



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

UCLA

College | Life Sciences

**Microbiology, Immunology
& Molecular Genetics**

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
Aaliyah Nyairah Pritchett
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

Class of 2024

Shareef Tubeileh
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