WM RUGS

WEST MICHIGAN REGIONAL UNDERGRADUATE
SCIENCE RESEARCH CONFERENCE

PROGRAM

VAN ANDEL INSTITUTE | GRAND RAPIDS, MI | NOV. 7, 2026

CELEBRATING 20 YEARS OF SCIENTIFIC AND EDUCATIONAL COLLABORATION

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AQUINAS COLLEGE
CALVIN UNIVERSITY
FERRIS STATE UNIVERSITY COLLEGE OF PHARMACY
GRAND VALLEY STATE UNIVERSITY
HOPE COLLEGE
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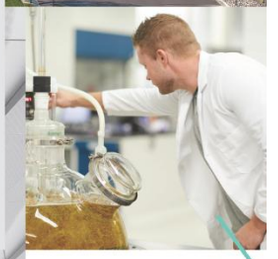
Recruiters will be in the DeVos Foundation Lobby. Recruiter/Representative contact information, and their availability are provided on pages 34-42 of this program.

QUESTIONS?

Contact a Conference Volunteer at the WMRUGS Information Booth.

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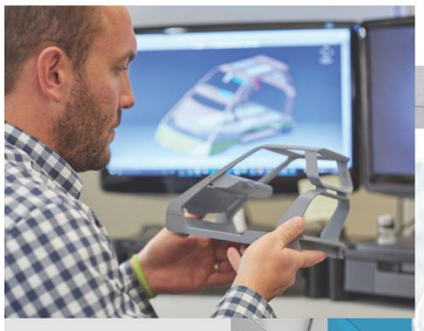
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As Gentex is providing camera-based monitoring using mirror-integrated cameras and emitters that provide a host of monitoring and communication services. Gentex offers safety solutions for wholistic vehicle monitoring.size, speed, and location of our dimmable devices, our electrochromic tech is reinventing comfort, convenience, and styling in new, ambitious ways.









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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

WMRUGS RESEARCH CONFERENCE ORGANIZING INSTITUTIONS AND ORGANIZING COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Jennifer Hess, Ph.D. – Aquinas College
Keith Grasman, Ph.D. – Calvin University
Eric Nybo, Ph.D. – Ferris State University-College of Pharmacy
Mark Staves, Ph.D. – Grand Valley State University
Kristin Dittenhafer-Reed, Ph.D. – Hope College
Dwight Williams, Ph.D. – Kalamazoo College
Tim Triche, Ph.D. – Van Andel Institute Graduate School and Van Andel Institute

WMRUGS RESEARCH CONFERENCE HOST

Thank you to Van Andel Institute (VAI) for hosting the
West Michigan Regional Undergraduate Science Research Conference for 19 years!

WMRUGS RESEARCH CONFERENCE SUPPORT STAFF

VAI Security Services, Facilities Services and Housekeeping Services

Event management and administrative support provided by Michelle Love, VAI Graduate School

Additional administrative support provided by the VAI Graduate School Staff and Graduate Students, VAI Student Research Fellows and VAI Postdoctoral Fellows

Social media administration and support provided by the VAI Communications & Marketing staff
Juliana Cieglo, Kinsey King, Rachel Corwin, Zane McMillin, Caitlin Smith and Kayla Habermehl

Audiovisual services provided by Devin Gennette, Terry Ballard and Bill Baillod with VAI Production Services

Catering services provided by Eurest Dining Services, Azucar Ave, and Parsley Mediterranean Grill

Catering Services also provided by Kent ISD/KTC Hospitality & Culinary Services
Special thanks the Kent ISD High School Student Caterers



SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 2026 | 8:00 AM-3:30 PM | DOORS OPEN AT 7:45 AM

NOTE: POSTER SESSIONS AND THE RECRUITER FAIR WILL TAKE PLACE CONCURRENTLY. PLEASE REFER TO THE SCHEDULE FOR EVENT TIMES AND LOCATIONS.

YEOMAN PHOTOGRAPHY WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR PROFESSIONAL HEADSHOTS FROM 8:30 AM 12:30 PM IN THE PRE-FUNCTION AREA OUTSIDE OF CONFERENCE ROOMS 3104 & 3105. NO ADVANCE SIGN-UP OR RESERVATION IS REQUIRED. PLEASE REMEMBER TO BRING YOUR CONFERENCE NAME BADGE, AS IT WILL BE REQUIRED BEFORE YOUR SESSION.

8:00 AM — **ATTENDEE ARRIVAL AND POSTER SET-UP | RECRUITER ARRIVAL AND SETUP**

8:15 AM — **FAIR | GRADUATE SCHOOL, MEDICAL SCHOOL, PROFESSIONAL SCHOOL AND INTERNSHIP & EMPLOYMENT RECRUITERS | DEVOS FOUNDATION LOBBY**

Meet with recruiters including internship & employment, graduate school, professional schools and medical school recruiters from 8:15- 9:00 AM

9:00 AM — **WELCOME | OPENING REMARKS | TOMATIS AUDITORIUM**

Master of Ceremony | Kristin Reed, Ph.D. | Hope College

9:15 AM — **KEYNOTE SPEAKER ADDRESS | TOMATIS AUDITORIUM**

Michael Henderson, Ph.D. | Keynote Speaker
Research Area: Protein Pathologies and Genetic Risk in Neurodegeneration
Department of Neurodegenerative Science
Van Andel Institute

10:00 AM — **POSTER SESSION 1 | COOK-HAUENSTEIN HALL**

Presenters at even-numbered posters

10:00 AM — **FAIR | GRADUATE SCHOOL, MEDICAL SCHOOL, PROFESSIONAL SCHOOL AND INTERNSHIP & EMPLOYMENT RECRUITERS | DEVOS FOUNDATION LOBBY**

Meet with recruiters including internship & employment, graduate school, professional schools and medical school recruiters from 10:00-11:15 AM

11:15 AM — **GRADUATE STUDENT SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH TALK | TOMATIS AUDITORIUM**

Natasha Zandstra, Ph.D. Candidate | Van Andel Institute Graduate School
Grand Valley State University Alumna

11:45 AM **UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH TALKS | TOMATIS AUDITORIUM**

Clara Siefke | Kalamazoo College
Luke Goldammer | Hope College

12:15 PM **LUNCH | DEVOS FOUNDATION LOBBY NEAR WATER FEATURE**

Lunch seating available in the VAI Café, Vande Woude Sessions Conference Room, Tomatis Auditorium and Conference Rooms 3104 & 3105

12:15 PM **FAIR | GRADUATE SCHOOL, MEDICAL SCHOOL, PROFESSIONAL SCHOOL AND INTERNSHIP & EMPLOYMENT RECRUITERS | DEVOS FOUNDATION LOBBY**

Meet with recruiters including internship & employment, graduate school, professional schools and medical school recruiters from 12:15-2:30 PM

1:15 PM **POSTER SESSION 2 | COOK-HAUENSTEIN HALL**

Presenters at odd-numbered posters

2:30 PM **UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH TALKS | TOMATIS AUDITORIUM**

Brianna Hofman | Grand Valley State University
Tessa Hendrickson | Ferris State University-College of Pharmacy
Neal Jacobsen | Calvin University
David La Verdiere | Aquinas College

3:30 PM **CLOSING REMARKS | CONCLUSION | TOMATIS AUDITORIUM**





9:00 a.m. | Welcome and Opening Ceremony | Emcee: Kristin Reed, Ph.D. | Tomatis Auditorium
9:15-10:00 a.m. | Keynote Address | Tomatis Auditorium



2026 WMRUGS RESEARCH CONFERENCE KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Michael Henderson, Ph.D.

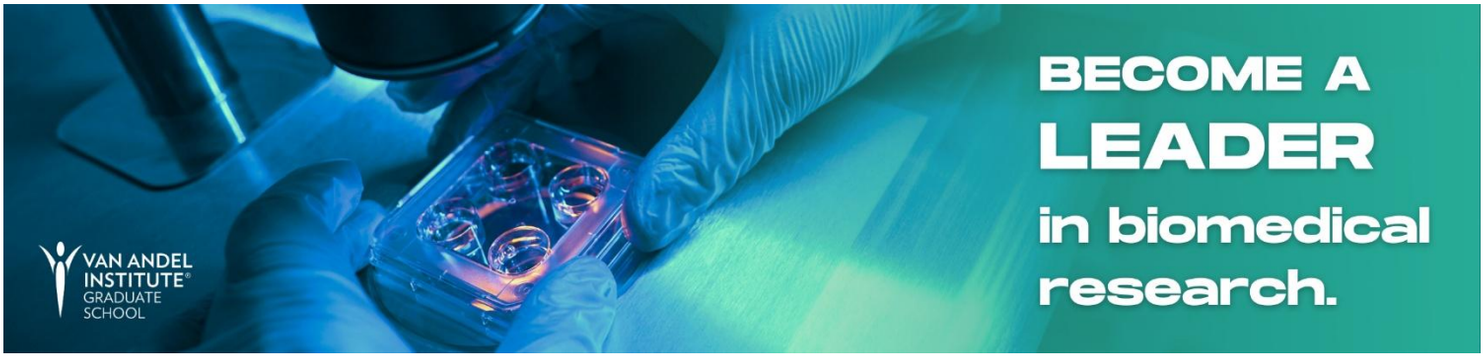
Associate Professor
Department of Neurodegenerative Science
Director, Van Andel Institute Brain Bank
For more information on Dr. Henderson, visit: https://hendersonlab.vai.org/

VAN ANDEL INSTITUTE®

Scientific Research Talk Emphasis: Neuroscience

"*The road to resilience in neurodegeneration*"

Abstract: Dr. Henderson's lab studies why some brain regions resist Parkinson's disease while others do not, and uses that natural variation to identify new therapeutic targets. Neurodegenerative diseases like Parkinson's and Alzheimer's do not affect the whole brain equally. Some regions are consistently vulnerable, while others remain surprisingly resistant. Dr. Henderson will introduce the basic neuroscience behind this selective vulnerability, then describe how his lab uses brain-wide mapping to identify resilient regions and uncover what protects them. By comparing vulnerable and resilient regions directly, his group has isolated the molecular pathways responsible for that protection and used them to nominate new disease-modifying candidates for Parkinson's disease.



GRADUATE STUDENT RESEARCH TALK

11:15-11:45 a.m. | Tomatis Auditorium

Natasha Zandstra, Ph.D. Candidate



Van Andel Institute Graduate School | Molecular and Cellular Biology
Anticipated Dissertation and Commencement Date: April 2027

Research Mentor: Hui Shen, Ph.D. | Professor
Shen Lab | Epigenomic Analysis in Human Disease
Department of Epigenetics | Van Andel Institute
Scientific Research Talk Emphasis: Cancer Epigenetics, Ovarian Cancer

"*High-resolution transcriptional analysis of the cancer stem cell model in Ovarian Cancer*"

Abstract: Cancer stem cells (CSCs) have long been proposed as a driver of tumor heterogeneity, progression, and therapeutic resistance in ovarian cancer. Yet, whether a distinct CSC population exists in high- grade serous ovarian cancer (HGSOC), and how such a population should be defined, remains an open question. Here, we take a multifaceted approach to investigate the presence and behavior of stem-like populations in HGSOC. Using complementary approaches including STORM-seq, spheroid-based lineage tracing, and Xenium spatial transcriptomics, we analyze single-cell resolution of cellular states, cell cycle dynamics, lineage potential, and the spatial distribution of proposed CSC markers across ovarian cancer models and patient tumors. In doing so, we first reassess the models underlying the current hierarchical CSC framework and then ask whether canonical definitions of stemness accurately capture stem-like populations within HGSOC. Our findings highlight important limitations in applying established CSC models and markers to HGSOC and show the need for disease-relevant, unbiased approaches to define stem-like cell states.

Co-Authors: Ben K. Johnson, Mary Majewski, Ian Beddows, Svetlana Djirackor, Hui Shen

View Biography: https://www.vai.org/people/natasha-zandstra/

Alumna | Major: Cell and Molecular Biology | Class of 2020

GRAND VALLEY STATE UNIVERSITY

UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT RESEARCH TALKS

11:45 a.m.–12:15 p.m. | Tomatis Auditorium
Kalamazoo College and Hope College



Clara Siefke | Kalamazoo College

Double Major: Computer Science and Mathematics | Class of 2027
Scientific Research Talk Emphasis: Graph Theory | Computer Science
"*Performance Analysis of Approximation Algorithms for the Graph Coloring Problem*"

Abstract: The Malatya Vertex Coloring Algorithm (MVCA), the Malatya Sequential Independent Set Coloring Algorithm (MSISCA), and the greedy algorithm are all approximation algorithms for the Graph Coloring Problem (GCP). I implemented these algorithms in Python and recorded their performance on 218 benchmark graphs from the npbench GitHub repository by ROARS Lab. They were also run on Selman Yakut's 24 randomly generated graphs. The data confirms that MVCA outperforms greedy in terms of producing quality solutions, with MVCA having strictly better solutions in 145 graphs. MSISCA produced better solutions than MVCA in 57 graphs. Greedy consistently had shorter run times than both MVCA and MSISCA and was implied to have a better time complexity based on the rates at which the run times increase with input size. MSISCA had higher run times than MVCA. While MVCA tends to provide closer-to-optimal solutions than the others, greedy produces solutions most efficiently. MSISCA offered no clear advantage.

In addition to her scientific talk, Clara Seifke will present a poster during the conference: Poster #85 | Session II from 1:15–2:30 p.m.

Research Mentor(s): Pam Cutter, Ph.D. | Professor and Department Chair
Computer Science Department

KALAMAZOO COLLEGE



Luke Goldammer | Hope College

Double Major: Psychology and Neuroscience | Class of 2027
Scientific Research Talk Emphasis: Neuroscience
"*Moment-to-moment neural oscillations as signal: A GAMM approach to ERP amplitude, oscillatory power, and trait impulsivity*"

Abstract: Numerous psychological disorders involve disruptions in habitual and goal-directed cognition. EEG provides temporally precise, objective measures of neural processes underlying these responses, while event-related potentials (ERPs) capture condition-sensitive neural signatures. We examined trial-level EEG and behavioral correlates of a modified Iowa Gambling Task in relation to five facets of impulsivity assessed by the short UPPS-P. Spectral power was examined alongside the decision-preceding negativity (DPN), P300, and feedback-related negativity (FRN), with gamma treated as supplementary. Generalized additive mixed models (GAMMs; mgcv::bam) with participant-level factor smooths and AR(1) error structure modeled nonlinear trial-level associations. Band power robustly predicted P300 and DPN amplitude across frequencies, whereas FRN showed little relation to oscillatory power. Impulsivity selectively moderated these associations: Lack of Premeditation shaped P300 sensitivity primarily at higher frequencies, while Sensation Seeking was concentrated at lower frequencies. These findings demonstrate that ERP expression depends on oscillatory context and impulsivity, revealing nonuniform neural dynamics underlying psychopathological behavior.

In addition to his scientific talk, Luke Goldammer will present a poster during the conference: Poster #111 | Session II from 1:15–2:30 p.m.

Co-Authors: Tacy Kratt and Toby Shaw
Research Mentor(s): Daniel Dorman, Ph.D. | Assistant Professor
Neuroscience Department

Hope COLLEGE

UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT RESEARCH TALKS

2:30-3:30 p.m. | Tomatis Auditorium
Grand Valley State University, Ferris State University-College of Pharmacy, Calvin University and Aquinas College



Brianna Hofman | Grand Valley State University

Double Major: Cell and Molecular Biology, Music | Class of 2026 (Winter/December)
Scientific Research Talk Emphasis: Biomaterials, Biomedical Sciences, Biocompatibility, Toxicology
"*Insights into the Biological Effects of Molybdenum in an Insect Model (Galleria mellonella)*"

Abstract: Molybdenum (Mo) is a potential biodegradable stent material with excellent mechanical properties, but chronic exposure is associated with renal concerns. *Galleria mellonella* (*G. mellonella*) is an invertebrate model with Malpighian tubules (MT) analogous to mammalian nephron tubules, so we evaluated Mo's biological effects using this model. Larvae were injected with 5 µL of 0.025–200 mM sodium molybdate (Mo) and survival and melanization was assessed over 72 h. Redox balance was assessed with SOD and MDA assays, MT morphology with H&E staining, and ex vivo MT metabolism with two photon FLIM. Mo was non-toxic and redox balance was comparable across treatment groups. 10 mM Mo caused MT cryptonephridial complex changes suggesting MT dilation. At 200 mM, FLIM showed increased NAD(P)H mean lifetime and protein binding, favoring oxidative phosphorylation. In summary, Mo is non-toxic in G. mellonella, but morphological and metabolic changes at 10 and 200 mM may affect Mo stent performance.

Co-Authors: Logan Florek, Sarah Atang, Amani Gillette, Babasola Fateye, Maria P Kwesiga
Research Mentor(s): Maria Kwesiga, Ph.D. | Assistant Professor and Babasola Fateye, Ph.D. | Associate Professor
Biomedical Sciences Department



Tessa Hendrickson | Ferris State University-College of Pharmacy

Major: Pharmacology | Class of 2029
Scientific Research Talk Emphasis: Pharmacology
"*Starter-Unit Engineering for Erythromycin Diversification in Escherichia coli*"

Abstract: Antibiotic resistance creates a need for new macrolide antibiotics. We are developing an Escherichia coli platform to test how alternative starter units affect erythromycin biosynthesis. This work focused on constructing and validating plasmids that modify starter-unit loading and precursor supply in the 6-deoxyerythronolide B synthase (DEBS) pathway. Loading-domain swaps and auxiliary enzymes involved in acyl-CoA activation and branched- chain starter-unit biosynthesis were assembled using restriction cloning and verified by whole- plasmid sequencing. Sequencing identified correctly assembled plasmids as well as constructs containing mutations, insertions, deletions, or frameshifts. Incorrect constructs were redesigned before downstream experiments. Four different modified DEBS synthase constructs were generated with altered loading domains. The recombinant DEBS synthases were co-expressed in E. coli K207-3 with pBP130 (co-expressing the remaining DEBS synthases) and generated several new 6-dEB analogs. These experiments demonstrated that the new recombinant DEBS synthases were functional and could accept altered starter units, such as benzoic acid, valerate, and isobutyrate, to generate new modified macrolactones. This work established a validated set of expression plasmids to test alternative starter-unit incorporation into the DEBS pathway. The constructs provide a foundation for evaluating how starter-unit identity affects erythromycin-derived macrolide production. Ongoing experiments will introduce the plasmids into production strains,

optimize precursor availability, and analyze products by liquid chromatography–mass spectrometry. This platform will support systematic starter-unit engineering for macrolide diversification.

In addition to her scientific talk, Tessa Hendrickson will present a poster during the conference: Poster #120 | Session I from 10:00–11:15 a.m.

Co-Authors: Tessa R. Hendrickson, Zeynab Aghabayli, Madison McDonald, Micah Kemp, and S. Eric Nybo
Research Mentor(s): Eric Nybo, Ph.D. | Professor
Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences

Ferris State University
College of Pharmacy



Neal Jacobsen | Calvin University

Major: Computer Electrical Engineering | Class of 2027
Scientific Research Talk Emphasis: RF Engineering
"*SatNOGS and the Calvin CubeSat Project*"

Abstract: Calvin University is currently developing an imaging mission CubeSat to be deployed into Low Earth Orbit. The team decided to use the SatNOGS network: a free, open-source, worldwide volunteer ground station network for the telemetry side of the project. To facilitate this, they have developed an easily producible antenna to integrate into the SatNOGS' network to be distributed among Calvin alumni, as well as other interested parties. The presentation will focus on the project telemetry and antenna development, as well as the benefits of the SatNOGS' deployment strategy for Calvin and other interested parties.

In addition to his scientific talk, Neal Jacobsen will present a poster during the conference: Poster #90 | Session I from 10:00–11:15 a.m.

Research Mentor(s): Ken Visser, Ph.D. | Professor
Engineering Department

Calvin University 1876



David La Verdiere | Aquinas College

Major: Chemistry | Class of 2027
Scientific Research Talk Emphasis: Mathematics
"*Nested Paper Fortune Tellers in the Maximally Generalized McMullen Julia Set*"

Abstract: For the family of complex rational functions known as maximally generalized McMullen Maps, Fn,d,b,a(z) = z^n + a/z^d + b with a ∈ R and {n, d ∈ N | n+d gcd(n,d) = 3}, we identify a class of altered baby Julia sets that are nested alterations of one another. We provide an explicit algorithm that describes the number of identifications that are reconfigured through 2-pinching and 4- pinching steps between the first and second alterations based on the placement of the third critical value. This expands upon the work of Boyd and Brouwer for the n = d case which had only two critical values, and incorporates their work into this new formula to provide a more general result.

In addition to his scientific talk, David La Verdiere will co-present a poster with Jaben Bakker during the conference: Poster #103 | Session II from 1:15–2:30 p.m.

Co-Author(s): Kelsey Brouwer and Jaben Bakker
Research Mentor(s): Kelsey Brouwer, Ph.D. | Assistant Professor
Mathematics Department

AQUINAS COLLEGE



POSTER SESSION SPONSOR

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POSTER PRESENTER INDEX | ALPHABETICAL ORDER BY LAST NAME

Poster presentations will take place in Cook-Hauenstein Hall and the DeVos Foundation Lobby Near Water Feature
Presenters with even-numbered posters will present from 10:00-11:15 a.m.
Presenters with odd-numbered posters will present from 1:15-2:30 p.m.

Last Name	First Name	Poster Number	Poster Subject Area	Institution
Abooalsaman	Niam	29	Biomedical Sciences	Grand Valley State University
Afman	Luke	3	Biochemistry	Calvin University
Afsheen	Afsheen	37	Biostatistics	Grand Valley State University
Aghabayli	Zeynab	41	Biotechnology	Ferris State University-College of Pharmacy
Alam	Taimur	94	Environmental Science	Western Michigan University
Amaratunga	Methmi	2	Biochemistry	Kalamazoo College
Appiah	Maame	125	Pharmacology	Ferris State University-College of Pharmacy
Arendt	Anna	44	Cell and Molecular Biology	University of Michigan
Armstrong	Katherine	92	Environmental Science	Ferris State University
Arthur	Madeline	56	Chemistry	Grand Valley State University
Arver	Matthew	45	Cell and Molecular Biology	Hope College
Avery	Raegan	121	Pharmacology	Ferris State University-College of Pharmacy
Bailey	Vanessa	104	Microbiology	Aquinas College
Bakker	Jaben	103	Mathematics	Aquinas College
Berhane	Nayad	27	Biology	Hope College

Last Name	First Name	Poster Number	Poster Subject Area	Institution
Berry	Cecelia	17	Biochemistry	Hope College
Betten	Maximus	55	Chemistry	Kalamazoo College
Bhavsar	Ruchita	118	Pharmacology	Ferris State University
Bhavsar	Ruchita	119	Pharmacology	Ferris State University
Bixler	Sophia	30	Biomedical Sciences	Grand Valley State University
Bliesener	Megan	110	Molecular Biotechnology	Lansing Community College
Bough	Madeline	98	Immunology	University of Michigan
Bouwman	Leah	29	Biomedical Sciences	Grand Valley State University
Brink	Andrew	3	Biochemistry	Calvin University
Buckles	Maddie	99	Immunology	Grand Valley State University
Bultje	Nicholas	4	Biochemistry	Calvin University
Bynum	Boston	128	Physics	Grand Valley State University
Caballero-Heuker	Jacob	19	Biology	Hope College
Carlson	Summer	112	Neuroscience	Hope College
Celori	Julie	A-134	Cell and Molecular Biology	Purdue University
Chappell	Catherine	46	Cell and Molecular Biology	Grand Valley State University
Chen	Derrick	81	Computer Science	Kalamazoo College
Chia	Charlene	57	Chemistry	Hope College
Choe	Madeleine	5	Biochemistry	Hillsdale College
Chung	Yejin	58	Chemistry	Calvin University
Chung	Devin	79	Computational Biology	Grand Valley State University
Conrad	Cecilia	B-134	Cell and Molecular Biology	Saint Mary's College
Cornwell	Riley	23	Biology	Calvin University
Crane	Emylee	117	Pharmacology	Ferris State University
Curry	Alaina	121	Pharmacology	Ferris State University-College of Pharmacy
Darwesh	Lareen	59	Chemistry	Kalamazoo College
DeBlasi	Vincenzo	47	Cell and Molecular Biology	Grand Valley State University
Diouf	Mariam	60	Chemistry	Kalamazoo College
Doyle	Mitchell	48	Cell and Molecular Biology	Grand Valley State University
Dube	William	49	Cell and Molecular Biology	Grand Valley State University
Duncan	Isaac	61	Chemistry	Kalamazoo College
Eilar	Connor	69	Chemistry	Aquinas College
Eilertson	Abigail	28	Biomedical Engineering	Kalamazoo College
Erickson	Addison	29	Biomedical Sciences	Grand Valley State University
Erno	Anastasia	50	Cell and Molecular Biology	Ferris State University
Esquivel-Landero	Ariana	C-134	Biomedical Sciences	Aquinas College
Evans	Isaac	127	Physics	Hope College
Fedoriw	Alexis	93	Environmental Science	Cornerstone University
Fenstermaker	Ezekiel	93	Environmental Science	Cornerstone University
Filthaut	Luke	6	Biochemistry	Grand Valley State University
Fisher	Sam	113	Neuroscience	Grand Valley State University
Forney	Anna	87	Ecology and Evolution	Hope College
Fridsma	Landrie	62	Chemistry	Kalamazoo College
Gabrielse	Natalie	21	Biology	Hope College
Gawron	Henry	63	Chemistry	Trine University
Goldammer	Luke	111	Neuroscience	Hope College
Gonzales	Audrey	114	Neuroscience	Calvin University
Gould	Emma	132	Psychology	Hope College

Last Name	First Name	Poster Number	Poster Subject Area	Institution
Grabill	Magdalene	64	Chemistry	Calvin University
Hari	Griffin	D-134	Biology	Olivet Nazarene University
Harkema	Morgan	17	Biochemistry	Hope College
Hart	Claire	21	Biology	Hope College
Hartmann	Katherine	7	Biochemistry	Hope College
Hayner	Willow	22	Biology	Kalamazoo College
Hendrickson	Tessa	120	Pharmacology	Ferris State University
Henry	Anna	51	Cell and Molecular Biology	Grand Valley State University
Heydarzade	Karim	94	Environmental Science	Western Michigan University
Holtgren	Lorraine	132	Psychology	Hope College
Hori	Akemi	E-134	Biology	Olivet Nazarene University
House	Rose	20	Biology	Ferris State University
Hussey	Taryn	97	Forensic Biology	Ferris State University
Idoko	Ehicocho	F-134	Cell and Molecular Biology	Michigan State University
Ivy	Jasmine	88	Ecology and Evolution	Kalamazoo College
Jacobsen	Neal	90	Engineering	Calvin University
Jehle	Emerson	38	Biostatistics	Grand Valley State University
Jennings	Claire	95	Environmental Science	Hope College
Jordan	Noah	65	Chemistry	Grand Valley State University
Kemp	Micah	122	Pharmacology	Ferris State University
Khan	Hibah	100	Immunology	Kalamazoo College
Kik	Breanne	79	Computational Biology	Grand Valley State University
Kingscott	Celia	32	Biomedical Sciences	Grand Valley State University
Kokic	Michelle	1	Astronomy	Ferris State University
Kozal	Julia	66	Chemistry	Kalamazoo College
Kraai	Cami	67	Chemistry	Hope College
Krawczyk	Jason	68	Chemistry	Kalamazoo College
Kreckman	Jack	105	Microbiology	Kalamazoo College
Kue	Madeline	17	Biochemistry	Hope College
Kuperus	Anneke	91	Engineering	Calvin University
La Verdiere	David	103	Mathematics	Aquinas College
Lamoreaux	Alexis	69	Chemistry	Aquinas College
Langeland	Grace	24	Biology	Calvin University
Li	Runxi	102	Immunology	University of Illinois
Ling	Sonia	G-134	Bioinformatics	University of Michigan
Long	Alyvia	107	Microbiology	Grand Valley State University
Luo-Li	Dewen	70	Chemistry	Kalamazoo College
Lutz	Faith	131	Physiology	Grand Valley State University
Ly	Raighen	82	Computer Science	Hope College
MacKersie	Alexa	8	Biochemistry	Hope College
Manning	Cora	71	Chemistry	Grand Valley State University
Marashdeh	Abdel	106	Microbiology	Grand Valley State University
Mares	Lizbeth	31	Biomedical Sciences	Kalamazoo College
Masters	George	107	Microbiology	Grand Valley State University
Mathur	Bhuvan	9	Biochemistry	Ferris State University
Mayernik	Anna	96	Environmental Science	Hope College
Mazariegos Gonzalez	Jusmila	H-134	Cell and Molecular Biology	University of Michigan
McCann	Sadie	32	Biomedical Sciences	Grand Valley State University

Last Name	First Name	Poster Number	Poster Subject Area	Institution
McDonald	Madison	123	Pharmacology	Ferris State University
McGowan	Grace	115	Nursing	Hope College
Meachum	Avery	101	Immunology	Grand Valley State University
Meengs	Dylan	91	Engineering	Calvin University
Melrose	Griffin	52	Cell and Molecular Biology	Grand Valley State University
Menichino	Alyssa	124	Pharmacology	Ferris State University
Mensah	Ellis	72	Chemistry	Calvin University
Meyer	Leah	I-134	Immunology	Calvin University
Mia	Abdul	121	Pharmacology	Ferris State University-College of Pharmacy
Miller	Qwaylin	33	Biomedical Sciences	Grand Valley State University
Miller	Evan	42	Biotechnology	Ferris State University-College of Pharmacy
Miller	Katherine	110	Molecular Biotechnology	Lansing Community College
Morgan	Jamison	49	Cell and Molecular Biology	Grand Valley State University
Mosher	Maren	73	Chemistry	Kalamazoo College
Neal	Nya	10	Biochemistry	Kalamazoo College
Nguyen	Kathy	89	Ecology and Evolution	University of Texas
Ni	Yuxin	102	Immunology	University of Illinois
Nowak	Samantha	11	Biochemistry	Ferris State University
Nowosatko	Emily	53	Cell and Molecular Biology	Grand Valley State University
Opoku-Ware	Emmanuella	43	Biotechnology	Ferris State University-College of Pharmacy
Osborn	Joseph	130	Physics	Grand Valley State University
Palazzolo	Grace	108	Microbiology	Aquinas College
Peters	Tobias	39	Biostatistics	Kalamazoo College
Phyo	Aye Chan Myat	83	Computer Science	Kalamazoo College
Piper	Lola	J-134	Cell and Molecular Biology	Grand Valley State University
Prather	Camden	109	Microbiology	Marian University and Trine University
Reuter-Gushow	Sydney	34	Biomedical Sciences	Grand Valley State University
Reynolds	Spencer	74	Chemistry	Calvin University
Rhodea	Brianna	12	Biochemistry	Grand Valley State University
Rowland	Christopher	20	Biology	Ferris State University
SaintAmour	Naomi	110	Molecular Biotechnology	Lansing Community College
Samnang	Raksa	13	Biochemistry	Hope College
Schmitt	Kiersten	75	Chemistry	Hope College
Schwachter	Ava	14	Biochemistry	Kalamazoo College
Scott	Connor	110	Molecular Biotechnology	Lansing Community College
Shea	Isabelle	35	Biomedical Sciences	Grand Valley State University
Siefke	Clara	85	Computer Science	Kalamazoo College
Smith	Justin	125	Pharmacology	Ferris State University-College of Pharmacy
Soeleman	Elizabeth	54	Cell and Molecular Biology	Hillsdale College
Sprenger	Ava	95	Environmental Science	Hope College
Springer	Aliyah	29	Biomedical Sciences	Grand Valley State University
Stimpert	Andrew	76	Chemistry	Calvin University
Stringer	Camry	36	Biomedical Sciences	Grand Valley State University
Suárez Fernández	Uxía	126	Pharmacology	Ferris State University
Tabor	Lauren	K-134	Biochemistry	Grand Valley State University
Tatko	Robyn	77	Chemistry	Calvin University
Tavera	Charles	25	Biology	Calvin University
Thiyagarajan	Tejas	80	Computational Biology	University of Michigan

Last Name	First Name	Poster Number	Poster Subject Area	Institution
Vandehaar Johnsen	Calla	26	Biology	Hope College
VanWingerden	Norah	L-134	Neuroscience	Hillsdale College
VanWoerkom	Drew	23	Biology	Calvin University
Vu	Emily	15	Biochemistry	Grand Valley State University
Wallenberg	Rowan	84	Computer Science	Grand Valley State University
Ward	Aliah	16	Biochemistry	Western Michigan University
Wee	Samantha	17	Biochemistry	Hope College
Weiss	Kaitlyn	M-134	Cell and Molecular Biology	Calvin University
Whitsett	Benjamin	129	Physics	Kalamazoo College
Winters	Madison	40	Biostatistics	Aquinas College
Wonde	Bethelhem	27	Biology	Hope College
Zammit	India	19	Biology	Hope College
Zhu	Jenny	78	Chemistry	University of Illinois
Zia	Sania	110	Molecular Biotechnology	Lansing Community College
Ziddah	Seshie	116	Nursing	Calvin University
Zoulek	Angel	18	Biochemistry	Grand Valley State University
Zulfikarova	Safiyakhon	86	Computer Science	Kalamazoo College



POSTER SESSION SPONSOR

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POSTER PRESENTERS

Poster presentations will take place in Cook-Hauenstein Hall and the DeVos Foundation Lobby Near Water Feature
Presenters with even-numbered posters will present from 10:00-11:15 a.m.
Presenters with odd-numbered posters will present from 1:15-2:30 p.m.

Due to some of the research being unpublished, only presentation titles will be included in the printed program for the conference and the downloadable program available on the WMRUGS Research Conference website.

1. Michelle Kokic, Ferris State University **Astronomy**

Co-Author(s): Dinesh Shetty, PhD (Department of Physical Sciences, Ferris State University)

"*Unveiling the Cosmic Dance of Binary Stars Using Speckle Interferometry - Can a Tatooine-Like Planet Exist?*"

2. Methmi Amaratunga, Kalamazoo College **Biochemistry**

Co-Author(s): Dwight Williams

"*Synthesis of 5,7-dihydroxy-2-(2-phenylethyl)chromone as a Potential Neuroprotectant*"

3. Andrew Brink, Calvin University **Biochemistry**
Co-Presenter(s): Andrew Brink and Luke Afman

Co-Author(s): Amanda Smith, Luke Afman

"*Synthesis of a Riboflavin-Based LYTAC for Targeted Protein Degradation*"

4. Nicholas Bultje, Calvin University **Biochemistry**

Co-Author(s): Nicholas M Bultje, Ella Worden and Kumar Sinniah

"*Developing Evidence-Based Educational Resources for Culinary Medicine*"

5. Madeleine Choe, Hillsdale College **Biochemistry**

Co-Author(s): Annie Trinh, Aaron F. Straight

"*Investigating the influence of SETDB1 on heterochromatin protein localization at human centromeres*"

6. Luke Filthaut, Grand Valley State University **Biochemistry**

Co-Author(s): Sydney Kekel, Rachel Powers

"*Investigation of the Role of Met223 in Class D β-Lactamase OXA-24 from Acinetobacter baumannii*"

7. Katherine Hartmann, Hope College **Biochemistry**

Co-Author(s): Katherine McCain, Olivia Wagner, Stephanie Cologna, and Leah Chase

"*Optimizing Protein Digestion Methods for Bottom Up Proteomic Analysis of the Highly Hydrophobic Transporter Membrane Protein xCT*"

8. Alexa MacKersie, Hope College **Biochemistry**

Co-Author(s): Mackenzie Streeter, Awesome Abraham, Samantha Wee, Justin Romero, Sean Beckwith

"*Elucidating the molecular grammar of a retrotransposon prion-like domain in budding yeast*"

9. Bhuvan Mathur, Ferris State University **Biochemistry**
Co-Presenter(s): Rose House

Co-Author(s): Konara Kollalpitiya

"*Computational Analysis of Human Mitochondrial Malate Dehydrogenase (MDH2) Variants Associated with Neurological Diseases*"

10. Nya Neal, Kalamazoo College **Biochemistry**

Co-Author(s): Dr. Dwight A. Williams

"*Exploring the Synthesis of Maleimide–Indolinone Hybrids as Potential Antibiotics*"

11. Samantha Nowak, Ferris State University **Biochemistry**

Co-Author(s): Milan Prajapati, Sky Pike

"*LCMS-Based Method Measuring One-Carbon (1-C) Flux in Mammalian Cell Culture*"

12. Brianna Rhodea, Grand Valley State University **Biochemistry**

Co-Author(s): Josie Mitchell

"*Investigating the renal oxalate transporter dPrestin in Drosphila melanogaster*"

13. Raksa Samnang, Hope College **Biochemistry**

Co-Author(s): Matthew B. Love, Jacquelin D. D'Lamater, Frederick T. Melges

"*Experimental Analysis of Escherichia coli Metabolism on Carbon Sources*"

14. Ava Schwachter, Kalamazoo College **Biochemistry**

Co-Author(s): Dwight A. Williams

"*Synthetic Avenues of a Maleimide-Indole Hybrid as a Potential Antibiotic*"

15. Emily Vu, Grand Valley State University **Biochemistry**

Co-Author(s): Josephine W. Mitchell

"A *fly's path to FAIM: Exploring the localization and function of FAIM in Drosophila melanogaster*"

16. Aliah Ward, Western Michigan University **Biochemistry**

Co-Author(s): Joshua Mitchell, Thomas Rothstein

"A *tale of two domains: the N- and C-terminal domains of FAIM have preferential activity against aggregating proteins*"

17. Samantha Wee, Hope College **Biochemistry**
Co-Presenter(s): Samantha Wee, Cecelia Berry, Morgan Harkema and Maddie Kue

Co-Author(s): Awesome Abraham, Cecelia Berry, Zion Glen, Morgan Harkema, Maddie Kue, Anna Newlands, Samantha Wee, Sean Beckwith

"*Biochemical Drivers of Retrotransposition within a Prion-Like Domain in Budding Yeast*"

18. Angel Zoulek, Grand Valley State University **Biochemistry**

Co-Author(s): Isabella A. Moreno, Jacquelyn E. Adema , Dr. Matthew E. Hart

"*Computational analysis and synthesis of novel antibiotic compounds to treat Computational analysis and synthesis of novel antibiotic compounds to treat Mycobacterium tuberculosis*"

19. Jacob Caballero-Heuker, Hope College **Biology**
Co-Presenter(s): Jacob Caballero-Heuker and India Zammit

Co-Author(s): Jaclyn Decker, Maxwell McCormick, Jaden Johnson, Jianhua Li

"*Exploring the Efficacy of Anticancer Plant Extracts on Slowing Down Cancer Development*"

20. Rose House, Ferris State University **Biology**
Co-Presenter(s): Rose House and Christopher Rowland

Co-Author(s): Saroiny Hosler, Changqi C. Zhu, Liam S Erickson

"*Using Fruit Flies (Drosophila melanogaster) to Study Human Neurodegenerative Diseases*"

21. Claire Hart, Hope College **Biology**
Co-Presenter(s): Claire Hart and Natalie Gabrielse

Co-Author(s): Dr. Aaron Best, Ms. Lauren Cribbs, Dr. Brent Krueger, and Dr. Mike Pikaart

"*Antimicrobial Resistance in Freshwater Escherichia coli*"

22. Willow Hayner, Kalamazoo College **Biology**

Co-Author(s): Dr. Melissa McCormick, Dr. Micheal Wollenberg

"*Developing Swabbing Methods for Environmental DNA Collection & Identification Of Orchid Pollinators*"

23. Riley Cornwell, Calvin University **Biology**
Co-Presenter(s): Riley Cornwel and Drew VanWoerkom

Co-Author(s): Dr. Keith Grasman, Abigail Vanden Huevel, Mandy Annis, Amanda Curtis, Dr. Lisa Williams

"*Ongoing Bioeffects in Colonial Waterbirds at Contaminated Great Lakes Sites during Recent Years of a Long-Term Monitoring Program*"

24. Grace Langeland, Calvin University **Biology**
Co-Presenter(s): Professor Amy Wilstermann, Olivia Stordeur

"*Evaluating the Impact of BCS1L Variants on Mitochondrial Structure and Function*"

25. Charles Tavera, Calvin University **Biology**

Co-Author(s): Erica Boldenow

"*TCE Metabolites DCVC and DCVG, but not TCA or DCA, Inhibit CXCL-2 Production and Phagocytosis in THP-1 Cells*"

26. Calla Vandehaar Johnsen, Hope College **Biology**

Co-Author(s): Dr. Jimena Golcher-Benavides

"*Mapping Behavioral Networks: Fine-Scale Habitat Partitioning Linked to Species Persistence in Lake Tanganyikan Cichlids*"

27. Bethelhem Wonde, Hope College **Biology**
Co-Presenter(s): Bethelhem Wonde and Nayad Berhane

Co-Author(s): Dr. Jennifer Blake-Mahmud

"*Understanding Sexual Plasticity of Striped Maple Trees (Acer pensylvanicum) by Examining the Gene Expression of Floral Development*"

28. Abigail Eilertson, Kalamazoo College **Biomedical Engineering**

Co-Author(s): Ryan Luedtke 1, Bailey Doucette 1, Mitch Kenter 2, Adil Akkouch (Principal Investigator) 2. 1 Medical Student, 2 Department of Surgical Sciences, Division of Orthopaedic Surgery & Division of Medical Engineering, Western Michigan University Homer Stryk

29. Niam Abooalsaman, Grand Valley State University **Biomedical Sciences**
Co-Presenter(s): Niam Abooalsaman, Addison Erickson, Aliyah Springer and Leah Bouwman

Co-Author(s): David Linn

"*Verification of neuronal precursors after activation of the alpha7 nicotinic receptor in adult pig retinal cell culture*"

30. Sophia Bixler, Grand Valley State University **Biomedical Sciences**

Co-Author(s): Cynthia L. Thompson

"*Does Kin Selection Explain Food Transfer in White-faced Saki Monkeys (Pithecia pithecia)?*"

31. Lizbeth Mares, Kalamazoo College **Biomedical Sciences**

Co-Author(s): Dwight Williams

"*Synthesis of Maleimide-Tryptamine Hybrids as Potential Antibiotics*"

32. Sadie McCann, Grand Valley State University **Biomedical Sciences**
Co-Presenter(s): Sadie McCann and Celia Kingscott

Co-Author(s): Dr. Eric Ramsson, PhD

"*Enhanced Sensitivity of Fast Scan Cyclic Voltammetry*"

33. Qwaylin Miller, Grand Valley State University **Biomedical Sciences**

Co-Author(s): Dr. Ian Cleary

"Is *There Synergy Between the Surface Adhesion Proteins Als3p, Ddr48p, and Hwp1p in Candida albicans*?"

34. Sydney Reuter-Gushow, Grand Valley State University **Biomedical Sciences**

Co-Author(s): Ruijie Liu

"*Study of Dose Dependent Progression of Type 1 Diabetes in Mouse Model*"

35. Isabelle Shea, Grand Valley State University **Biomedical Sciences**

Co-Author(s): Dr. Anthony Kegley

"*Anatomical Investigation of Fascial Investments at the Sternoclavicular Joint: A Cadaveric Dissection Study*"

36. Camry Stringer, Grand Valley State University **Biomedical Sciences**

Co-Author(s): Maddie Buckles, Avery Meachum, Dr. Kristin Renkema

"*Evaluating the role of macrophages in anti-tumor immune response from microbially experienced mice*"

37. Afsheen Afsheen, Grand Valley State University **Biostatistics**

Co-Author(s): Tejaswi Manchineella; Meiling Zhou; Kevin A. Maupin (Research Supervisor)

"*Social Factors Add More Than Blood Counts to Models of Depression: Evidence from NHANES and All of Us*"

38. Emerson Jehle, Grand Valley State University **Biostatistics**

Co-Author(s): Meiling Zhou

"*Joint Regression Analysis of Multiple Phenotypes to Identify Genetic Variants Associated with Type I Diabetes*"

39. Tobias Peters, Kalamazoo College **Biostatistics**

Co-Author(s): Adithi Arun, Alec Yang, Peter Baltzell

"*Mean Arterial Pressure (MAP) Trajectories in ICU Stroke Patients: Assessing 30-day Mortality Risk and Predictive Accuracy*"

40. Madison Winters, Aquinas College **Biostatistics**

Co-Author(s): Dr. Rebecca Loret de Mola

"*Diagnosing Student Difficulty: A Psychometric & Cognitive Audit of Case-Based Exam Questions in Introductory A&P*"

41. Zeynab Aghabayli, Ferris State University-College of Pharmacy **Biotechnology**

Co-Author(s): Dr. S. Eric Nybo, Dr. Madan K. Kharel, Dr. Mikko Metsä-Ketelä

"*Genomes of four Escherichia coli chassis hosts*"

42. Evan Miller, Ferris State University-College of Pharmacy **Biotechnology**

Co-Author(s): Tessa Hendrickson , Zeynab Aghabayli , S. Eric Nybo

"*Engineering Acyltransferase Domains of 6-Deoxyerythronolide B Synthase for Malonyl-CoA Incorporation*"

43. Emmanuella Opoku-Ware, Ferris State University-College of Pharmacy **Biotechnology**

Co-Author(s): S. Eric Nybo*

"*AI-Assisted Single- and Double-Crossover Engineering of Erythromycin Biosynthesis*"

44. Anna Arendt, University of Michigan **Cell and Molecular Biology**

Co-Author(s): Liang Zhao, Yatrik Shah

"*ALKBH8 Supports Intestinal Epithelial Homeostasis and Metabolic Adaptation During Colitis*"

45. Matthew Arver, Hope College **Cell and Molecular Biology**

Co-Author(s): Dr. Leah Chase

"*Understanding the Role of Ubiquitination in the Regulation of System xc -*"

46. Catherine Chappell, Grand Valley State University **Cell and Molecular Biology**

Co-Author(s): Dr. Matthew Christians

"*Functional Characterization of Conserved Region 2 in the Arabidopsis LRB1 Gene*"

47. Vincenzo DeBlasi, Grand Valley State University **Cell and Molecular Biology**

Co-Author(s): Mentors: Dr. Sheila Blackman1, Dr. Pei-Lan Tsou1 1Department of Cell and Molecular Biology, Grand Valley State University, Allendale, MI.

"*Developing a Microbial Source Tracking Assay for Muskrat Fecal Contamination*"

48. Mitchell Doyle, Grand Valley State University **Cell and Molecular Biology**

Co-Author(s): Dr. Ian Cleary

"*How do Candida albicans over-expression strains respond to embedded conditions and temperature?*"

49. William Dube, Grand Valley State University **Cell and Molecular Biology**
Co-Presenter(s): William Dube and Jamison Morgan

Co-Author(s): Osman Patel

"*Investigation of a PTPRG/PTPRZ1-Related gene in Anterior Regeneration of Schmidtea mediterranea*"

50. Anastasia Erno, Ferris State University **Cell and Molecular Biology**

Co-Author(s): Sam Nowak, Ruchita Bhavsar, Rose House, Michaella Vyt-Norton, Milan Prajapati

"*Identifying Rare-Earth Metal-Induced Hypoxia Signaling in Hep3B Liver Cells*"

51. Anna Henry, Grand Valley State University **Cell and Molecular Biology**

Co-Author(s): Osman Patel

"*Assessing the Role of RPTP-F in Brain Regeneration in Planarians*"

52. Griffin Melrose, Grand Valley State University **Cell and Molecular Biology**

Co-Author(s): MD Wasim Khan

"*Acute Carbon Tetrachloride-Induced Liver Injury Upregulates HKDC1 Expression Coincident with Fibrogenic and Regenerative Signaling*"

53. Emily Nowosatko, Grand Valley State University **Cell and Molecular Biology**

Co-Author(s): Pei-Lan Tsou and Sheila Blackman

"*Ticked Off: Development of a Novel Molecular Assay Testing for Borrelia burgdorferi in Ticks*"

54. Elizabeth Soeleman, Hillsdale College **Cell and Molecular Biology**

Co-Author(s): Cyrina Ostgaard, Hideyuki Komori, Cheng-Yu Lee

"*Tumor Immortalization In Drosophila Brain Development*"

55. Maximus Betten, Kalamazoo College **Chemistry**

Co-Author(s): Cecilia H. Vollbrecht

"*Frequency Examination of Candle Flame Oscillators*"

56. Madeline Arthur, Grand Valley State University **Chemistry**

Co-Author(s): Dr. Matthew Hart

"*Computational Docking and Synthesis of a di-substituted Trifluoromethyl Ring System to Inhibit Mycobacterium Tuberculosis*"

57. Charlene Chia, Hope College **Chemistry**

Co-Author(s): Dr. Nathanael Kazmierczak

"*Computational Prediction of Magnetic Circularly Polarized Luminescence (MCPL) Spectra*"

58. Yejin Chung, Calvin University **Chemistry**

Co-Author(s): Roger DeKock, Mark Muyskens

"*COVE: The One-Electron Virial Orbital Energy for Chemistry*"

59. Lareen Darwesh, Kalamazoo College **Chemistry**

Co-Author(s): Benjamin Knight, Ava King, & Andrew Jensen

"*Environmental Justice in Kalamazoo, MI: Low-Cost Air Quality Monitors for Air Quality Evaluation*"

60. Mariam Diouf, Kalamazoo College **Chemistry**

Co-Author(s): Cecilia H. Vollbrecht

"*Investigating reflectivity and ZIF-8 film properties on silver mirrors*"

61. Isaac Duncan, Kalamazoo College **Chemistry**

Co-Author(s): Dr. Dwight Williams

"*Synthesis of Maleimide-Tryptamine Hybrids and Analogues as Antimicrobial Agents*"

62. Landrie Fridsma, Kalamazoo College **Chemistry**

Co-Author(s): Dr. Dwight Williams

"*Synthesis of 6-hydroxy-2-(2-phenylethyl)chromone Derivatives as Potential Neuroprotectants*"

63. Henry Gawron, Trine University **Chemistry**

Co-Author(s): Manish Bhandari and Andrzej Rajca

"*Thermally Ultra-Robust Phototetrazolinyl Radicals*"

64. Magdalene Grabill, Calvin University **Chemistry**

Co-Author(s): Andrew M. Stimpert, Spencer L. Reynolds, Brad S. Veldkamp

"*Electrochromic Polarizer Fabrication via Liquid Crystal Alignment*"

65. Noah Jordan, Grand Valley State University **Chemistry**

Co-Author(s): Scott N Thorgaard

"*Investigation of Particle Transport in Single Entity Electrochemical Collisions of S. Saprophyticus and Polystyrene Microspheres*"

66. Julia Kozal, Kalamazoo College **Chemistry**

Co-Author(s): Dr. Dwight Williams

"*Novel Synthesis of Aqabamycin G and Three Related Analogues*"

67. Cami Kraai, Hope College **Chemistry**

Co-Author(s): Natalie Terry, Dr. Meagan Elinski

"*Modeling Mucin Barrier Mechanics Using Liquid-Infused Surfaces*"

68. Jason Krawczyk, Kalamazoo College **Chemistry**

Co-Author(s): Dr. Dwight A. Williams

"*Synthesis of N-{2-Hydroxy-1-[(5-imidazolyl)methyl]ethyl}(3-indolyl)oxoacetamide and Analogues as Novel PPAR$_\gamma$ Ligands*"

69. Alexis Lamoreaux, Aquinas College **Chemistry**
Co-Presenter(s): Alexis Lamoreaux and Connor Eilar

Co-Author(s): Connor Eilar, Dr. Anthony Allen

"*Development of the first small molecule inhibitor of 3-ketodihydrosphingosine reductase*"

70. Dewen Luo-Li, Kalamazoo College **Chemistry**

Co-Author(s): Dr. Dwight Williams

"*Synthesis of 5-Fluorotryptamine Maleimide Hybrids as Potential Antimicrobials*"

71. Cora Manning, Grand Valley State University **Chemistry**

Co-Author(s): Scott N. Thorgaard

72. Ellis Mensah, Calvin University **Chemistry**

Co-Author(s): Roger DeKock and Mark Muyskens

"*Relaxation of Atomic Inner Shells Upon Valence Ionization*"

73. Maren Mosher, Kalamazoo College **Chemistry**

Co-Author(s): Dwight A. Williams

"*Synthesis of Asymmetrical Diarylmaleimide Tryptamine Hybrids as Potential Antimicrobials*"

74. Spencer Reynolds, Calvin University **Chemistry**

Co-Author(s): Brad Veldkamp

"*Methacrylate Monomer Synthesis via Transesterification*"

75. Kiersten Schmitt, Hope College **Chemistry**

Co-Author(s): Nathaniel Townshend, Isaac Stewart, Christopher Turlington

"*Testing perfluorocarbon polymers as artificial oxygen carriers in an animal model*"

76. Andrew Stimpert, Calvin University **Chemistry**

"*Investigation of Polyfunctional L-Lactide Monomers for Cross-Linked Networks*"

77. Robyn Tatko, Calvin University **Chemistry**

Co-Author(s): L. Amegashie, M. Daspit, L. Brachman, K. Haris, P. Anderson, S. Borja Alban, and Professor D. Vander Griend

"*Fully Equilibrated Three-Component Supramolecular Square*"

78. Jenny Zhu, University of Illinois **Chemistry**

Co-Author(s): Davinder Singh, Melissa A. Sleda, Akanksha Pandey, Mingdi He, Jenny Zhu, Maia Gutierrez, Ruijie Zhou, Silvia N.J. Moreno, Eric Oldfield

"*MmpL3/NCR1/NPC1 Inhibitors Against Toxoplasma gondii*"

79. Devin Chung, Grand Valley State University **Computational Biology**
Co-Presenter(s): Devin Chung and Breanne Kik

Co-Author(s): Agnieszka Szarecka

"*Sequence Analysis and Modeling of FKS1 Interactions with Echinocandin Drugs*"

80. Tejas Thiyagarajan, University of Michigan **Computational Biology**

Co-Author(s): Andrew Yu, Paul Vigneau, Marisa Aikins PhD, Sofia Merajver MD PhD

"A *Machine Learning based Computational Pipeline for Spatial Analysis of Immune Infiltration in 3D Tumor Models*"

81. Derrick Chen, Kalamazoo College **Computer Science**

Co-Author(s): Dr. Tasnim Gharaibeh

"*Machine Learning and the Environment: Using Data to Analyze Environmental Factors*"

82. Raighen Ly, Hope College **Computer Science**
Co-Presenter(s): Raighen Ly and Niklas Eppe Mora

Co-Author(s): Robert Glowacki, Catherine Welsh

"*Resolving Novel Bacteroides thetaiotaomicron Genomes Using Hybrid Assembly and Assembly Graph Analysis*"

83. Aye Chan Myat Phyo, Kalamazoo College **Computer Science**

Co-Author(s): Andrew Irwin Somerset, Jermaine He, Charlotte Le, Laryn Qi, Ruizhe Li

"*Budget Guard: Calibrated Resource Control for Long-Horizon LLM Agents*"

84. Rowan Wallenberg, Grand Valley State University **Computer Science**

Co-Author(s): Kevin A. Maupin and Meiling Zhou

"*Correlation of Socioeconomic and Substance Use Variables to Depression*"

85. Clara Siefke, Kalamazoo College **Computer Science**

"*Performance Analysis of Approximation Algorithms for the Graph Coloring Problem*"

86. Safiyakhon Zulfikarova, Kalamazoo College **Computer Science**

"*Under What Conditions Does Third-Degree Price Discrimination Facilitate Collusive Pricing and Reduce Consumer Welfare*"

87. Anna Forney, Hope College **Ecology and Evolution**

Co-Author(s): Dr. Jimena Golcher-Benavides

"*Using a portable eDNA method to detect species of conservation concern in Southwestern Michigan*"

88. Jasmine Ivy, Kalamazoo College **Ecology and Evolution**

Co-Author(s): Santiago Salinas

"*Food availability and Daily Thermal Fluctuations: Interactive Effects on Growth and CTmax in Fundulus Heteroclitus*"

89. Kathy Nguyen, University of Texas **Ecology and Evolution**

Co-Author(s): Dr. Nora Mitchell

"*Widespread Phylogenomic Discordance and Introgression in Protea, Independent of Pollinator Syndrome*"

90. Neal Jacobsen, Calvin University **Engineering**

"*SatNOGS and the Calvin CubeSat Project*"

91. Dylan Meengs, Calvin University **Engineering**
Co-Presenter(s): Dylan Meengs and Anneke Kuperus

Co-Author(s): Dr. Matthew Heun

"*Carbon Neutrality by 2047 at Calvin University*"

92. Katherine Armstrong, Ferris State University **Environmental Science**

Co-Author(s): Adwowa Brako, Samantha Nowak, John Waters, Colin Parsons, Liani Lujan, Tessa Nantze, Rees Routhe, Heath Garris, and Sky Pike

"*E. coli and Endotoxin Monitoring of Inland Lake Beaches Across Michigan DHD10*"

---

93. Ezekiel Fenstermaker, Cornerstone University **Environmental Science**
Co-Presenter(s): Ezekiel Fenstermaker and Alexis Fedoriw

Co-Author(s): Rob Keys

"*Revisiting songbird breeding and vegetative change in Southwest Michigan; 2012-2026*"

---

94. Karim Heydarzade, Western Michigan University **Environmental Science**
Co-Presenter(s): Karim Heydarzade and Taimur Alam

Co-Author(s): Taimur Alam and Mert Atilhan

"*Evaluation of CO2 Adsorption Capacities Across Two Distinct Natural Rock Facies for Reservoir Storage*"

---

95. Claire Jennings, Hope College **Environmental Science**
Co-Presenter(s): Claire Jennings and Ava Sprenger

Co-Author(s): Dr. Kathleen Fast

"*How do in-stream litter capture devices impact ecosystem health? A case study in the Macatawa Watershed*"

---

96. Anna Mayernik, Hope College **Environmental Science**

Co-Author(s): Dr. Michael Philben, Dr. Aaron Best, Lauren Cribbs

"*Methane Production in Peat Bogs Across a Michigan Transect*"

---

97. Taryn Hussey, Ferris State University **Forensic Biology**

Co-Author(s): Kinsley Granger and Professor Workman

"*Soil Microbial Community Composition of Two Mock Crime Scenes*"

---

98. Madeline Bough, University of Michigan **Immunology**

Co-Author(s): Madeline Bough, Marisa Aikins, Kiran Lagisetty, Sofia Merajver

"*ALK Tyrosine Kinase Inhibitors Increase CXCL1, CXCL6, CXCL8 secretion in 3D in vitro and ex vivo Organoid Models*"

---

99. Maddie Buckles, Grand Valley State University **Immunology**
Co-Presenter(s): Camry R Stringer, Avery L Meachum

Co-Author(s): Kristin R Renkema

"*Evaluating the mechanisms contributing to increased anti-cancer immune responses in microbially experienced mice*"

---

100. Hibah Khan, Kalamazoo College **Immunology**

Co-Author(s): Jenny Mannion PhD, Rod Rahimi MD PhD

"*The Role of IL-4 in Controlling Foxp3+ Regulatory T cells*"

---

101. Avery Meachum, Grand Valley State University **Immunology**
Co-Presenter(s): Meachum AL, Buckles MR, Stringer CR, Renkema KR

"*Determining the importance of CD8+ T cells in reduced tumor growth from microbially-experienced mice*"

---

102. Yuxin Ni, University of Illinois **Immunology**
Co-Presenter(s): Runxi Li

Co-Author(s): Chongyang Zhang, Weiping Zhang

"*Functional Evaluation of SecVax-Induced Antibodies against Shigella Invasion and Shiga Toxin Cytotoxicity In Vitro*"

---

103. Jaben Bakker, Aquinas College **Mathematics**
Co-Presenter(s): David La Verdiere and Jaben Bakker

Co-Author(s): Kelsey Brouwer

"*Nested Paper Fortune Tellers in the Maximally Generalized McMullen Julia Set*"

---

104. Vanessa Bailey, Aquinas College **Microbiology**

Co-Author(s): Dr. Natalia Hubbs

"*Optimizing the Isolation of Oral Bacteriophages from Saliva*"

---

105. Jack Kreckman, Kalamazoo College **Microbiology**

Co-Author(s): Research Mentor- Dr. Laura Monturiol Gross, Faculty Advisors- Dr. Santiago Salinas and Dr. Amanda Wollenberg

"*Evaluating the antimicrobial potential of Bothrops asper snake venom*"

---

106. Abdel Marashdeh, Grand Valley State University **Microbiology**

Co-Author(s): Dr. Ian Cleary

"*Investigating Alternative Conditions for Chlamydospore Formation in Candida albicans*"

---

107. George Masters, Grand Valley State University **Microbiology**
Co-Presenter(s): George Masters, Alyvia Long

Co-Author(s): Aaron Baxter

"*Preliminary Characterization of a Putative Pathogenicity Island in Salmonella enterica Serovar Typhimurium*"

---

108. Grace Palazzolo, Aquinas College **Microbiology**

"*From Isolation to Characterization: Bacteriophages That Infect Citrobacter*"

---

109. Camden Prather, Marian University and Trine University **Microbiology**

Co-Author(s): Detection of Plasmid DNA in Gram-Negative Bacteria Isolated from the Nina Mason Pulliam EcoLab

"*Detection of Plasmid DNA in Gram-Negative Bacteria Isolated from the Nina Mason Pulliam EcoLab*"

---

110. Connor Scott, Lansing Community College **Molecular Biotechnology**
Co-Presenter(s): Connor Scott, Megan Bliesener, Katherine Miller, Naomi Saint Amour, Sania Zia and Melinda Wilson.

"*Molecular Identification and Geographic Distribution of Ant Species in Michigan*"

---

111. Luke Goldammer, Hope College **Neuroscience**

Co-Author(s): Tacy Kratt, Toby Shaw

"*Moment-to-moment neural oscillations as signal: A GAMM approach to ERP amplitude, oscillatory power, and trait impulsivity*"

---

112. Summer Carlson, Hope College **Neuroscience**

Co-Author(s): Dr. Leah Chase, Dr. Brent Krueger

"*Investigating Putative Chloride Binding Sites in System Xc-*"

---

113. Sam Fisher, Grand Valley State University **Neuroscience**

Co-Author(s): America Reyes, An Nguyen Ha, Zixuan Cui, Nidhi Biju, Hira Akbar, Bhumika Motiani, Bryan Melchor, Gabriella Idhaya, Jason Nguyen

"*Seizure Risk in Autism with Intellectual Disability: Trends and Patterns from a Bibliometric Analysis*"

---

114. Audrey Gonzales, Calvin University **Neuroscience**

"*The Role of Brain-Derived Neurotrophic Factor rs6265 in Dopaminergic Neuron Vulnerability to Parkinson's Disease Pathology*"

---

115. Grace McGowan, Hope College **Nursing**

Co-Author(s): Dr. Vicki Voskuil

"*Wearable Fitness Device Adherence in Adolescent Girls in the INSPIRE Program*"

---

116. Seshie Ziddah, Calvin University **Nursing**
Co-Presenter(s): Samuel Peter

Co-Author(s): T'Oluwani E. Adekunle, PhD, MPH; Sharon Aboagye; Kamsi Eze; Michel Kogbe; Kulwinder Dhaliwal, MD, MPH

"*Provider Trust in Artificial Intelligence Under Conditions of Inequality: A Systematic Review*"

---

117. Emylee Crane, Ferris State University **Pharmacology**

Co-Author(s): Eric Nybo, Ph.D

"*Comparative Profiling of Spiramycin Production in Historical Streptomyces ambofaciens Producer Strains*"

---

118. Ruchita Bhavsar, Ferris State University **Pharmacology**

Co-Author(s): Dayna Gesinski, Samantha Satawa, Felix Amissah, Erica Lisabeth, Md Afjalus Siraj, Sonali Kurup

"*Design, synthesis and evaluation of dual EGFR/AURKB inhibitors for non-small cell lung cancer*"

---

119. Ruchita Bhavsar, Ferris State University **Pharmacology**

Co-Author(s): Milan Prajapati, Eric Nybo, Md Afjalus Siraj

"*Pharmacological characterization of aclarubicin and structurally related anthracyclines in Pancreatic Ductal Adenocarcinoma*"

120. Tessa Hendrickson, Ferris State University **Pharmacology**

Co-Author(s): Tessa R. Hendrickson, Zeynab Aghabayli, Madison McDonald, Micah Kemp, and S. Eric Nybo

"*Starter-Unit Engineering for Erythromycin Diversification in Escherichia coli*"

121. Alaina Curry, Ferris State University-College of Pharmacy **Pharmacology**
Co-Presenter(s): Abdul Mia, Raegan Avery and Ruchita Bhavsar

Co-Author(s): Dr. Namita Giri, Dr. Milan Prajapati, Dr. Sonali Kurup

"*Preparation and Characterization of Erlotinib and Cisplatin Nanoparticles*"

122. Micah Kemp, Ferris State University **Pharmacology**
Co-Presenter(s): Zeynab Aghabayli

Co-Author(s): S. Eric Nybo

"*Engineering Megalomicin Biosynthesis in Saccharopolyspora erythraea*"

123. Madison McDonald, Ferris State University **Pharmacology**
Co-Presenter(s): Madison McDonald, Ruchita Bhavsar

Co-Author(s): Tessa Hendrickson†, Zeynab Aghabayli†, Prasanna Maharjan†, MD Afjalus Siraj*, Milan Prajapati*, S. Eric Nybo*

"*Balancing DEBS Subunit Expression and Precursor Supply for Macrolide Biosynthesis in Escherichia coli*"

124. Alyssa Menichino, Ferris State University **Pharmacology**

Co-Author(s): Xhesika Luarasi, Ruchita Bhavsar, Milan Prajapati, Sky T. Pike, Md Afjalus Siraj

"*Identify the role of the mitochondrial one-carbon metabolic pathway in chemoresistance of pancreatic ductal adenocarcinoma (PDAC)*"

125. Justin Smith, Ferris State University-College of Pharmacy **Pharmacology**
Co-Presenter(s): Maame Appiah

Co-Author(s): Md Afjalus Siraj

"*The role of normal and cancer-associated fibroblasts in gemcitabine resistance in PDAC*"

126. Uxía Suárez Fernández, Ferris State University **Pharmacology**

Co-Author(s): Md Afjalus Siraj

"*Pharmacological inhibition of the SMNDC1 Tudor domain in KRAS-mutant PDAC*"

127. Isaac Evans, Hope College **Physics**

Co-Author(s): Zachary Williams

"*Characterization of Resistive Magnetic Reconnection via Eigenmode Decomposition Analysis*"

128. Boston Bynum, Grand Valley State University **Physics**

Co-Author(s): Ibrahim Abdurrahman

"*R Process and Fission Theory*"

129. Benjamin Whitsett, Kalamazoo College **Physics**

"*Positioners at the Dark Energy Spectroscopic Instrument*"

130. Joseph Osborn, Grand Valley State University **Physics**

Co-Author(s): Dr. Karampagia

"*Nuclear radii and neutron skins in Ca, Ni, Sn, and Pb isotopes*"

131. Faith Lutz, Grand Valley State University **Physiology**

Co-Author(s): Dr. Frank Sylvester

"*Potential Physiologic Effects of Beta Vulgaris Proteins on Vascular Reactivity*"

132. Emma Gould, Hope College **Psychology**
Co-Presenter(s): Emma Gould and Lorraine Holtgren

Co-Author(s): Alyssa Cheadle, Anita Esquerra-Zwiers

"*Longitudinal Impact of MyMMMI Lactation Coach Program on Postpartum Depression, Anxiety, and Breastfeeding Duration*"



2026 VAN ANDEL INSTITUTE (VAI) STUDENT RESEARCH FELLOWS POSTER PRESENTERS

Even-numbered posters 134 (A-M) for VAI student research fellows will be featured in the DeVos Foundation Lobby near the Water Feature Area from 10:00-11:15 a.m.

A-134. Julie Celori, Purdue University **Cell and Molecular Biology**

Co-Author(s): Smitha George, Yvonne N. Fondufe-Mittendorf

"*Cellular Stress as a Regulator of SATB2 and circ3915 Stability in Bronchial Epithelial Cells*"

B-134. Cecilia Conrad, Saint Mary's College **Cell and Molecular Biology**

Co-Author(s): Lia Hooker, Tim J. Triche

"*In vitro characterization of melphalan response and cellular metabolism in multiple myeloma*"

C-134. Ariana Esquivel-Landero, Aquinas College **Biomedical Sciences**

Co-Author(s): Eduardo Perez-Mojica, Ph.D., Adelheid (Heidi) Lempradl, Ph.D.

"*The effect of domino mutations on ASD-relevant behavior phenotypes in Drosophila melanogaster*"

D-134. Griffin Hari, Olivet Nazarene University **Biology**

Co-Author(s): Brandon Estrem, Piroska E. Szabó

"*Investigating the Binding Affinity of Zinc Finger Protein, ZBTB16 to G-Quadruplex Structures*"

E-134. Akemi Hori, Olivet Nazarene University **Biology**

Co-Author(s): Krittika Sudhakar, Ph.D., Adelheid (Heidi) Lempradl, Ph.D.

"*Optimizing TDO inhibitor concentration in Drosophila intergenerational inheritance model*"

F-134. Ehicocho Idoko, Michigan State University **Cell and Molecular Biology**

Co-Author(s): Connie Krawczyk, Mya Gogh, Alex Swanson and Faith Boyer

"*Functional Characterization of KDM5C Variants Using Site-Directed Mutagenesis*"

G-134. Sonia Ling, University of Michigan **Bioinformatics**

Co-Author(s): Lia Hooker, Tim J. Triche

"*Investigating the impact of melphalan on the T cell compartment post autologous stem cell transplant* (ASCT) *for multiple myeloma*"

H-134. Jusmila Mazariegos Gonzalez, University of Michigan **Cell and Molecular Biology**

Co-Author(s): Hong Wen, Xiaobing Shi, Fan Xuan

"*Identification of Separation-of-Function KAT5 Mutants Selectively Defective in RNA Binding*"

I-134. Leah Meyer, Calvin University **Immunology**

Co-Author(s): Dominique Monroe, Yvonne N. Fondufe-Mittendorf

"*Developing a Model to Measure Histone-Mediated Immune Suppression in Triple Negative Breast Cancers*"

J-134. Lola Piper, Grand Valley State University **Cell and Molecular Biology**

Co-Author(s): Emma Baird, Derek H. Janssens

"*An Engineered Tn5 Variant Enhances CUT&Tag Fidelity for Transcription Factors*"

K-134. Lauren Tabor, Grand Valley State University **Biochemistry**

Co-Author(s): Dr. Chang Sun and Dr. Huilin Li

"*Development of a cleavable ALFA-tag nanobody affinity platform for rapid recombinant membrane protein isolation*"

L-134. Norah VanWingerden, Hillsdale College **Neuroscience**

Co-Author(s): Katelyn Ernst, Tim Bourassa, and Dr. Yang Yang

"*Structural Characterization of Neurodegenerative Disease Amyloids using Negative Stain Electron Microscopy, Cryo-Electron Microscopy, and Seeded Amplification Assays*"

M-134. Kaitlyn Weiss, Calvin University **Cell and Molecular Biology**

Co-Author(s): Rachel (Rae) J. House, Althea Waldhart, Evan C. Lien

"*Building a CRISPR Toolkit to Study Candidate Lipid Transport Proteins*"

INTERNSHIP AND EMPLOYMENT RECRUITER/REPRESENTATIVE CONTACT INFORMATION

PAGES 34-35

GENTEX CORPORATION

Informational Website: http://www.gentex.com
Online Application: https://gentex.wd5.myworkdayjobs.com/Gentex
Online Application Period: There are rolling job opportunities as positions become available

Gentex Corporation – Corporate Headquarters
600 North Centennial Street
Zeeland, MI 49464

Daniel Quintanilla, Director of Talent Programs
Email: dquintanilla@gentex.com | Telephone: 616-772-1800

Please contact Daniel Quintanilla via email regarding student opportunities with Gentex Corporation.

GRAND RAPIDS AFRICAN AMERICAN HEALTH INSTITUTE (GRAAHI)

Informational Website: https://graahi.org
Online Application and Application Deadline:
Application Deadline: Please visit our table/booth to learn more about opportunities with GRAAHI

Grand Rapids African American Health Institute
Suite 018
500 Lafayette Avenue, NE
Grand Rapids, MI 49503

Ashley Starr, Program Coordinator
Email Address: ashley.starr@graahi.org | Telephone Number: 616-331-5831

Dennis Triggs, Director of Pathways
Email Address: dennis.triggs@graahi.org | Telephone Number: 616-331-5832

Grand Rapids African American Health Institute recruiters/representatives will be available from 8:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m.

STEM GREENHOUSE

Informational Website and Online Application: https://stemgreenhouse.org
Undergraduate Internship Online Application Period: Rolling
Online Application and Process: Please visit our booth to learn more about the internship application process through https://stemgreenhouse.org/careers

STEM Greenhouse
3167 Kalamazoo Avenue SE
Suite 203
Grand Rapids, MI 49508

Dr. Keli Christopher, Founder and CEO
Email Address: keli@stemgreenhouse.org | Telephone Number: 616-570-0607

Grace Clark, Program & Administrative Coordinator
Email Address: info@stemgreenhouse.org | Telephone Number: 616-570-0607

STEM Greenhouse recruiters/representatives will be available from 9:00 a.m.-2:30 p.m.

VAN ANDEL INSTITUTE
Informational Website and Online Application: https://www.vai.org/ug-internships
Research Fellowship Application Period: December 1, 2026-February 1, 2027

Van Andel Institute
333 Bostwick Avenue, NE
Grand Rapids, MI 49503

Student Research Fellowship Committee
Email Address: undergrad@vai.edu | Telephone Number: 616-234-5581

Van Andel Institute recruiters/representatives will be available from 8:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m.

2027 Student Research Fellowship | Zoom Informational Meetings
To learn more about the 2027 Student Research Fellowship with Van Andel Institute, join one of our informational Zoom meetings. Registration in advance is required.
Visit, https://www.vai.org/internships

VAN ANDEL INSTITUTE **STUDENT RESEARCH OPPORTUNITIES**

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UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH

Open to undergraduate students enrolled in a science-related degree program.

GUEST STUDENT PROGRAM

Open to students enrolled in science-related degree programs seeking academic credit from their home institution for their research experience with VAI.

QUESTIONS: undergrad@vai.edu



EDUCATIONAL RECRUITER CONTACT INFORMATION

PAGES 36-42

FERRIS STATE UNIVERSITY-COLLEGE OF PHARMACY
Informational Website: https://www.ferris.edu/pharmacy
Online Application: https://www.ferris.edu/pharmacy/admissions/apply.htm
Or scan the QR Code below the Ferris logo to access application link
Application Deadline: June 1, 2027

Ferris State University-College of Pharmacy
Pharmacy Building
220 Ferris Drive
Big Rapids, MI 49307

Stephen Durst, PharmD, Dean, College of Pharmacy
Email Address: dursts@ferris.edu | Telephone Number: 231-591-2254

Thomas Dowling, PharmD, Ph.D., Assistant Dean for Research
Email Address: thomasdowling@ferris.edu | Telephone: Number 616-643-1139

Rodney Larson, Ph.D., R.Ph., Assistant Dean of Academics Affairs
Email Address: larsonR@ferris.edu | Telephone Number: 231-250-7675

College of Pharmacy recruiters/representatives will be available from 8:00 a.m.-3:30 p.m.



GRAND VALLEY STATE UNIVERSITY-BIOMEDICAL SCIENCES, M.H.S. PROGRAM
Informational Website: https://www.gvsu.edu/bms/biomedical-sciences-mhs-66
Online Application: https://apply.gvsu.edu/portal/gr_app
Application Deadline: April 1, 2027

Grand Valley State University
Biomedical Sciences, M.H.S | 321 Henry Hall
1 Campus Drive
Allendale, MI 49401

Kristin Renkema, Ph.D., Graduate Program Director
Email Address: renkemak@gvsu.edu | Telephone Number: 616-331-4307

Grand Valley State University Biomedical Sciences, M.H.S. recruiters/representatives will be available from 8:15-9:15 a.m., 10-11:15 a.m. and 1:00-2:30 p.m.

GRAND VALLEY STATE UNIVERSITY-CELL AND MOLECULAR BIOLOGY
Informational Website: https://www.gvsu.edu/cmb
Online Application: https://apply.gvsu.edu/portal/gr_app
Application Deadline: To be assured of admission consideration, GVSU recommends submitting your application and all supporting documents one to two months before the semester you wish to enter.

Grand Valley State University
Cell and Molecular Biology
1 Campus Drive
Allendale, MI 49401

Matthew Christians, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Cell and Molecular Biology
Email Address: christmi@gvsu.edu | Telephone Number: 616-331-8974

Grand Valley State University Cell and Molecular Biology recruiters/representatives will be available from 8:15 a.m.-2:30 p.m.

GRAND VALLEY STATE UNIVERSITY-COLLEGE OF COMPUTING
Informational Website: https://www.gvsu.edu/computing
Online Application: https://gvsu.edu/apply
Application Deadline: Dependent on College of Computing program

Grand Valley State University
College of Computing
MAK C-2-211
1 Campus Drive
Allendale, MI 49401

Erin Carrier, Ph.D., Director of Student Success and Engagement
Email Address: carrieer@gvsu.edu | Telephone Number: 616-331-2439

Robert Adams, Ph.D., Associate Dean for Graduate Education
Email Address: adamsr@gvsu.edu | Telephone Number: 616-331-3885

Grand Valley State University College of Computing recruiters/representatives will be available from 8:30 a.m.-12 p.m., 12:30 p.m.- 2:30 p.m.

INDIANA UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF MEDICINE
Informational Website: https://medicine.iu.edu
Online Application: https://admissions.graduate.iu.edu/apply
Application Deadline: November 1, 2027

Indiana University School of Medicine
635 N. Barnhill Drive | MS 164
Indianapolis, IN 46202

Jessie Pearson, Recruitment Associate
Email Address: pearsjem@iu.edu | Telephone Number: 317-274-8719

Indiana University School of Medicine recruiters/representatives will be available from 8:15 a.m.-2:30 p.m.

JOHNS HOPKINS BLOOMBERG SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH
Informational Website: https://publichealth.jhu.edu/
Online Application: https://publichealth.jhu.edu/offices-and-services/office-of-admissions-services/how-to-apply/application-deadlines
Deadlines: Various | Visit Admissions application deadline website above

Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health
Office of Admissions
615 N. Wolfe Street, E1002
Baltimore, MD 21205

Office of Admissions
Email Address: bsph.admissions@jhu.edu | Telephone Number: 410-955-3543

Noelle Briones Vargas, MHS, Ph.D., Director of Graduate Education, Department of Epidemiology
Email Address: nbrione1@jh.edu | Telephone Number: 667-306-8876
Pronouns: she/her/hers

Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health recruiters/representatives will be available from 8:15 a.m.-2:30 p.m.

MEHARRY MEDICAL COLLEGE
Informational Website: https://meharry.edu/academics/schools/school-of-graduate-studies/
Online Application: https://meharry.edu/academics/schools/school-of-graduate-studies/admissions-and-aid/
Application Deadline: December 15, 2026



Meharry Medical College
1005 Dr Db Todd Jr Blvd
Nashville, TN 37208-3501

Nicolle Patterson, M.S., Assistant Dean for Student Affairs
Email Address: npatterson@mmc.edu | Telephone Number: 832-439-0100

Pius N. Nde, Ph.D., Associate Professor, Director, PhD Program, Department of Biomedical Sciences
Email Address: pnde@mmc.edu | Telephone Number: 615-327-6997

Meharry Medical College recruiters/representatives will be available from 8:15 a.m.-2:30 p.m.

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY-COLLEGE OF HUMAN MEDICINE
Informational Website: https://humanmedicine.msu.edu/
Online Application: https://chmadmissions.msu.edu/
Deadlines:

- MD/PhD AMCAS | September 1
- MD/PhD Secondary | October 1
- Regular MD AMCAS | October 15
- Regular MD Secondary | November 30

Michigan State University-College of Human Medicine
15 Michigan St. NE
Grand Rapids, MI 49503

Molly Monet, MSU CHM Admissions Counselor
Email Address: monetmol@msu.edu | Telephone Number: 616-234-2676

Cindy Grove Arvidson, Ph.D., MSU-CHM MD/Ph.D. Program Director
Email Address: arvidso3@msu.edu | Telephone Number: 616-234-2676

MSU-College of Human Medicine recruiters/representatives will be available from 8:15 a.m.-2:30 p.m.



RENSSELAER POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE
Informational Website: https://gradadmissions.rpi.edu
Online Application: https://gradadmissions.rpi.edu/deadlines-and-requirements
Application Deadline: Fall 2027 Academic Year

- Ph.D. | December 15, 2026
- Master's | March 1, 2027

Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute
Graduate Admissions
110 8th St
Troy, NY 12180

Aiden McRoberts, Assistant Director Graduate Admissions
Email Address: mcroba@rpi.edu | Telephone Number: 518-276-3062

Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute recruiters/representatives will be available from 8:15 a.m.-2:30 p.m.

UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN-MEDICAL SCHOOL
MOLECULAR AND CELLULAR PATHOLOGY (MCP) GRADUATE PROGRAM
Informational Website: https://www.pathology.med.umich.edu/phd-program
Online Application: See link below
https://www.pathology.med.umich.edu/phd-program/prospective-students
Application Deadline: December 1, 2026

University Of Michigan-Molecular and Cellular Pathology Graduate Program
NI6A11 300 NIB
300 North Ingalls Street
Ann Arbor, MI 48109-5416

Jean-Francois (Jeff) Rual, Ph.D., Associate Professor - UM MCP Graduate Program
Email Address: jrual@umich.edu | Telephone Number: 734-764-6975

University of Michigan Medical School Molecular and Cellular Pathology Graduate Program recruiters/representatives will be available from 8:15 a.m.-2:30 p.m.

UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN-MEDICAL SCHOOL
PROGRAM IN BIOMEDICAL SCIENCES
Informational Website: https://medschool.umich.edu/programs-admissions/phd-programs
Online Application: See link below
https://shibbolethidp.collegenet.com/idp/profile/SAML2/Redirect/SSO?execution=e1s1
Application Deadline: December 1, 2026

University of Michigan-Medical School
Program in Biomedical Sciences
2960 Taubman Health Sciences
1135 Catherine Street
Ann Arbor, MI 48109

Patrick Schrader, Graduate Enrollment Manager
Email Address: pcshrade@umich.edu | Telephone Number: 734-615-1581

Kelyah Spurgeon, MCDB Ph.D. Candidate
Email Address: kelyahs@umich.edu | Telephone Number: 734-615-1581

University of Michigan Medical School Program in Biomedical Science recruiters/representatives will be available from 8:15 a.m.-2:30 p.m.

UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN-SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH
Informational Website and Online Application: https://sph.umich.edu
Application deadline: See details and link below
Varies by program | visit https://sph.umich.edu/admissions/applications-deadlines.html for program deadline dates

University of Michigan School of Public Health
1415 Washington Heights
Ann Arbor, MI 48109

Lynn Douglass, Graduate Recruitment Lead
Email Address: lynndoug@umich.edu

University of Michigan Public Health recruiters/representatives will be available from 8:15 a.m.-2:30 p.m.

UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS MEDICAL BRANCH-GRADUATE SCHOOL OF BIOMEDICAL SCIENCES (GSBS)
Informational Website: https://gsbs.utmb.edu
Online Application: https://gsbs.utmb.edu/prospective-students/ps-home#apply-now
Application Deadline: January 8, 2027

University of Texas Medical Branch
Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences (GSBS)
Levin Hall 4.412
301 University Boulevard
Galveston, TX 77555-1050

Trea Smith, Recruiter
Email Address: TreSmith@utmb.edu | Telephone Number: 409-772-5488

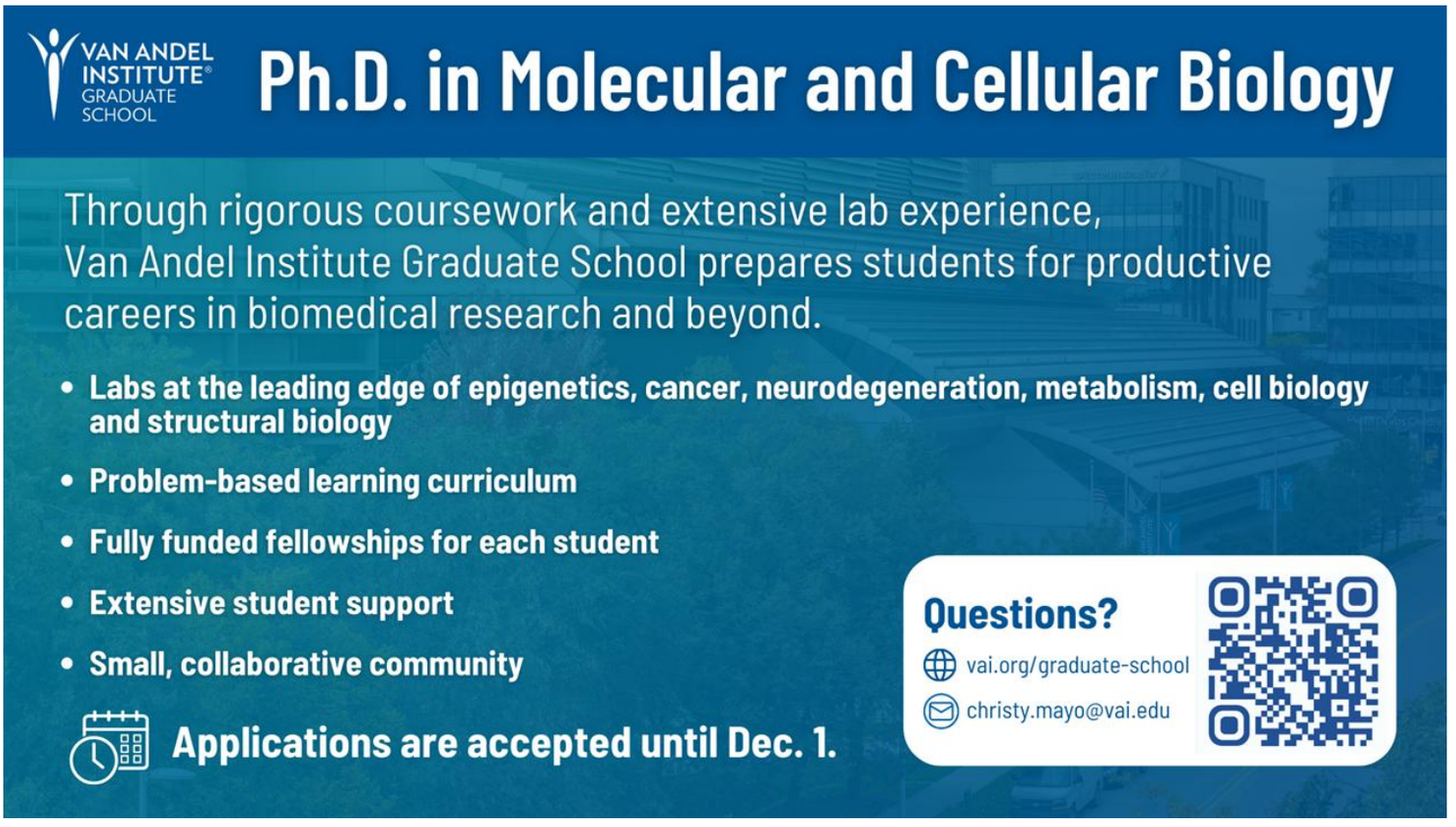
University of Texas Medical Branch – Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences recruiters/representatives will be available from 8:15 a.m.-2:30 p.m.

VAN ANDEL INSTITUTE GRADUATE SCHOOL
Informational Website: https://www.vai.org/graduate-school
Online Application: https://www.vai.org/graduate-school/admissions
Application Deadline: December 1, 2026

Van Andel Institute Graduate School
333 Bostwick Avenue, NE
Grand Rapids, MI 49503

Christy Mayo, Director of Enrollment and Records
Email Address: christy.mayo@vai.edu | Telephone Number: 616-234-5722

Van Andel Institute Graduate School recruiters/representatives will be available from 8:00 a.m.-2:30 p.m.



WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY-GRADUATE COLLLEGE
Informational Website: https://wmich.edu/grad
Online Application: https://wmich.edu/grad/apply
Application Deadlines: Varies; see deadline dates: https://wmich.edu/grad/program-allprograms

Western Michigan University
1903 W. Michigan Avenue
Kalamazoo, MI 49008

Dr. Malia Roberts, Director of Graduate Enrollment
Email Address: malia.roberts@wmich.edu | Telephone Number: 269-387-8212

Western Michigan University representatives will be available from 8:15 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY-HOMER STRYKER MD SCHOOL OF MEDICINE
Informational Website: https://wmed.edu
Online Application: https://wmed.edu/app
Application Deadline: November 15, 2026

Scan QR Code below to learn more about Western Michigan University Homer Stryker MD School of Medicine

Western Michigan University Homer Stryker MD School of Medicine
300 Portage St
Kalamazoo, MI 49007

Anna Zblewski, Manager of Admissions
Email Address: admissions@wmed.edu | Telephone Number: 269-337-6103

Western Michigan University Homer Stryker MD School of Medicine recruiters/representatives will be available from 10:00 a.m.-2:30 p.m.

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Homer Stryker M.D.
SCHOOL OF MEDICINE


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