



# MIMG Commencement: Celebrating the Class of 2024

## Celebrating the Class of 2024

Welcome to the Microbiology, Immunology, and Molecular Genetics (MIMG) departmental commencement ceremony. Today, we gather to honor the remarkable achievements of our graduates as they embark on the next phase of their academic and professional journeys. Throughout their time with us, these exceptional individuals have demonstrated a profound dedication to scientific inquiry and a commitment to advancing knowledge in the fields of MIMG. Join us in celebrating their accomplishments and wishing them continued success in their future endeavors.

**June 16, 2024**

**1:00 P.M.**

**Drake Stadium, UCLA**

# Order of Ceremony

- **Preliminary Announcements:**

Amanda Freise, Ph.D.

- **Welcome Address**

Jerome Zack, Ph.D., Department Chair

- **Student Address**

Sasha Anand, B.S. '24

- **Faculty Address**

Melody Li, Ph.D.

- **PhD Hooding**

Elissa Hallem, Ph.D., Vice Chair of Graduate Studies

- **Recognition of Departmental Honors Students**

Oliver Fregoso, Ph.D.

- **Presentation of Graduating Class of 2024**

April Pyle, Ph.D., Vice Chair of Undergraduate Studies

Zoran Galic, Ph.D.

- **Closing Remarks**

Jerome Zack, Ph.D., Department Chair

# Class of 2024

## Ph.D. Recipients:

### **Peggie Jane Chien**

Dissertation: *Mapping Human Skeletal Muscle Development to Guide In Vitro Myogenesis*

Advised by April Pyle, Ph.D.

### **Melanie Aguirre Dimapasoc**

Dissertation: *Characterizing the Effects of PKC Modulator HIV Latency Reversing Agents on Kick and Kill Strategies*

Advised by Jerome Zack, Ph.D.

### **Joon S. Kang**

Dissertation: *Investigating Air-Water Interface Adsorption Phenomenon and the Architectural Organization of Pleomorphic Virus*

Advised by Z. Hong Zhou, Ph.D.

### **Emily Yang**

Dissertation: *Ubiquitination and RNA Binding in the Host Antiviral Response to Alphaviruses*

Advised by Melody Li, Ph.D., Class of 2022

### **Vivian Yang**

Dissertation: *Discovery and Characterization of NCS95397 as a Novel HIV Latency Reversing Agent*

Advised by Oliver Fregoso, Ph.D.

## M.S. Recipients

### **Mohammad Alam**

Thesis: *Exploring the Intracellular Dynamics and Viral Interactome of the Ubiquitin Ligase Adaptor Protein DCAF1*

Advised by Oliver Fregoso, Ph.D.

### **Nina Gilshteyn**

Thesis: *The Biology is in the Tails: Skewness and Upregulation in scRNAseq*

Advised by Eric J. Deeds, Ph.D.

# Class of 2024

## Departmental Honors B.S. Recipients:

### **Praneel Bonthala**

Honors Thesis: *Acetate Drives Fibrosis in Ileal but not Cecal Tissue in Wild-Type Mice under SPF Conditions*

Faculty Mentor: Jonathan P. Jacobs, Ph.D.

### **Rachel Dove**

Honors Thesis: *Creating a Novel Cancer Model from Induced Pluripotent Stem Cells to Investigate Human Prostate-Immune Cell Interactions*

Faculty Mentor: Andrew Goldstein, Ph.D.

### **Fujia Guo**

Honors Thesis: *In Vivo Efficacy and Pharmacokinetic/Pharmacodynamic Modeling of IL-15 Armored CAR-MAIT Cells in Solid Tumor Xenografted Mice*

Faculty Mentor: Lili Yang, Ph.D.

### **Saanika Joshi**

Honors Thesis: *Profiling Bi-Specific Broadly Neutralizing Antibody Efficacy Against HIV Variants*

Faculty Mentor: Otto Yang, Ph.D.

### **Youstina Labib**

Honors Thesis: *Bleomycin-Induced Idiopathic Pulmonary Fibrosis Drives Anatomic, Neurochemical, and Immune Remodeling of Heart- and Lunge-Projecting Stellate Ganglion Neurons*

Faculty Mentors: Olujimi A. Ajijola, Ph.D., and Alexander Hoffman, Ph.D.

### **Leo Naylor**

Honors Thesis: *Assembly and Maintenance of Trypanosoma Brucei Microtubule Inner Proteins*

Faculty Mentor: Kent Hill, Ph.D.

# Class of 2024

## B.S. Recipients:

Austin Leon Aguirre  
Adila Ahmed  
Simrah Ahmed  
Mrudula Akkinepally  
Tarissa Ines Almeida  
Sasha Anand  
Alexis Arredondo  
Albert Maher Atalla  
Michael Atalla  
Alexandra Alyssa Aves  
Emma Barrall  
Taylor Hauoli Basso  
Khushi Bhatt  
Aryan Bhattarai  
Hanna Bidzan  
Emma Susanne Blakely  
Praneel Bonthala  
Francesca Borchardt  
Zoe Briquet Miller  
Rebecca Anne Brown  
Jessica Michelle Buch  
Chris Carmichael  
Julianna Marie Carnes  
Sebastian Castellanos  
Rose Wen Chan  
Amanda Chang  
Tan Chau  
Jaelin Chen  
Yijia Chen  
Yun Su Choi  
Truman Chong  
Leonides Alfredo Cigarroa  
Monjov Singh Claire  
Nicole Annya Critzer  
Sharlyn Sanchez Cunanan  
Madeline Cyr  
Danielle Dagdagan

Mila Daniel  
Kayla Davis  
Arieanne De Guzman  
Sebastian Leonardo Tani Diaz  
Holly Jasmine Do  
Katherine Alice Douglas  
Qaiss Mahmood Dweik  
Mariam Ebrahimi  
Andrea Louise Cabingan Eguico  
Sophia Ava Esherick  
Charli Espinoza  
Julia Gabrielle Estampa  
Oscar Ivan Estrada  
Ying Fang  
Cheyenne Faulkner  
Yvonne Foo  
Hannah Rose Gallagher  
Sabrina Galvan  
Isabella Amalie Garcia  
Sofia Garcia  
Juliana Alexa Girdner  
Alessia Maria Giusti  
Tiffany Xiaojun Guan  
Fujia Guo  
Jeffrey Hablewitz  
William Peter Harvey  
Sarah Akemi Hernandez  
Jyotsna Hiranandani  
George Hitti  
Hanna Hoang  
Darren Hon  
Ryan Hosford  
David Alexander Huerta  
Megan Elisabeth Hulsy  
Neeti Indiresan

# Class of 2024

Ariana Infante  
Sarisha Malaika Jacobs  
Geethika Janga  
Tara Singh Jekat  
Parinita Jithendra  
Colin Juett  
Kira Ann Kalliomaa  
Alix Min Kang  
Sricharan Kannan  
Ananya Katappagari  
Anoushka Kathiravan  
Satya Kethineni  
Kyra Kho  
Kamille Ria Kibria  
Abby Kim  
Cindy Jiwoo Kim  
James Joon Kim  
Luna Yeeji Kim  
Andreas Krumbein  
Ryan Laureano  
Vivian Dinh Le  
Ryan Lee  
Kevin Li  
Edwin Liang  
Jaimie Madeleine Lim  
Madeline Ashby Louie  
Jianwen Lu  
Tony Luu  
Cindy Ly  
Saineha Maddineni  
Rudy Anirudh Mahadev  
Daniel Mahmoudi  
Esteffani Maldonado  
Kyle Martin  
Yusef Mathkour  
Serena Medina  
Cynthia Mehrabi  
Gianpiero Monreal  
Joshua Moore

Sana Noor Nizam  
Joey Hikari Okumura  
Cameron Jonathan Ong  
Geovanna Ordoñez  
Emine Ozer  
Jayasree Naaga Peri  
Truc Thuy Pham  
Kirthana Pisipati  
Sofia Katharine Potter  
Kaley Qin  
Percy James Raggi  
John “Jack” Spencer Gordon Alton Reid  
Ketan Leonard Richard  
Emma Richards  
Kaitlin Josephine Ryan  
Ariana Sacristan  
Tigran Sahakyan  
Juan Carlos Salinas Piñon  
Vaishnavi Samudrala  
Kayla Nicole Sánchez  
Alicia Jennifer Sanoyca  
Cristal Santaolaya Lopez  
Elisha Anne Asistio Santos  
Arielle Rebecca Sass  
Arnav Saud  
Quentin Lee Scarborough  
Savannah Scriven  
Rutu Bhavesh Shah  
Sarah Shao  
Simer Shera  
Jessica Soan  
Cassie Spencer  
Rohit Srinivas  
Shrinidhy Srinivas  
Lexi Tempura  
Nathan To  
Michella Tran  
Lê Uyên Trịnh  
Shareef Tubeileh

# Class of 2024

**Nina Marie Valente**  
**Rey Valui**  
**Lauren Vanderpool**  
**Gillian Elizabeth Varnum**  
**Eunice Vazquez Paredes**  
**Jordan Jeffrey Wang**  
**Felicia Wei**  
**Mordecai Wesenachin**  
**Logan Taylor White**  
**Gabriel Wolf**  
**Michael Wong**  
**Lauren Claire Woodward**  
**Grace Feike Wu**  
**Emma Yang**  
**Olivia Yang**  
**Alice Yao**  
**Jiayu Yao**  
**Poom Lekparsong Yoodee**  
**Courtney Shigeyo Young**  
**Alexandra Zamora**  
**Samuel Zamora Covarrubias**  
**Evelin Zaragoza**