

Introducing the 2020 Summer Research Program Student Cohort! Aging & Neurological Diseases Track



Mason Basler- Rockhurst University

I am from St. Louis, Missouri and currently a senior at Rockhurst University. I am majoring in Biochemistry with a minor in religious studies and theology on the pre-medical track, currently in the process of applying to medical school. At Rockhurst, I am a part of the medical fraternity Phi Delta Epsilon. I am an ambassador and also a member of Pi Kappa Alpha. I am so excited to still be able to participate in a virtual summer research program on aging and am beyond grateful for this opportunity. I am excited to participate in this program, as I think it will help shape me in my future as a physician. In my spare time, I enjoy spending quality time with my friends and family.



Mateo Blair- Washington University in St. Louis

I am a biochemistry major and Spanish minor at Washington University in St. Louis from the Chicago suburbs. I enjoy soccer, Latin-American literature and music of all kinds.



Paresa Chowdhury- Loyola University Chicago

I am a rising senior at Loyola University Chicago, with a major in Psychology and minor in Biology. Aspiring to raise mental health awareness and pursue a career in the clinical psychiatric field, I enjoy volunteering in the Rehabilitation Unit at Swedish Covenant Hospital and being a Crisis Counselor through Crisis Text Line. On campus, I am the Social Media Chair of ACE Medical Club, where we reach out to underrepresented students on the premedical track in need of shadowing or clinical service opportunities. In my free time, I relax by listening to music, working out and making henna art.

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Lindsey Debosik- Saint Louis University

I am a rising senior at Saint Louis University majoring in public health and health management and minoring in social work and urban poverty studies. I am interested in pursuing an MPH degree after graduation. My work as a caregiver for older adults in St. Louis, my time living in Navajo Nation, and my faith all compel me to advocate for marginalized and vulnerable communities and fight for health equity. I am honored to continue this pursuit through research and apply the public health skills I have learned. In my free time, I enjoy reading, cooking, and dancing!



Kyla Kikkawa- Washington University in St. Louis

I am a rising sophomore from Los Angeles, California. At Washington University in St. Louis, I plan on majoring in Cognitive Neuroscience with a double minor in Computer Science and Spanish. I am intrigued by the intersection between music, movement and people with neurological diseases, and I hope to help people minimize the challenges of their neurological disease. In my spare time, I enjoy staying active, dancing, playing ukulele, and spending time with family and friends.



Aja Jones- Washington University in St. Louis

I am currently a rising junior at Washington University in St. Louis. I am studying psychological & brain sciences, educational studies and American culture studies. I am passionate about learning more about the research process, specifically involving ailments that occur throughout development. I am excited to be a part of this program!

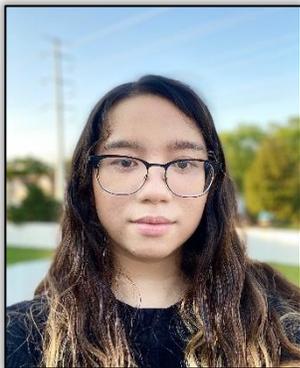
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Danielle Friz- University of Missouri- St. Louis

I am currently a first-generation student at the University of Missouri - St. Louis (UMSL) pursuing a Nursing major, Gerontological Studies certificate, Honors certificate, Global Health & Social Medicine minor, and Psychology minor. While at UMSL, I will complete additional coursework to apply for M.D. programs following graduation. Due to my close relationship with my grandparents and work experience in a retirement community, I enjoy working with the geriatric population and appreciate the importance of aging and neurological diseases research. I look

forward to participating in this program so that I may gain additional knowledge and research experience that I can utilize to benefit the geriatric community.



Sophia Tu- Saint Louis University

I am a rising junior at Saint Louis University majoring in MRI Tech on the pre-med track. My future goal is to serve as a physician in underprivileged communities. Currently, I volunteer with Create Circle to connect with elderly individuals who have become increasingly isolated from the world due to Covid-19. Along with other volunteering activities, I also like to spend my free time working on personal art projects, reading books, and taking my cat for a walk.



Josie Wright- Southern Illinois University Edwardsville

I grew up and currently live in Collinsville, Illinois. I am attending Southern Illinois University Edwardsville majoring in psychology and minoring in Spanish. My future goal is to become a neuropsychologist providing therapy for those with neurological diseases and brain traumas. I enjoy running, playing piano and reading. I am excited and thankful to be a part of the Friedman Center for Aging's Summer Research Program.

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Nahom Zewde- Earlham College

I am currently a junior studying Biochemistry and Mathematics at Earlham College. Aside from academics, I love volunteering at skilled nursing facilities and spending time with the elderly.