









Graduate Program in Genetics: 2024 Entering Class

	<p>Alexander Cicala: Alex graduated with a B.S. In Molecular Biology from UW-Madison in 2020, before working in Dr. Fotis Asimakopoulos' laboratory studying the role of extracellular stromal remodeling on the immune microenvironment of tumors at UCSD. He joined the MSTP at Stony Brook in 2022 and is now completing his dissertation research in the lab of Dr. Peter Westcott at CSHL. Likes: Sports, reading, coffee</p>
	<p>Sogol Ghanbari: Sogol was so highly interested in Genetics that she earned both her Bachelor's and Master's degrees in this field. During her master's thesis at Tarbiat Modares University in Iran, she worked on non-coding RNAs to find and validate a great internal control for miRNA qRT-PCR experiments in breast cancer using TCGA miRNA-seq data. She then worked as an R&D manager in a genetics laboratory to help prevent cancer in susceptible people by having a personalized healthy lifestyle dictated by their genomes. Now she wants to pursue her doctorate at Stony Brook University in the field of cancer diagnosis. Likes: Dancing, traveling, cooking, hot tea, and Persian foods</p>
	<p>Rohini Guin: Rohini graduated from Emory University with a B.S. in Biology, where she conducted personalized vaccine research with Dr. Periasamy Selvaraj. She went on to complete a post-baccalaureate fellowship at the NIH with Dr. Beverly Mock, looking at the role of mTOR complexes across cancers and GVHD. She joined the MSTP in 2022 and is completing dissertation research with Dr. Tobias Janowitz, looking at the role of combination diet and pharmacology in expanding the therapeutic window for cancer treatment. Likes: Reading, hiking, oil painting</p>
	<p>Jason Harper: Jason graduated from Stony Brook University with a Bachelor's in Biochemistry in 2024. During his undergraduate career, he studied keratin 17's role in the tumor microenvironment in Dr. Joel Saltz's lab, as well as the role of sphingolipids in the oncogenicity of KRas-transformed rat intestinal epithelial cells in Dr. Yusuf Hannun's lab. He is interested in studying epigenetics, particularly its role(s) in cancer. Likes: Sketching, badminton, book reading, LEGOs, watching basketball/baseball, and playing with my puppy.</p>
	<p>Paige Henderson: Paige just finished her BS in biology with a statistics minor at Muhlenberg College, where she worked in a behavioral neuroscience lab looking at bumblebee odor preference and perception. She is excited to be at Stony Brook to learn more about genetics and its relation to human disease. Likes: Music, baking, tea, reading, and dancing (I've done ballet most of my life!)</p>

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	<p>Shareef Khalid: Shareef graduated with a B.S in Biology from LUMS in Lahore Pakistan in 2016, followed by an M.S in Bioinformatics from Georgia Institute of Technology. He has worked in academia and pharma on using human genetics to understand how genetic variation can modulate the risk of diseases and help us develop safer therapeutics. He's interested in evolutionary biology, understanding how selective pressures have shaped our genomes.</p> <p>Likes: NBA and Broadway musicals</p>
	<p>Hamidreza Khodajou Masouleh: After graduating with a B.Sc. in Biology-Animal Sciences from the University of Guilan in 2015, Hamidreza continued his studies in the Biochemistry Master's Program at Kharazmi University and earned his M.Sc. in 2018. For his master's thesis, he worked on herbal bioactive compounds, cancer chemoprevention, and discovering natural-based remedies against hepatocellular carcinoma. Being fascinated with exploring new approaches in cancer treatment, Hamidreza is highly interested in cancer epigenetics, where he believes the future of personalized cancer therapy lies.</p> <p>Likes: Soccer, hiking, swimming, jogging, reading, and thriller movies</p>
	<p>Nguyen Minh Thy (Trace) Le: Trace graduated with a BS in Biochemistry and a BA in Computer Science from Knox College, Illinois in 2024. While at Knox, she studied the regeneration of a single-celled organism called <i>S. coeruleus</i> and did an honors thesis on microRNA functions in cnidaria.</p> <p>Like: Tea and coffee, swimming, watching documentaries, and comic books.</p>