

Introducing the 2023 Summer Research Program Cohort Aging & Neurological Diseases Track



Mohammed Abu-Salah

University of Missouri - Columbia

Hey! My name is Mohammed Abu-Salah. I am currently a sophomore at the University of Missouri, Columbia. I am double majoring in biology and psychology. My current interest is neurology, specifically clinical neuroscience. I'm really looking forward to meeting the rest of the cohort and meeting my new lab mentors to see what work I'll be able to accomplish with them.



University of Notre Dame

Hi there! My name is Matthew Broder, and I'm a rising sophomore at the University of Notre Dame studying – go Irish! I'm from St. Louis, Missouri, and I graduated from Saint Louis Priory School in 2022. Aside from neuroscience, I'm really interested in the classics and classical civilization, as well as computers and computer science. I love sports, both playing and watching, and I'm always happy to talk about the Cardinals or Blues. This summer, I'm most looking forward to getting some real hands-on experience in the lab and working with other dedicated peers toward a common goal.



Ximena Gutierrez

Lindenwood University



I am a first-generation student from Glenwood Springs, Colorado. Currently, I am attending Lindenwood University majoring in psychology with a minor in sociology while also playing Division 1 rugby. After conducting my own research on perceived compatibility with couples of varied gender expressions, I have come to find my passion in psychology research and hope to apply to graduate school for the Fall of 2024. I am eager to participate in this summer program where I will be able to continue my research development and learn from influential mentors that will help guide me to finding a specific research path I would like to follow.





Anabelle Hessong

Wake Forest University

My name is Anabelle Hessong and I am currently a junior at Wake Forest University. I am majoring in psychology with a minor in neuroscience. I love to be outside, read, bike, play with my puppies, and find yummy tacos or pad thai wherever I am. I'm looking forward to getting really involved in a research project that involves people. I love to work with people and am excited to see how I will learn and grow this summer. I am also excited to be doing the program alongside other students!



Drury University



My name is Jack Jones from Tulsa, Oklahoma and I am currently a Junior at Drury University in Springfield, Missouri. I am majoring in biology with minors in chemistry and pre-engineering with hopes to add a physics minor in the fall of 2023. In addition to my schooling, I have also pitched for Drury's baseball team for the past three years and will play in my final collegiate season this coming year. My hobbies include baseball, golf, weightlifting, and many outdoor activities including hunting, fishing, mountain biking etc. I have always wanted to be involved in the medical field, especially research and am beyond excited to be a part of the research team for this summer's internship. I am especially excited to see the research process in action and participating in something greater than myself.

Paige Julius

Lindenwood University



I am a rising junior at Lindenwood University. I am majoring in Public Health with an emphasis in Cell Science and Biology and am on the pre-med track. I am currently serving as the Public Health Student Association Public Relations Director. I am also serving as our panhellenic director of programs. My love for working with aging individuals began when I shadowed a physician over the summer. I now volunteer with older generations at a local hospital and have loved working with this population. I am very interested in programs, treatments, and interventions that work to ensure that aging individuals have the most control and autonomy over their lives for as long as possible. I am very grateful to have the opportunity to participate in this research program and am excited to learn more about the aging process.





Sela Lewis

Washington University in St. Louis

Sela is a rising sophomore at Washington University in St. Louis from Long Island, NY. On campus she is a member of GlobeMed and WAGS. Outside of classes and research, she enjoys baking, reading, and the arts.



Saint Louis University



I am an undergraduate at Saint Louis University majoring in Healthcare Management and Art History with a minor in Public Health. I have found a passion for healthcare and identifying ways to improve service delivery. Beyond the conventions of effective and efficient management strategies and processes, I seek to better understand the social determinants of health and how these factors contribute to health outcomes. In addition, with my love of art, I seek to learn how it can connect to the human being in the healthcare setting, specifically, how art can enhance patient outcomes and provide a better patient experience.

Saffron Patel

Washington University in St. Louis



Saffron Patel is a rising sophomore at Washington University in St. Louis. She is majoring in Finance and Healthcare Management with a minor in Chemistry on the pre-med track She is passionate about how disparities in healthcare can be tackled from their root cause She is looking forward to working in the Stark Lab this summer and delving into how Alzheimer's research can be made more diverse and equitable.



Mirra Ramakrishnan

University of Missouri - Columbia

I am from Saint Louis, Missouri, and I am a rising junior at University of Missouri-Columbia. I am majoring in Health Sciences with minors in psychology and biological sciences. I am excited to be a part of this program as I look forward to learning more about the interdisciplinary nature of neuroscience and assist with research aimed at tackling issues pertaining to aging and neurological diseases. Aside from academics, I enjoy traveling, reading, cooking, and spending time with family and friends.



Dania Salman

Saint Louis University

Dania Salman is a third-year undergraduate student at Saint Louis University. She is majoring in Psychology, Minoring in Philosophy, and hopes to attend graduate school for Clinical Psychology. A few of her on campus involvements include the following: Psi Chi, Phi Sigma Tau, National Residence Hall Honorary, Alpha Delta Pi, Days for Girls, Camp Kesem, Philosophy Club, and more. While participating in the Washington University Internship for Aging and Neurological Diseases this summer, she hopes to learn more, gain new perspectives, make a positive impact, help contribute to research, grow as a person, and more.



Maya Samih Saint Louis University

From Dallas, TX, I am a Medical Scholar and rising junior at Saint Louis University with a focus on the compelling field of neuroscience. Aspiring to become a physician, I am driven to contribute to neuroscience research by leveraging my personal experiences with loved ones suffering from Alzheimer's disease. I am eager to participate in the Friedman Center for Aging's Summer Research Program as I deepen my understanding of neurological disorders and the aging process. In my free time, I love exploring new destinations, growing in my faith, and cherishing quality time with my family. I am both excited and grateful for the opportunity to learn and make an impact in this transformative field.