Students Graduating with Distinction in Biology

Alexander Advani, Fibroblast differences between humans and chimpanzees (Dr. Gregory Wray, Department of Biology)

Shilpa Agrawal, Factors Associated with Heterocellular Aggregate Formation in Sickle Cell Disease (Dr. Marilyn Telen, Department of Medicine, Division of Hematology, Duke University School of Medicine)

Jawara Allen, The Effect of SNPs in PD Associated Genes on Lewy Body Pathology (Dr. Orrat Chiba-Falek, Duke Institute for Genome Sciences and Policy and Duke Department of Medicine, Division of Neurology, Duke University School of Medicine)

Victoria Arendt, Automatic detection of crown roots in Zea mays root system models using logistic regression (Dr. Philip Benfey, Department of Biology)

Monica Bhutiani, Intestinal Expression of DMT1-IRE in Iron Deficient Mice (Dr. Nancy C. Andrews, Department of Pharmacology and Cancer Biology, Duke University Medical Center)

Camila Caceres, Trust Formation in Domestic Dogs (Dr. Brian Hare, Department of Evolutionary Anthropology, Duke University)

Meredith Chase, Analysis of Genomic DNase I Hypersensitivity and Gene Regulation (Dr. Greg Crawford, Department of Pediatrics, Duke University School of Medicine)

Molly Cinderella, Regulation of Size and Shape During Wing Development in Manduca sexta (Dr. H.F. Nijhout, Department of Biology)

Kiki Contreras, Effects of biotic and abiotic environments on the distribution, growth and mortality of juvenile clams in the San Juan Islands, WA. (Dr. Megan Dethier, University of Washington Friday Harbor Laboratory and Dr. Justin Wright, Department of Biology, Duke University)

Rupen Desai, Uncovering a Gene Regulatory Network in Arabidopsis Root Ground Tissue (Dr. Philip Benfey, Department of Biology)

Gabriella DiMarco, Characterization of the binding capacity of antibodies to Env expressed on HIV-1-infected cells (Dr. Guido Ferrari, Department of Surgery, Duke University School of Medicine)

Yi (Peter) Dong, In vitro and in vivo approaches for correlating odorant receptor selectivity to axon guidance in mice (Dr. Hiroaki Matsunami, Department of Molecular Genetics and Microbiology, Duke University Medical Center)

Avi Ettyreddy, Isoform specific antibodies against the FGFR2 receptor have prognostic, predictive, and therapeutic applications in the treatment of human cancers (Dr. Mariano Garcia Blanco, Department of Molecular Genetics and Microbiology, Duke University Medical Center)

Kelsey K. Finn, Calcineurin and the 1,3-β-glucan synthase complex of Aspergillus fumigatus (Dr. William J. Steinbach, Department of Molecular Genetics and Microbiology, Duke University Medical Center)

Jazmin Garcia, Sea Turtle Brumation: Does temperature or time of year affect dive depth and duration in loggerhead sea turtle (Caretta caretta)? (Dr. Dan Rittschof, Duke University Marine Lab)

Molly Grace*, Songbird communication in a noisy world: potential benefits of complex notes (Dr. Stephen Nowicki, Department of Biology)

Adam Gross, Making Scents: Olfactory Communication in Hormonally Suppressed Ring-Tailed Lemurs (Dr. Christine Drea, Departments of Biology and Evolutionary Anthropology)

Lisa V Grossman, How do cancer cells stick together? A mechanism of adhesion in an Epstein-Barr-virus-driven B cell cancer model (Dr. Micah A Luftig, Department of Molecular Genetics and Microbiology, Duke University Medical Center)

Ben Hoover, RNA binding dependent localization of HuR (Dr. Jack Keene, Department of Molecular Genetics and Microbiology, Duke University Medical Center)

Alixandra J. Jacobson*, Population Genetics of Deep-Sea Limpets from Hydrothermal Vents in the Southwestern Pacific (Dr. Cindy L. Van Dover, Duke University Marine Laboratory)

Kylie Kang, Exploring the therapeutic application of novel secreted protein cardiotrophin-1 (CT-1) on hematopoietic stem cell regeneration (Drs. Jeffrey R. Harris and John P. Chute, Department of Medicine, Division of Cellular Therapy, Duke University School of Medicine)

Jason Chesler Klein*, Alternative Splicing of ERG in Epithelial-Mesenchymal Transition (Dr. David McClay, Department of Biology)

Jenny (Jing) Li, Identification of the medulloblastoma oncogene OTX2 as a novel therapeutic target in the malignant childhood tumor retinoblastoma (Dr. Cory Adamson, Department of Surgery (Neurosurgery), Duke University School of Medicine)

Temistocles Molinar Jr., Indirect effects of salinity on algal productivity in a restored wetland on the North Carolina coastal plain (Dr. Emily Bernhardt, Department of Biology)

Allyson M. Morton, Novel interactions between the type III TGF-beta receptor and noncanonical pathways in breast cancer (Dr. Gerard Blobe, Departments of Medicine, Pharmacology and Cancer Biology)

Michael Murphey, The “Delay of Germination 1” Gene: a Dormancy Control Mechanism in Arabidopsis thaliana Mediated by Temperature (Dr. Kathleen Donohue, Department of Biology)
Mai Nakamura, ex vivo and in vivo Expansion of Human Umbilical Cord Blood Stem Cells with Pleiotrophin (Dr. John P. Chute, Department of Pharmacology and Cancer Biology, Duke University Medical Center)

Vinayak Nikam, SP-A attenuates the pulmonary immune response to Mycoplasma membrane (Drs. Julie Ledford and Jo Rae Wright, Division of Pulmonary, Allergy and Critical Care Medicine, Department of Medicine, Duke University School of Medicine)

Jamie Peeler, Trait plasticity of tree species in response to changing disturbance regimes in the Kruger National Park (Karen Vickers, Organization for Tropical Studies and Dr. Justin Wright, Duke University Biology Department)

Ellie Proussaloglou*, Identification of Prognostic and Predictive Biomarkers for Colorectal Cancer (Dr. David Hsu, Division of Medical Oncology, Duke University School of Medicine; Institute for Genome Science and Policy)

Sunny Qiu, Characterization of Motor Impairment in Mouse Models of Dystonia (Dr. Nicole Calakos, Department of Neurobiology, Duke University Medical Center)

Amit K. Reddy, Identification of residues involved in the dimerization of the Arabidopsis phytochrome B histidine kinase-related domain (Dr. Meng Chen, Department of Biology)

Teresa Ro, Recombinant Expression and Purification of Human Exonuclease 1 N-terminal and C-terminal Constructs (Dr. Lorena S. Beese, Department of Biochemistry, Duke University Medical Center)

John Roberson, Identification of MicroRNAs Affected by the TGFβ Pathway in Breast Cancer Metastasis (Dr. Xiao-Fan Wang, Department of Pharmacology and Cancer Biology, Duke University Medical Center)

Taylor Robinson, Blunted hypothermic response to 5-HT1A receptor stimulation: A biomarker of serotonin deficiency in depression? (Dr. Marc G Caron, Department of Cell Biology, Duke University Medical Center)

Brandon Ruderman, Epigenetic Maintenance and Inheritance of Heterochromatin in Fission Yeast (Dr. Huntington F. Willard, Duke Institute for Genome Sciences & Policy and Department of Biology)

Tiff Shao, Sticking tags onto whales: adhesive properties of different materials (Dr. Dan Rittschof, Duke University Marine Lab)

Arun Sharma, A Novel Interaction between Endoglin and p38 MAPK Regulates Endothelial Cell Migration during Angiogenesis (Dr. Gerard Blobe, Department of Pharmacology and Cancer Biology, Duke University Medical Center)

Nari Sohn, Are Oysters and Blue Crabs from North Carolina Safe to Eat? (Dr. Daniel Rittschof, Department of Biology)

Katharine Sourbeer, A Model to Predict Cold-Stunning in Green Sea Turtles (Chelonia mydas) in North Carolina Sea Grass Beds (Dr. Dan Rittschof, Duke University Marine Laboratory)

Bo Sun*, Gene Network Regulation of Outer Membrane Vesiculation in Escherichia coli (Dr. Meta Keuhn, Department of Biochemistry, Duke University Medical Center)

Kathie Sun*, Analysis of the subcellular localization of GFP-tagged accessory subunit variants of DNA polymerase γ associated with mitochondrial disease (Dr. William C. Copeland, Mitochondrial DNA Replication Group, National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences)

Tay Rong En, Positive Feedback – A Means Of Maintaining The Robustness Of Cell-cycle Oscillations? (Dr. Steven B. Haase, Department of Biology)

Allison C. Umfress, A model for the development of Chronic Traumatic Encephalopathy following repetitive head injury (Dr. Hana N. Dawson, Division of Neurology, Department of Medicine, Duke University School of Medicine)

Nikolaos A. Valilis†, End of Life Healthcare Resource Allocation Preferences in Cohorts of Duke Students and Parents (Dr. Donald Taylor, Sanford School of Public Policy, Duke University)

Faith Villanueva, Formin inf-1 polarizes the anchor cell during invasion in C. elegans (Dr. David Sherwood, Department of Biology)

Kristie Vu, The Role of TβRIII Ectodomain Shedding in Regulating TGFβ Signaling in Breast Cancer (Dr. Gerard Blobe, Departments of Medicine, Pharmacology and Cancer Biology, Duke University Medical Center)

Cynthia Wang, Elucidating IL-12 Secretion in Dendritic Cell and Tumor Fusion Cells with Implications for a New Cancer Vaccine (Dr. Walter Lee, Department of Surgery, Duke University School of Medicine)

Tun Jan Young, Fine-scale spatial density modelling of humpback whales (Megaptera novaeangliae) in the inshore waters of the Western Antarctic Peninsula during the late autumn. (Dr. David W. Johnston, Duke University Marine Lab)

Xiaopei Lily Zeng, The role of BMP, FGF8, and Notch signaling pathways in embryonic cardiac arterial pole development (Dr. Mary Hutson, Department of Pediatrics, Duke University School of Medicine)

Kristie Vu, The Role of TβRIII Ectodomain Shedding in Regulating TGFβ Signaling in Breast Cancer (Dr. Gerard Blobe, Departments of Medicine, Pharmacology and Cancer Biology, Duke University Medical Center)

Aimee Zhang*, A high-resolution genome-wide mapping of mitotic recombination events in Saccharomyces cerevisiae with the rad3-102 mutation (Dr. Tom Petes, Department of Molecular Genetics and Microbiology, Duke University Medical Center)

Alice Zhang†, Nutrition of Resettled Bhutanese Refugee Children in the Durham and Raleigh area (Dr. Suzanne Shanahan, Kenan Institute for Ethics, Duke University)

*High Distinction
†Graduation with Distinction (not within a major)