Role of Viral G Protein-Coupled Receptor Host Protein Interactions.”
17. **Anureet Kaur Shah** (Kinesiology, Nutrition and Food science, California State University, Los Angeles)  
Award: \$7,500 for the proposal titled “Investigating Intrinsic Apoptotic Mechanisms Using Delta-Tocotrienol in HER2 Positive Human Breast Cancer Cells (SKBR3).”
18. **Bharti Sharma** (Biological Sciences, California State Polytechnic University, Pomona)  
Award: \$7,500 for the proposal titled “Restarting and ramping up flower genetics research disrupted due to Pandemic.”

19. **Sudhir Shrestha** (Engineering Science, Sonoma State University)

Award: \$6,885 for the proposal titled “Towards non-invasive blood glucose monitoring using breath volatile organic compounds: A novel method for developing machine learning models by placing sensors in real-life situations.”

20. **Darcy Taniguchi** (Biology, California State University San Marcos)

Award: \$7,500 for the proposal titled “Investigating marine plankton bloom dynamics using machine learning.”

21. **Mackenzie Zippay** (Biology, Sonoma State University)

Award: \$7,500 for the proposal titled “Assistance with research progress due to the COVID-19 disruption.”

For more information about this grant programs, 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](mailto: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/>.