



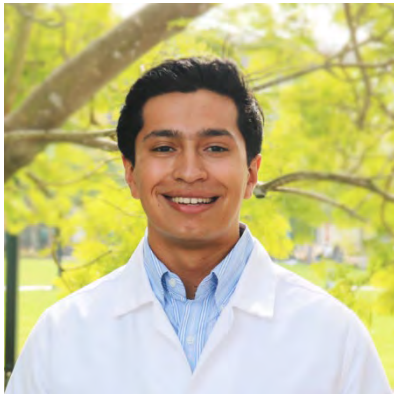
Husnia Ahmadi

She is a third-year Microbiology major with Dr. Edward Wu's lab which investigates how impaired axonal functions contribute to neurodegenerative diseases, including Alzheimer's, Tauopathies, Huntington's, and Down syndrome. Her career aspirations are in the field of medicine and research.



George Alcaraz

He is a third-year Human Biology major in Dr. Richard Daneman's lab, which focuses on molecular mechanisms that regulate the blood-brain barrier in health and disease. His post-graduation goal is to become a family medicine physician, driven by a deep appreciation for serving his community. Once he achieves this, he aims to dedicate his expertise to serving his local community of Riverside County.



Adrian Arcieniga

He is a second-year neurobiology student with aspirations of attending medical school upon graduation. His research interests include neurodegenerative intervention and healthy aging and is currently working in Dr. Molina's lab.



Andrea Bonifacio

She is a fourth-year student majoring in Neurobiology with a minor in Cognitive Science. Andrea works in Dr. Daneman's lab, which specialized in understanding the molecular mechanism of the blood-brain barrier function. Her career goal is to work in the medical field, where she finds interest in both neurology and psychiatry.



Daniela Carrillo-Gomez



Valarie Castellenos-Ponce

She is a fifth-year Clinical Psychology and Ethnic Studies double major. After graduating, she will pursue a Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology, with a particular interest in working with the Latinx and LGBTQ+ communities. Valarie is currently in Dr. Raeanne Moore's SALUD- Tech Lab, which focuses on detecting cognitive decline in Latinos through the use of technology, such as smartwatches or smartphones.



Alyssa Duckworth

She is a second year Neurobiology and aspires to become a neurologist, focusing on treating neurodegenerative diseases. Alyssa works with the Sanford Consortium for Regenerative Medicine with Dr. Angels Almenar-Queralt, performing stem cell neurobiology research.



Mikel Escobar

He is a second-year student majoring in human biology and is currently interested in fields such as Rheumatology, Neurology, Pathology, and Pediatrics. Mikel currently works with Dr. Edward Wu's lab which investigates how impaired axonal functions contribute to neurodegenerative diseases, including Alzheimer's and aging.



Caytre Ede

She is currently a fourth-year Human Biology major at UCSD. After graduating, she aspires to pursue geriatric medicine as a physician in a community-based setting. In doing so, she hopes to continue developing personable relationships and a character of servitude to our older generations. Caytre currently works in Dr. Ayers lab, which focuses on hoarding disorders of older adults.



Dylan Garcia



Anais Gonzales

She is a third-year cognitive behavioral neuroscience major with a psychology minor. After graduating from UCSD, she hopes to attend graduate school to pursue a PhD in clinical neuropsychology. Her interests include cognitive disorders, neurodegenerative diseases, and brain damage while her current research focus is on Alzheimer's Disease. Anais currently works in Dr. Shtrahman's lab.



Mikaela Joya

She is a second-year Human Biology with a career ambition to pursue medicine. Mikaela is working with Dr. Matthew Shtrahman's Lab which studies patterns of neuronal activity which is crucial for thought and memory to understand neurological diseases like Alzheimer's Disease.



Christine Le

She is a third-year General Biology major and aspires to become an ob-gyn physician with a research focus on women's neurological health. Christine currently works with Dr. Guerry Peavy in the Asian Cohort for Alzheimer's Disease, which focuses on identifying genetic and lifestyle risk factors specific to the Vietnamese community and improving future treatments.



Cassandra Loreto

She is a fourth year General Biology Major working in Dr. Edward Wu's lab. Their research focuses on neuronal dysfunction and degeneration in neurodegenerative disorders. In the future, Cassandra hopes to work as a clinical lab scientist and continue doing research to help patients.



Diego Martinez

He is currently a fourth-year Human Biology major, minoring in Chemistry where his future plan includes attending medical school to specialize in both anesthesiology and functional medicine. George has been placed with Dr. Paula Desplat's lab, specializing in Circadian Disruptions regarding neurodegenerative diseases, such as Alzheimer's and Parkinson's disease.



Eva Marts-Skogland

She is a biochemistry major and plans to apply to PhD programs with a research focus on small molecule and bioenergetic interventions for aging in humans. She is currently working with Dr. Molina's Lab, researching sex-difference in short chain fatty acid presence during aging.



Ulises Mejia

He is a third-year Human Biology major with a Global Health minor and aspires to attend medical school and pursue neurological or psychiatric medicine. Ulises currently works in Dr. Catherine Ayer's lab, which focuses on cognitive-focused treatment for local adult veteran populations who struggle with clutter and/or hoarding disorder.



Marcos Moline

He is a second-year neurobiology major and is most interested in neurodegenerative diseases such as Alzheimer's as well as music therapy and its relationship with the brain. He emphasizes that as ethnic minorities continue to experience systemic racism in healthcare, MADURA not only provides valuable opportunities to its students, but forms a bridge between underrepresented communities and the medical field, particularly regarding aging and ADRD. Marcos currently works in Dr. Molina's lab.



Celine Nguyen

She is a cognitive science major, expected to graduate in 2025. She has an interest in research regarding aging, Alzheimer's, and other degenerative diseases that affect cognition. Celine is currently working with Dr. Wang's lab where the project she's currently involved in focuses on pupillometry to discover if a patient has early symptoms of Alzheimer's.



Steven Nguyen

He is Bioinformatics major expected to graduate at the end of the 2023- 2024 school year. He has a strong interest in the field of genomics and how changes in our genome are responsible for the many diseases that humans suffer from today. He is currently working in Dr. Kathleen Fisch's lab, which focuses on understanding molecular mechanisms that cause pregnancy disorders.



Lawrence Ong

He is currently a second-year Math-CS major at UCSD. After graduating from UCSD in 2026, he aspires to pursue a PhD in bioinformatics. With bioinformatics, he plans to discover and unravel the relationship between aging-related diseases and genes. He is currently working in the Fisch Lab and receiving training in bioinformatics under the guidance of Dr. Kathleen Fisch.



Andrea Paula-Vargas

She is a second-year college student with an undeclared major at UC San Diego. She strives to continue learning more about neurodegenerative diseases, addressing health disparities, and promoting healthy aging. Andrea is currently working under the guidance of Dr. Zvinka Zlatař at the WISE Lab.



Bryan Pencyla

He is a fourth-year Cognitive Behavioral Neuroscience student at UCSD with an expected graduation of 2024. He aspires to pursue a career as a clinical psychologist and intends to apply to postgraduate programs for clinical psychology. He currently works in Dr. Pa's VR lab, which aims to study the use of virtual reality technology and how it could benefit the cognitions of older adults.



Lucia Rivera

Lucia is a junior majoring in Public Health with a concentration in Medicine Science. She is particularly interested in public health and clinical research focused on chronic health conditions. Lucia emphasizes that diversifying the pool of dedicated aging researchers as MADURA is doing will help promote needed equity in this important field and currently works with Dr. Molina's lab.



Christine Tran

She is a fourth-year Developmental Science major with a specialization in Healthy Aging at UCSD. Through her studies and research experience, Christine aims to gather insights that she can share with her loved ones, recognizing that understanding the aging process is essential for all fortunate enough to experience it. Christine will be involved in the WITS (Women Inflammation and Tau Study) with Dr. Banks and Dr. Sunderman.



Aura Valencia is a fourth-year Psychology major specializing in Clinical Psychology at UCSD. Her expected graduation date is Spring 2024 and after graduating, she is planning to apply to Joint Doctoral Program with UCSD and SDSU in Clinical Psychology with an area of specialization in Neuropsychology. Aura is currently working with Dr. Raeanne Moore's lab.



Avigna Vasanthan is a fourth-year Global Health major at UCSD, expecting to graduate in 2024. He has research interests in neurological disorders and in global health, with a particular passion for aging research. Once he graduates, he plans to pursue a career in medicine and research. He works in Dr. Catherine Ayer's lab, which uses cognitive treatment for elderly adults who struggle with hoarding issues.