10th Annual FALL FRONTIERS

UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH POSTER EXHIBITION

October 19, 2022
5:00 - 7:00 p.m.
Wilbur Cross North Reading Room
Sponsored by the
University of Connecticut

Office of Undergraduate Research
Enrichment Programs
About Frontiers in Undergraduate Research

The Fall Frontiers Poster Exhibition is a multidisciplinary research forum showcasing undergraduate research, scholarship, and creative projects at the University of Connecticut. Fall Frontiers complements the longstanding spring Frontiers exhibition, providing an additional opportunity for UConn’s student researchers to share their exciting work.

This is the tenth fall event sponsored by the Office of Undergraduate Research (OUR). This year’s exhibition includes 87 students presenting posters for 77 research and creative projects at the in-person exhibition. Additional projects can be viewed in the online exhibition at ugradresearch.uconn.edu/fallfrontiers2022

Students’ projects span the disciplines and include both independent research and work pursued in collaboration with other undergraduates. The projects presented reflect the invaluable contributions of research mentors, including graduate students, postdoctoral scholars, staff, and faculty members. We hope you enjoy meeting our wonderful students and learning about their innovative projects.

About the Office of Undergraduate Research

The Office of Undergraduate Research is a resource for students interested in enriching their undergraduate experience through participation in research, scholarship, and creative activity. The OUR provides information and advising to assist students in identifying relevant opportunities, as well as several funding programs to support the students and their faculty mentors.

Many of the Fall Frontiers presenters have received financial support for their projects from the OUR, which awarded over $560,000 in 2021-22 in support of students’ research and creative endeavors. These awards are funded by the Office of Undergraduate Research with generous support from the Office of the Provost, the Office of the Vice President for Research, the deans of the schools and colleges, and private donations from alumni, parents, and other friends of UConn and undergraduate research.
10th Annual Fall Frontiers Poster Exhibition

Poster Exhibition
Wednesday, October 19, 2022
5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

Speaking Program
5:30 p.m.

Welcome and Introductions

Caroline McGuire
Executive Director, Enrichment Programs, and Director, Office of Undergraduate Research

Keynote Speaker

Amy Gorin
Interim Vice Provost for Health Sciences & Professor, Psychological Sciences

Closing Remarks

Jennifer Lease Butts
Associate Vice Provost, Enrichment Programs, and Director, Honors Program
Sequential Listing of Poster Presentations

This listing of projects includes the undergraduate student authors and their faculty mentors. Please note that this is not a comprehensive listing of mentors: many projects also reflect the contributions and mentorship of dedicated graduate students, post-doctoral scholars, and research staff members. An alphabetical listing of presenters is included at the end of the program.

1. Promoting Positive Mental Well-Being Among Adolescent Girls of Color Through Engagement in Animal Care Training
   Jasmine Morris, Animal Science & Applied and Resource Economics
   Advisor: Tamika La Salle, Associate Professor, Educational Psychology

2. Navigating William Tyndale’s Obedience of a Christen Man as a Part of “The Tyndale Project”
   Madison Bigelow, English
   Joanne Biju, English & Political Science
   Advisor: Clare Costley King'oo, Associate Professor, English
   Advisor: Susan Felch, Professor, English, Calvin University

3. Accumulating Evidence About STEM Educational Experiences
   Rhea Koyambreth, Physiology and Neurobiology & Psychological Sciences
   Advisor: Kathleen Lynch, Assistant Professor, Educational Psychology

4. Fostering Effective and Inclusive Group Work in Studio Style Physics Courses
   Mona Peyravi, Allied Health Sciences
   Advisor: Erin Scanlon, Assistant Professor in Residence, Physics
   Advisor: Matthew Guthrie, Assistant Professor in Residence, Physics
   Advisor: Xian Wu, Associate Professor in Residence, Physics

5. Counterfactual Conditionals, Possibility, and Impossibility
   Cindy Pan, Philosophy & Molecular and Cell Biology
   Advisor: Keith Simmons, Professor, Philosophy

6. Truth and the Liar Paradox
   Jeremy Bachman, Philosophy
   Advisor: Keith Simmons, Professor, Philosophy
7. Police Killings of Native American People: Examining Variation Across Space, Time, and Status Characteristics
Samantha Gove, Sociology & Human Rights
Advisor: Ryan Talbert, Assistant Professor, Sociology

8. Modern Racism: How Patriot Front Utilizes Internet Presence To Recruit Members Nationwide
Kyle Makalusky, Psychological Sciences & Sociology
Advisor: Ryan Talbert, Assistant Professor, Sociology

9. Local Confederate Iconography and Gender-Ethnic Variation in Mental Health Among Black Residents
Jasmine Aboumahboob, Individualized Major: Human Physiology and Sociomedical Sciences
Advisor: Ryan Talbert, Assistant Professor, Sociology

10. Incarceration and the Self-Concept
Brianna Monte, Nursing & Sociology
Advisor: Ryan Talbert, Assistant Professor, Sociology

11. Incarceration and Mental Health Among Cuban, Mexican, and Puerto Rican Adults in the U.S.
Jade Rivera, Pharmacy
Advisor: Ryan Talbert, Assistant Professor, Sociology

12. Exploring Food Insecurity in Greater Hartford Using a Structured Survey
Thomas Bonitz, Geographic Information Science & Economics
Advisor: Peter Chen, Assistant Professor, Geography

Lucie Lopez, Psychological Sciences & Spanish
Xuan (Debbie) Xiao, Geographic Information Science
Advisor: Peter Chen, Assistant Professor, Geography

14. Double Up Food Bucks: Locations and Demographics
Christina Clouser, Political Science
Nick Hamel-Porter, Economics
Advisor: Cristina Connolly, Assistant Professor, Agricultural and Resource Economics
15. Elucidating the Malaysian Chemsex Experience: What Are the Personal Histories, Practices, and Needs of Malaysian MSM?
Christopher Uyar, Allied Health Sciences
Advisor: Roman Shrestha, Assistant Professor, Allied Health Sciences

Kiara Ballij, Political Science & Economics
Advisor: Jennifer Sterling-Folker, Professor, Political Science

17. Mental Health Through COVID-19: Psychosocial Insights from the Pandemic Journaling Project
Joshua Ellenberg, Anthropology & German
Yana Tartakovskiy, Healthcare Management
Advisor: Sarah Willen, Associate Professor, Anthropology
Advisor: Katherine Mason, Associate Professor, Anthropology, Brown University

18. Presidential Approval at the State Level
Madeline Doyle, Political Science
Advisor: Matthew Singer, Professor, Political Science

19. Understanding the Associations Between Social and Emotional Expression, Communication, and Relationships in Individuals with Eating Pathology
Alyssa Daniels, Physiology and Neurobiology
Advisor: Amy Gorin, Interim Vice Provost for Health Sciences & Professor, Psychological Sciences

20. Mayoral Approval in Latin America
Emma Harvison, Political Science & Human Rights
Advisor: Matthew Singer, Professor, Political Science

21. Digital Health as a Means and Measure of Health Equity: Practical Strategies to Address Health Disparities in Connecticut
Sharanya Chandu, Physiology and Neurobiology & Healthcare Management
Advisor: Jane Im, Assistant Professor, Pediatrics
Advisor: Richelle deMayo, Assistant Professor, Pediatrics, Connecticut Children’s Medical Center
22. Latino Voting Turnout in US Presidential Elections
Kayleigh Collins, Political Science
Mariam Vargas, Political Science
Advisor: Beth Ginsberg, Assistant Professor in Residence, Political Science

23. Racial and Geographic Diversity and Team Productivity: Evidence from the American Whaling Industry
Nidhi Nair, Economics & Mathematics-Statistics
Advisor: Metin Cosgel, Professor, Economics

24. Examining Public Hearings: An Assessment of Public Participation and Its Limitations in State Legislatures Across the U.S.
Alesia Ballij, Political Science & Economics
Advisor: Jennifer Sterling-Folker, Professor, Political Science

25. The Road to Nowhere: Assessing Governmental Regulations on Coal-Tar Pavement Products
Lauren Baskin, Political Science & English
Advisor: Kimberly Bergendahl, Associate Professor in Residence, Political Science

26. Adolescent/Young Adult Sleep Trends Over the Past Decade
Allison Nemesure, Physiology and Neurobiology
Advisor: Sharon Smith, Professor, Pediatrics, Connecticut Children's Medical Center

27. Changes in Health, Work, and Non-Work Factors During COVID-19 Among Hourly and Salaried Manufacturing Workers
Delia Lin, Molecular and Cell Biology & Statistics
Advisor: Jennifer Garza, Assistant Professor, Medicine

28. How to Reason in Nepali
Kavya Krishnan, Cognitive Science
Advisor: Magdalena Kaufmann, Associate Professor, Linguistics

29. Bilingualism: Is There a Structural Advantage?
Alyssa Sirisoukh, Molecular and Cell Biology
Advisor: Nicole Landi, Associate Professor, Psychological Sciences
30. Learning Words in a Malevolent World: Partial World Learning From Low Informative Input
Julie-Ann Williams, Cognitive Science
Advisor: Sumarga Suanda, Assistant Professor, Psychological Sciences

31. The Use of Speech, Facial Expressions, and Gestures as a Primary Method of Communication in Adults with Autism Spectrum Disorder
Marissa Birmingham, Cognitive Science
Advisor: Inge-Marie Eigsti, Professor, Psychological Sciences

32. Myo-Inositol Transport in RTN Chemosensitive Neurons
Nicholas Munteanu, Physiology and Neurobiology
Advisor: Daniel Mulkey, Professor, Physiology and Neurobiology

33. Electron Microscopy of Astrocyte-Contacting Synapses for Inputs from Infralimbic Cortex to the Lateral Amygdala
Mumu Fang, Physiology and Neurobiology & Psychological Sciences
Advisor: Linnaea Ostroff, Assistant Professor, Physiology and Neurobiology

34. Effects of the Xlr-3b Gene on Behavior Using a Mouse Model
Karen Alex, Physiology and Neurobiology
Advisor: Roslyn Fitch, Professor, Psychological Sciences

35. Control of Neuronal Migration in the Medial and Rostral Migratory Streams Guided By Eph/Ephrin Protein Expression Patterns
Sarah Bellizzi, Physiology and Neurobiology
Advisor: Joanne Conover, Professor, Physiology and Neurobiology

36. Investigating the Expression of Presynaptic Proteins in Hypothalamic Arousal Neurons
Sara Bernardo, Biological Sciences
Advisor: Alexander Jackson, Associate Professor, Physiology and Neurobiology

37. Investigating the Disassembly of Cytoplasmic F-Actin-Rich Territories During Intrinsic Apoptosis
Taylor Domingue, Molecular and Cell Biology
Advisor: Kenneth Campellone, Associate Professor, Molecular and Cell Biology
38. Understanding the Relationship Between B chromosomes and Nondisjunction in *Drosophila melanogaster*
Ayushi Patel, Molecular and Cell Biology
Advisor: Stacey Hanlon, Assistant Professor, Molecular and Cell Biology

39. Understanding the Role of Fumarase in DNA Damage Response
Juan Colberg-Martinez, Molecular and Cell Biology
Advisor: Ann Kirchmaier, Associate Professor, Biochemistry, Purdue University

40. Expression of Genes in the Colon Through Comprehensive RNA-Sequencing
Lauren Chance, Molecular and Cell Biology & Mathematics-Statistics
Advisor: Marmar Moussa, Assistant Professor, Medicine

41. CRISPR Gene Editing to Test the Function of DNA Mismatch Repair in Cancer-Associated Variants
Patrick Pagano, Pathobiology
Advisor: Christopher Heinen, Professor, Medicine
Advisor: Paulo Verardi, Associate Professor, Pathobiology and Veterinary Science

42. Calponin 2 Modifies Hmgcs2-Mediated Ketogenesis to Regulate Kidney Injury in AKI
Zachary Palanza, Molecular and Cell Biology
Advisor: Dong Zhou, Assistant Professor, Medicine

43. The Relationship of Novel Human Genes to 3D Genome Organization and Function
Nitanta Garag, Biomedical Engineering
Advisor: Jelena Erceg, Assistant Professor, Molecular and Cell Biology

44. Genetically Engineering the CotA Laccase Gene of *Bacillus subtilis* In Order to Degrade 17α-ethynylestradiol
Srilekha Kadimi, Biomedical Engineering
Rebecca Abirached, Allied Health Sciences
Phoebe Johnston, Biological Sciences
Advisor: Rachel O'Neill, Professor, Molecular and Cell Biology
Advisor: Lisa Nigro, Assistant Research Professor, Institute for Systems Genomics
45. Crucial Role of LSD1 in Cisplatin Induced Kidney Damage
Liz Carrizzo, Biomedical Engineering
Advisor: Yanlin Wang, Professor, Medicine

46. SCARF-1 Dysregulation Leads to the Development of Lupus
Kasidy Quiles, Allied Health Sciences
Advisor: Zaida Ramirez-Ortiz, Assistant Professor, Medicine, UMass Chan Medical School

47. Investigating the Role of PARG in PARP Inhibitor Resistance
Julia Purcell, Molecular and Cell Biology
Advisor: Ranjit Bindra, Professor, Pathology & Therapeutic Radiology, Yale University

48. Role of bosR in Transmission of Lyme Diseases
Om Sinojia, Biological Sciences
Advisor: Melissa Caimano, Associate Professor, Medicine

49. Role of CD13 in Macrophage Giant Cell Fusion
Fraser McGurk, Molecular and Cell Biology
Advisor: Mallika Ghosh, Assistant Professor, Cell Biology

50. Synthesis of Novel Near-Infrared Voltage Sensitive Dyes
Giuliana Judge, Chemistry
Advisor: Ping Yan, Assistant Professor, Center for Cell Analysis and Modeling

Robert Gilbert, Chemistry
Advisor: Amy Howell, Professor, Chemistry

52. Automating On-Resin Derivatization of Peptides for Single-Sequence Identification
Connor Jewell, Chemistry
Advisor: Xudong Yao, Associate Professor, Chemistry

53. Evolving Intrinsically Disordered Peptides (IDP) for Biosensor Development
Aiden Reilly, Biomedical Engineering
Advisor: Yi Wu, Associate Professor, Genetics and Genome Sciences & Center for Cell Analysis and Modeling
54. Oxidation of Alcohols Using Mesoporous CsMnOx and MnOx Catalyst
Ange Vil, Chemistry
Advisor: Steven Suib, Distinguished Professor, Chemistry

55. Development of a Novel Tension Sensor Using the Binder/tag Method and Single-Molecule Imaging
Amy Flis, Structural Biology and Biophysics & Molecular and Cell Biology
Advisor: Yi Wu, Associate Professor, Genetics and Genome Sciences & Center for Cell Analysis and Modeling

56. Withdrawal- and Anxiety-Like Behaviors Following Oral and Systemic Oxycodone Administration in C57BL6 Mice
Caryssa Drinkuth, Molecular and Cell Biology
Advisor: Gregory Sartor, Assistant Professor, Pharmaceutical Sciences

57. Impact of Heat and Humidity on Aspirin Tablets' Physical Stability
Lyla White, Pharmacy Studies
Advisor: Bodhi Chaudhuri, Professor, Pharmaceutical Sciences
Advisor: C. Michael White, Distinguished Professor, Pharmacy Practice

58. Developing a Physiologically Inspired Model of Human Speech Recognition In Noise
Alex Clonan, Electrical Engineering & Molecular and Cell Biology
Advisor: Monty Escabi, Professor, Electrical and Computer Engineering

59. SaaS Tool for Patent Searching
Massyl Mallem, Chemical Engineering
Jake Winter, Mechanical Engineering
Arav Parikh, Computer Science and Engineering
Brian Hance, Computer Science and Engineering
Advisor: Shiri Dori-Hacohen, Assistant Professor, Computer Science and Engineering

60. Characterization of Titanium Nitride Thin Films by Reactive Sputtering
Derek Lefcort, Electrical Engineering
Advisor: Helena Silva, Professor, Electrical and Computer Engineering
61. A Remodeling-Based Approach for Osteochondral Allograft Integrative Repair
Arsalan Zaki, Physiology and Neurobiology
Advisor: Caroline Dealy, Associate Professor, Craniofacial Sciences, Biomedical Engineering, Orthopedic Surgery & Cell Biology
Advisor: Melanie Fisher, Research Associate, Cell Biology

62. Cross-Talk Between EGFR and BMP Signals Regulates Chondrocyte Maturation During Endochondral Ossification
Krithika Santhanam, Allied Health Sciences
Advisor: Caroline Dealy, Associate Professor, Craniofacial Sciences, Biomedical Engineering, Orthopedic Surgery & Cell Biology

63. The Effects of Acidic Challenge on Bone in Ex Vivo Models
Sydney Whittaker, Biological Sciences
Advisor: Alix Deymier, Assistant Professor, Biomedical Engineering

64. Characterization of Lgr6 in Osteogenic Tissue
Nicole Calder, Molecular and Cell Biology
Advisor: Archana Sanjay, Associate Professor, Orthopaedic Surgery

65. The Development of a Voluntary Head Restraint System for Attentional Set Shifting Tasks
Mark Cristino, Biomedical Engineering
Advisor: Timothy Spellman, Assistant Professor, Neuroscience

66. Automation Software to Minimize Human Errors While Interacting with Complex Computer Graphical User Interfaces in Research Settings
Anastasiia Drozdova, Computer Science and Engineering & Chemistry
Advisor: Manuel Castro-Alamancos, Professor, Neuroscience

67. Analysis of Black Hole Accretion and Feedback in the SIMBA Cosmological Simulations
Sofya Levitina, Physics & Mathematics-Statistics
Advisor: Daniel Angles-Alcazar, Assistant Professor, Physics

68. Direct Measurements of Electron Density, Temperature, and Chemical Abundance of HII Regions in NGC 4254
Eric Habjan, Physics
Advisor: Christopher Faesi, Assistant Professor, Physics
69. Measuring Galactic Acceleration with Pulsar Timing  
Abigail Moran, Physics & Applied Mathematics  
Advisor: Chiara Mingarelli, Assistant Professor, Physics

70. Excess Commuting Burden  
Sophia Fenn, Civil Engineering & Spanish  
Advisor: Davis Chacon Hurtado, Assistant Research Professor, Civil and Environmental Engineering & Human Rights Institute

71. Preparing for Larval Experiments: Should Scientists Report Details About the Egg Life-Stage?  
Abigail Bernstein, Environmental Sciences  
Advisor: Tracy Rittenhouse, Associate Professor, Natural Resources and the Environment

72. Does Model Wetland Complexity Influence Experimental Ranavirus Epidemics?  
Jenna Bartholomew, Natural Resources  
Advisor: Tracy Rittenhouse, Associate Professor, Natural Resources and the Environment

73. Genome Assembly of the Endangered Pumpkin Ash (*Fraxinus profunda*) to Aid Conservation Efforts Across Ash Species  
Emily Strickland, Molecular and Cell Biology & Nutritional Sciences  
Advisor: Jill Wegrzyn, Associate Professor, Ecology and Evolutionary Biology

74. Assembling the Genome of Ice Cream Bean: The First Reference for the Tropical Legume, *Inga vera*  
Harshita Akella, Molecular and Cell Biology  
Advisor: Jill Wegrzyn, Associate Professor, Ecology and Evolutionary Biology

75. The Evolvability of Extremophiles: Can Haloarchaea Mate in High-Stress Environments?  
Emma Triantafyllou, Pathobiology  
Advisor: Mark Urban, Professor, Ecology and Evolutionary Biology

76. Effects of Maternal Nutrition on Muscle Cross Sectional Area and Lipid Content  
Shawn Re, Animal Science  
Advisor: Kristen Govoni, Professor, Animal Science
77. A Health Service Without a Country: The History of Healthcare for Refugees and Displaced Persons After World War II
Nour Al Zouabi, Individualized Major: Rights, Health and Refugees & Molecular and Cell Biology
Advisor: Sara Silverstein, Assistant Professor, History & Human Rights Institute
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Special Thanks

The Office of Undergraduate Research wishes to thank the deans of the represented schools and colleges, the Office of the Provost, the Office of the Vice President for Research, and the generous donors to Enrichment Programs and to the Honors Program for their support of undergraduate research.

We thank the student volunteers for the Fall Frontiers Poster Exhibition, without whom this event would not be possible.

In addition, we thank the following individuals for their support:

Radenka Maric, President, University of Connecticut

Anne D’Alleva, Interim Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs

Michael Bradford, Vice Provost for Faculty, Staff, and Student Development

Jennifer Lease Butts, Associate Vice Provost, Enrichment Programs and Director, Honors Program
Office of Undergraduate Research

Staff

Caroline McGuire, Executive Director, Enrichment Programs and Director, Office of Undergraduate Research

Melissa Berkey, Assistant Director

Liza Boritz, BOLD Program Director and Advisor

Jodi Eskin, Program Administrator and Advisor

Rowena Grainger, Assistant Director for Research and Fellowship Programs, Enrichment Programs

Peer Research Ambassadors

Michelle Antony '23 (CLAS)
Anabelle Bergstrom '25 (CLAS)
Erik Choi '23 (CLAS)
Alex Clonan '22 (ENG & CLAS)
Kira Cuneo '23 (ENG)
Alyssa Daniels '23 (CLAS)
Alexandra Goldhamer '23 (CLAS)
Paul Isaac '23 (CLAS & CAHNR)
Jerome Jacobs '23 (CAHNR)
Ayushi Patel '23 (CLAS)
Stephanie Schofield '23 (CLAS)
Elisa Shaholli '23 (CLAS)