Congratulations to the thirty-five UConn undergraduates offered SURF Awards for Summer 2015! These students were selected from an exceptionally strong group of applicants representing a wide range of areas of academic inquiry.

Thank you to the research advisors and other faculty members who supported SURF applicants, to the faculty who served on the selection committee, and to the many generous supporters who make this program possible.

1. **Omar Allem, Chemistry (2016)**  
   Project Title: *Self-Healing Double Network Hydrogels*  
   Faculty Mentor: Dr. Thomas Seery, Department of Chemistry

2. **Yumna Arif, Biological Sciences (2016)**  
   Project Title: *Reversing the Effort-related Impairments Induced by the Pro-inflammatory Cytokine Interleukin-1 Beta with Curcumin*  
   Faculty Mentor: Dr. John Salamone, Department of Psychology

3. **Megan Brady, Molecular and Cell Biology (2016)**  
   Project Title: *Determination of Closely Related Protein Structures by NMR*  
   Faculty Mentor: Dr. Andrei Alexandrescu, Department of Molecular and Cell Biology

4. **Daniell Carvalheiro, Human Development and Family Studies (Dec 2015)**  
   Project Title: *Cross-Cultural Views on Parent and Teacher Roles in Children’s Education*  
   Faculty Mentor: Dr. Sara Harkness, Department of Human Development and Family Studies

5. **Kelly Chan, Pharmacy Studies (2016)**  
   Project Title: *Itraconazole Analogues as Anti-Cancer Hedgehog & Angiogenesis Inhibitors*  
   Faculty Mentor: Dr. M. Kyle Hadden, Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences

6. **Brock Chimileski, Physiology and Neurobiology (2017)**  
   Project Title: *Defining Orexin Neuron Diversity in the Lateral Hypothalamic Area through Single-Cell Gene Expression Profiling*  
   Faculty Mentor: Dr. Alexander Jackson, Department of Physiology and Neurobiology

7. **Thomas Cotton, Biomedical Engineering (2017)**  
   Project Title: *Assessment of the Ability of a New Cancer Imaging Molecule to Detect Tumor Hypoxia*  
   Faculty Mentor: Dr. Liisa Kuhn, Center for Regenerative Medicine and Skeletal Development, UConn Health

   Project Title: *A New Species of Lithobiid Centipede from Virginia*  
   Faculty Mentor: Dr. Jane O’Donnell, Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology

9. **Christine Doherty, Physiology and Neurobiology (2016)**  
   Project Title: *Dendritic Morphology of Layer II Neurons in Mice with Mutations Associated with Dravet Syndrome and Infantile Epileptic Encephalopathy*  
   Faculty Mentor: Dr. Joseph LoTurco, Department of Physiology and Neurobiology

10. **Kayleigh Fay, Nutritional Sciences (2016)**  
    Project Title: *Effectiveness of Nutrition Education in Competitive Irish Dancers*  
    Faculty Mentor: Dr. Nancy Rodriquez, Department of Nutritional Sciences
Project Title: An Analysis of Player Work Load and Workout Recovery
Faculty Mentor: Dr. Douglas Casa, Department of Kinesiology

Project Title: A Determination and Examination of the Cognitive Phenotype of the TS2-neo Mice Model of Autism
Faculty Mentor: Dr. R. Holly Fitch, Department of Psychology

Project Title: How Early Life Stressors Alter the Gut Microbiome of Preterm Infants, as Measured by a New Tool: The Accumulated Pain/Stressor Scale
Faculty Mentor: Dr. Xiaomei Cong, School of Nursing

Project Title: Fueled by Fabrication: Do Fictional Narratives Influence Environmental Behavior?
Faculty Mentor: Dr. Wayne Franklin, Department of English

15. Asahi Hoque, Molecular and Cell Biology & Human Rights (2016)
Project Title: Utilization of Cell Free Translation to Test Post-Glycosylation Diversification Compounds
Faculty Mentor: Dr. Victoria Robinson, Department of Molecular and Cell Biology

Project Title: Investigating the Efficacy of Plant-derived Antimicrobials in Increasing the Sensitivity of Methicillin Resistant Staphylococcus aureus (MRSA) and Vancomycin Resistant Staphylococcus aureus (VRSA) to Antibiotics
Faculty Mentor: Dr. Kumar Venkitanarayanan, Department of Animal Science

17. Rofina Johnkennedy, Molecular and Cell Biology & English (2016)
Project Title: Novel Antimicrobial Compound Discovery in the Trachymyrmex septentrionalis Symbiosis
Faculty Mentor: Dr. Jonathan Klassen, Department of Molecular and Cell Biology

Project Title: Computational Investigations into the Molecular Underpinnings of Eyesight Signaling Pathways
Faculty Mentor: Dr. Eric May, Department of Molecular and Cell Biology

Project Title: Direct Paternal Participation in Bottle Feeding and its Effects on Feeding Patterns of Full-Term Infants
Faculty Mentor: Dr. Ruth Lucas, School of Nursing

Project Title: A New Role for JMY in Tumorigenesis
Faculty Mentor: Dr. Kenneth Campellone, Department of Molecular and Cell Biology

21. Justin Letendre, Biomedical Engineering (2016)
Project Title: Lipid-Coated Quantum Dots: A Novel In-Vivo Imaging Probe
Faculty Mentor: Dr. Mu-Ping Nieh, Department of Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering
22. Jessica Liu, Elementary Education (2016)  
Project Title: *Classroom Discourse: Conversation Patterns of High Potential Students from Underrepresented Populations*  
Faculty Mentor: Dr. Catherine Little, Department of Educational Psychology

23. Brandon Luxkaranayagam, Physiology and Neurobiology & Molecular and Cell Biology (2016)  
Project Title: *Investigation of Skeletal Muscle-Specific Gene Regulation*  
Faculty Mentor: Dr. Leighton Core, Department of Molecular and Cell Biology

24. Laura Mandell, Nursing (2016)  
Project Title: *Weight and Age as Predictors of Persistent Infant Car Seat Challenge Failure*  
Faculty Mentor: Dr. Michele DeGrazia, Director of Nursing Research, Neonatal Intensive Care, Boston Children’s Hospital  
UConn Mentor: Dr. Jacqueline McGrath, School of Nursing

Project Title: *Investigating the Relationship between Language and Number Cognition*  
Faculty Mentor: Dr. Marie Coppola, Departments of Psychology and Linguistics

26. Isabel Nip, Biological Sciences (2017)  
Project Title: *Exploring the Role of the Cytoskeleton in Neurodegenerative Diseases*  
Faculty Mentor: Dr. Kenneth Campellone, Department of Molecular and Cell Biology

27. Fejiro Okifo, Biological Sciences (2016)  
Project Title: *Effects of Mutants in the I-domain on Bacteriophage P22 Coat Protein Stability and Mature Capsid Structure*  
Faculty Mentor: Dr. Carolyn Teschke, Department of Molecular and Cell Biology

28. Leighanne Ormston, Psychology & Biological Sciences (2016)  
Project Title: *The Effect of Perceptual Fine-tuning on Facial Recognition in Infancy*  
Faculty Mentor: Dr. Heather Bortfeld, Department of Psychology

Project Title: *Effects of Bovine Granulocyte-macrophage Colony Stimulating Factor on Milk Neutrophil Apoptosis*  
Faculty Mentor: Dr. Michael O’Neill, Department of Molecular and Cell Biology

Project Title: *Looking Beyond the Genetic Code: Cracking the Epigenetic Changes Associated with Tumorigenesis and Metastasis in the White-Footed Mouse*  
Faculty Mentor: Dr. Rachel O’Neill, Department of Molecular and Cell Biology

Project Title: *Reliability Testing of Stepwise Switching in Multiferroics*  
Faculty Mentor: Dr. Bryan Huey, Department of Materials Science and Engineering

32. Ashley Trinh, Physiology and Neurobiology (2016)  
Project Title: *Unique Control of Vascular Tone in a Brainstem Respiratory Center*  
Faculty Mentor: Dr. Daniel Mulkey, Department of Physiology and Neurobiology
33. **Casey Turovac, Speech, Language, and Hearing Sciences (2016)**  
   Project Title: *Infant Recognition of Mother vs. Stranger Sine Wave Speech*  
   Faculty Mentor: Dr. Heather Bortfeld, Department of Psychology

34. **Karen Vazquez, Physiology and Neurobiology (2017)**  
   Project Title: *Testing Whether KCNQ-channel Activators Overcome Dysfunction Due to Encephalopathy-associated KCNQ2 Mutations*  
   Faculty Mentor: Dr. Anastasios Tzingounis, Department of Physiology and Neurobiology

35. **Stephanie Vu, Physiology and Neurobiology (2016)**  
   Project Title: *Understanding the Dorsal and Ventral Hippocampal Subregions Using Single-unit Recording*  
   Faculty Mentor: Dr. Etan Markus, Department of Psychology