



VCU School of Medicine

**2019 - 2020
Advanced Degree
Programs Student
Recognition Ceremony**

May 8, 2020

The School of Medicine is very pleased to recognize the recipients of more than 150 departmental, school, university, national and international awards. Our graduate students have once again proven themselves to be outstanding!

34

Awards,
Nominations and
Recognitions

American Heart Association Predoctoral Fellowship

Anthony Ambrose Award – Student of the Year – Department of Pharmacology and Toxicology

Biopharmaceutical Applied Statistics Symposium Scholars

Biostatistics Student Research Symposium: Best Presenter

BSDP Student Recruiter

Certificate of Recognition, Physiology & Biophysics

Charles C. Clayton Scholarship

Family Medicine and Population Health APHA Travel Grant

Fulbright Scholarship

Genetic Counseling Diversity Scholarship

Health Behavior and Policy Travel Grant

Initiative for Maximizing Student Development Award

**James L. Poland Award
Marion-Waller Scholarship**

Marion-Waller Scholarship Nomination

MCV Alumni Association Scholarship

Molecular Biology and Genetics Travel Grant

Neuroscience Travel Grant

NIH F30/F31 Predoctoral Fellowship

Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society Membership

Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society Membership Nomination

Phi Kappa Phi School of Medicine Scholarship

Phi Kappa Phi School of Medicine Scholarship Nomination

Phi Kappa Phi Susan E. Kennedy Scholarship

Phi Kappa Phi Susan E. Kennedy Scholarship Nomination

Robert W. Ramsey Award

Roscoe D. Hughes Fellowship

Roscoe D. Hughes Scholarship

School of Graduate Studies 3-Minute Thesis Participant

School of Graduate Studies Travel Grant

Southern Regional Education Board Doctoral Scholarship (1st Year)

**Three-Minute Thesis Award – First Place
Department of Pharmacology and Toxicology**

Timothy Merz Travel Grant

**Travel Award International Narcotics
Research Conference**

**Virginia EMS Scholarship Virginia
Department of Health**

(☆) American Heart Association Predoctoral Fellowship

S. Teja Devarakonda
MD/PHD – Physiology and Biophysics

**(☆) Anthony Ambrose Award – Student of the Year
Department of Pharmacology and Toxicology**

Neil Varshneya
Pharmacology and Toxicology

**(☆) Biopharmaceutical Applied Statistics
Symposium Scholars**

Christopher Jay
Biostatistics

Jonathan Yu
Biostatistics

Christine Orndahl
Biostatistics

**(☆) Biostatistics Student Research Symposium:
Best Presenter**

Erin Donahue (3rd Place)
Biostatistics

Katharine Stromberg (2nd Place)
Biostatistics

Christine Orndahl (1st Place)
Biostatistics

(☆) BSDP Student Recruiter

Lois Akinola
Pharmacology and Toxicology

Clare Diester
Pharmacology and Toxicology

Maria Bent
Neuroscience

Morgan Driver
Human Genetics/MS Genetic
Counseling

Emily Brocato
Pharmacology and Toxicology

Elizabeth Dustin
Neuroscience

Jordan Dailey
Microbiology and Immunology

Kelly Flounlacker
Neuroscience

(☆) BSDP Student Recruiter Continued

Martina Hernandez
Neuroscience

Dhara Patel
Microbiology and Immunology

Abdulmajeed Jali
Pharmacology and Toxicology

Curtis Read
Microbiology and Immunology

Donald Jessup
Pharmacology and Toxicology

Edna Santos
Pharmacology and Toxicology

Nicole Jimenez
Microbiology and Immunology

Gladys Shaw
Neuroscience

Anna Kovilakath
Human Genetics

Neil Varshneya
Pharmacology and Toxicology

Karli Mockenhaupt
Biochemistry

Nicole Weston
Neuroscience

(☆) Certificate of Recognition, Physiology & Biophysics

Yogesh Dhakal
Physiology and Biophysics

Jin Ha Kim
Physiology and Biophysics

Mohamed Aarif Abdul Kareem
Physiology and Biophysics

(☆) Charles C. Clayton Scholarship

Haley Adcox
Microbiology and Immunology

Mitchell Polizzi
Medical Physics

Mirinda Gormley
Epidemiology

Ashley Rosenberg
Public Health

Sahak Hovsepian
Physiology and Biophysics

Samantha Spencer
Neuroscience

Yi Liu
Genetic Counseling

Xinxin Sun
Biostatistics

Amy Northrop
Human Genetics

Hayley Walston
Human Genetics

**(☆) Family Medicine and Population Health
APHA Travel Grant**

Brianna Bonat
Public Health

Chandni Patel
Public Health

Stacie Lefeavers
Public Health

Taylor Reid
Public Health

Abigail Mariani
Public Health

(☆) Fulbright Scholarship

Javeria Aijaz (Pakistan)
Human Genetics

Aneel Bhagwani (Pakistan)
Physiology and Biophysics

Desy Balalimbong (Indonesia)
Microbiology and Immunology

(☆) Genetic Counseling Diversity Scholarship

Alesky Caffo
Genetic Counseling

Sylvia Pamela Herrada
Genetic Counseling

(☆) Health Behavior and Policy Travel Grant

Nixon Arauz
Social and Behavioral Sciences

April Williams
Social and Behavioral Sciences

Bonny Morris
Social and Behavioral Sciences

Kofo Williams
Social and Behavioral Sciences

Jean Reading
Social and Behavioral Sciences

(☆) Initiative for Maximizing Student Development Award

Lois Akinola (2nd Year)
Pharmacology and Toxicology

Bryan McKiver (1st Year)
Biomedical Sciences Doctoral Portal

Nixon Arauz (1st Year)
Social and Behavioral Sciences

Edna Santos (2nd Year)
Pharmacology and Toxicology

[☆] James L. Poland Award

Audrey McMurtrie
Physiology and Biophysics

[☆] Marion-Waller Scholarship

Jennifer Bradley
Microbiology and Immunology-MBG

[☆] Marion-Waller Scholarship Nomination

Julie Bayer-Vile
Genetic Counseling

April Williams
Social and Behavioral Sciences

Lindsay Snell
Healthcare and Policy Research

[☆] MCV Alumni Association Scholarship

Aaron Barbour
Neuroscience

[☆] Molecular Biology and Genetics Travel Grant

Jennifer Bradley
Microbiology and Immunology-MBG

Amine Ourahmane
Microbiology and Immunology-MBG

Li He
Microbiology and Immunology-MBG

[☆] Neuroscience Travel Grant

Rory Weston
MD/PhD – Neuroscience

[☆] NIH F30/F31 Predoctoral Fellowship

Jefferson Overlin Abaricia
MD/PhD – Biomedical Engineering

Eric Kwun Kwong
MD/PhD – Microbiology and Immunology

Aaron Barbour
Neuroscience

Luke Legakis
MD/PhD – Pharmacology and Toxicology

Marc Cantwell
MD/PhD – Cancer and Molecular Medicine

Melissa Ann Maczis
Biochemistry

Gene Chatman Clark
MD/PhD – Biochemistry

Julia A. Meade
Pharmacology and Toxicology

Angela Satya Gupta
MD/PhD – Biochemistry

Ryan Anthony Mischel
MD/PhD – Pharmacology and Toxicology

Tamara Haque
Microbiology and Immunology

Justin M. Saunders
MD/PhD – Neuroscience

Guy M. Harris
MD/PhD – Pharmacology and Toxicology

Tia H. Turner
MD/PhD – Cancer and Molecular Medicine

Michael Allen Hinton
Microbiology and Immunology

Andrew Van Der Vaart
MD/PhD – Pharmacology and Toxicology

Audra Iness
MD/PhD – Cancer and Molecular Medicine

Rory Michael Weston
MD/PhD – Neuroscience

Sarah Kim
MD/PhD – Neuroscience

[☆] Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society Membership

Courtney Chmielewski
Physiology and Biophysics

Li He
Microbiology and Immunology-MBG

Clare Diester
Pharmacology and Toxicology

Sahak Hovsepian
Physiology and Biophysics

Brielle Forsthoffer
Biostatistics

Quinn Hurshman
Genetic Counseling

Rosamond Goodson
Pharmacology and Toxicology

Eva Lancaster
Human Genetics

(☆) Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society Membership Continued

Abigail Mariani
Public Health

Jaime Moore
Biostatistics

Michael Marone
Neuroscience

Jordyn Prell
Genetic Counseling

Audrey McMurtrie
Physiology and Biophysics

Hayley Walston
Human Genetics

Moeen Meftahi
Medical Physics

(☆) Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society Membership Nomination

Lori Beck
Public Health

Angela Gupta
Biochemistry

Valerie Carpenter
Pharmacology and Toxicology

Amanda Hatke
Microbiology and Immunology

Yu Tzu Chen
Neuroscience

Waheeda Naimi
Microbiology and Immunology

Siva Teja Devarakonda
Physiology and Biophysics

Reuben Retnam
Biostatistics

Christopher Diachok
Microbiology and Immunology

Devki Gajera
Public Health

(☆) Phi Kappa Phi School of Medicine Scholarship

Courtney Chmielewski
Physiology and Biophysics

Justin Saunders
Neuroscience

Eva Lancaster
Human Genetics

(☆) Phi Kappa Phi School of Medicine Scholarship Nomination

Jennifer Bradley
Microbiology and Immunology-MBG

Taylor Reid
Public Health

James Clifford
Epidemiology

Hayley Walston
Human Genetics

Martin Lavalley
Biostatistics

(☆) Phi Kappa Phi Susan E. Kennedy Scholarship

Mirinda Gormley
Epidemiology

(☆) Phi Kappa Phi Susan E. Kennedy Scholarship Nomination

Haley Adcox
Microbiology and Immunology

Jordyn Prell
Genetic Counseling

Jennifer Bradley
Microbiology and Immunology-MBG

Gabrielle Seymore
Medical Physics

(☆) Robert W. Ramsey Award

Ria C. Fyffe-Freil
Physiology and Biophysics

(☆) Roscoe D. Hughes Fellowship

Amy Northrop
Human Genetics
MS Genetic Counseling

(☆) Roscoe D. Hughes Scholarship

Dana Lapato
Human Genetics
Quantitative Genetics

(☆) School of Graduate Studies 3-Minute Thesis Participant

Briana James
Biochemistry

Maryam Jamil
Human Genetics

Anna Kovilakath
Human Genetics

Eva Lancaster
Human Genetics
Quantitative Genetics

Mitchell Polizzi
Medical Physics

Julia Meade
Pharmacology and Toxicology

(☆) School of Graduate Studies Travel Grant

Nixon Arauz
Social and Behavioral Sciences

Elizabeth Dustin
Neuroscience

Jacqueline Grible
Human Genetics

Amanda Hatke
Microbiology and Immunology

Eva Lancaster
Human Genetics

Bonny Morris
Social and Behavioral Sciences

Amy Northrop
Human Genetics

Jean Reading
Social and Behavioral Sciences

April Williams
Social and Behavioral Sciences

Kofo Williams
Social and Behavioral Sciences

Hope Wolf
Human Genetics

(☆) Southern Regional Education Board Doctoral Scholarship

Sharyn Dougherty (2nd Year)
Social and Behavioral Sciences

Delton Harris (1st Year)
Healthcare and Policy Research

Kennedy Goldsborough (1st Year)
Biomedical Sciences Doctoral Portal

**(☆) Three-Minute Thesis Award – First Place
Department of Pharmacology and Toxicology**

Neil Varshneya
Pharmacology and Toxicology

(☆) Timothy Merz Travel Grant

Supriya Joshi
Human Genetics

**(☆) Travel Award
International Narcotics Research Conference**

Neil Varshneya
Pharmacology and Toxicology

**(☆) Virginia EMS Scholarship
Virginia Department of Health**

Neil Varshneya
Pharmacology and Toxicology

The School of Medicine congratulates all students that earned doctoral degrees, Master's degrees and graduate certificates in 2019-2020. It has been our honor to be involved in their training and we are extremely proud of their accomplishments!

Addiction Studies

Emma S. Baxey, MS*
Terrena L. Betteridge, MS*
Cherith A. Biden, MS
Catherine S. Glenn, MS
Adila Ibrahim, MS
Lauren R. Minton, MS
James B. Morton, MS
Hawraa S. Sajwani, MS
Donald A. Swanson, MS
Matthew D. Yim, MS*

Addiction Studies - Advanced Level

Carolyn Leung, Certificate
Simon P. Stafford, Certificate

Addiction Studies - Intermediate Level

Lisa G. Fore-Arcand, Certificate*
Robert Pryor, Certificate

Anatomy and Neurobiology

Myshak S. Abdi, MS*
Rachel (Gilbert) Bauer, MS
Christopher G. Canal, MS*
Mazen M. Gouda, MS
Alexander I. Hamm, MS*
John M. Kay, MS*
Joyti Lodha, MS
Ekaterina Stephanova, MS*

Biochemistry

Kimberlyn Maravet Baig-Ward, MD/PhD
Jacqueline Bellaci, MS*
Taylor Calicchia, MS*
Ahmed R. Elkharashi, MS*
Angela Gupta, MD/PhD*
Ashley N. Hemingway, MS*
Kasalina N. Kiwanuka, PhD
Esraa M. Mohamed, PhD
Kervin B. Owusu, MS
Daniel J. Stephenson, PhD
T'keyah I. Vaughan, MS*
Dorothy L. Yen, MS*

Biostatistics

Keighly E. Bradbrook, PhD*
Erin E. Donahue, PhD*
Alicia M. Johns, PhD
Anny-Claude Joseph, PhD
Jin Liu, PhD
Narad M. Mishra, MS*
Victoria I. Okhomina, MS
Katherine A. Stromberg, PhD*

Biostatistics - Clinical Research

Jaime E. Moore, MS
Jinlei Zhao, MS

Biostatistics - Genomics

Kellen G. Cresswell, PhD
John C. Stansfield, PhD

Clinical and Translational Science - Cancer and Molecular Medicine

Mark T. Cantwell, MD/PhD*
Jared S. Farrar, MD/PhD*
Sophia Karandashova, MD/PhD*
Janina V. Pearce, MD/PhD*
Tia Turner, MD/PhD*
Alicia Woock, MD/PhD*

Epidemiology

Mirinda A. Gormley, PhD*
Sylvia Rosario, PhD

Genetic Counseling

Joshua R. Barnhart, MS*
Alesky Caffo, MS*
Danika J. Coulson, MS*
Allison R. Gossen, MS*
Quinn Hurshman, MS*
Yi Liu, MS*
Jordyn M. Prell, MS*
Emily Seckington, MS*
Samantha E. Seymour, MS*
Rebekah T. Zee, MS*

Health Policy and Research

Ahmed H. Alquthami, PhD

Human Genetics

Varsha Ananthapadmanabhan, PhD*
Javeria Aijaz, PhD*
Kaitlyn M. Dochelli, MS
Supriya Joshi, PhD*
Anthony D. Stillman, MS

Human Genetics: Molecular Biology and Genetics

Daniel A. Heisey, PhD
Brian J. Hur, MS
Katlyn M. Myers, *MS

Human Genetics: Quantitative Human Genetics

Dana M. Lapato, PhD

Medical Physics

Dasuni Adikaram, Certificate*
Anusha Liyanage, Certificate*
Moeen Meftahi, MS*
Mitchell Polizzi, MS*
Gabrielle Seymore, MS*

Microbiology and Immunology

Hussein F. Aqbi, PhD
Desy K. Balalimbong, MS*
Tyler Poe, MS
Ryan S. Green, PhD
Tamara T. Haque, PhD
Michael Hinton, PhD
Jerilyn R. Izac, PhD
Michael T. Kammerman, PhD*
Naren Gajenthra Kumar, PhD*
Takia Williams, MS*

Neuroscience

Aaron J. Barbour, PhD*
Vishal C. Patel, PhD*
Tyler W. Steele, PhD

Pharmacology and Toxicology

Nadejda A. Blajkevich, MS*
Jeremy C. Cornelissen, PhD
Zachary A. Curry, MD/PhD*
Abdulmajeed M. Jali, PhD*
Jessica L. Jurmain, MS*
Luke Legakis, MD/PhD*
Julia Meade, PhD*
Ryan Mischel, MD/PhD*
Karan Hitesh Muchhala, PhD
Mohammed A. Mustafa, MS*
Zara Siddiqui, MS*
Aminatta Z. Tejan-Kamara, MS*
Lilya S. Tyutyunyi-Massey, PhD
Andrew Van Der Vaart, MD/PhD*
Neil Varshneya, PhD*

Physiology and Biophysics

Joseph S. Aliaga, MS*
Ashley L. Bennett, PhD
Virali M. Bhagat, MS*
Yogesh Bhakal, MS*
Courtney Chmielewski, MS*
Alexander M. Hirsch, MS
Ashkhan Hojati, MS
Mohamed Aarif Abdul Kareem, MS*
Jin Ha Kim, MS*
Audrey R. McMurtrie, MS*
Vy T. Nguyen, MS
Doan M. On, MS*
Zachary R. Spires, MS*
Hiba Z. Vohra, MS

Physiology and Biophysics - Basic Science

Brennen O'Rourke, MS*
Nora T. Poulos, MS
Dong Jin Suh, MS
Niluka Wickramaratne, MS

Pre-Medical Basic Health Sciences

Coleman Adams, Certificate*
John T. Adams, Certificate
Tyler Agard, Certificate*
Jacob M. Alford, Certificate
Raghad A. Alqahtani, Certificate*
Abdulaziz Alsumait, Certificate*
Ashira E. Anderson, Certificate*
Manik Arora, Certificate*
Ashley N. Artis, Certificate
Sarah A. Baig, Certificate*
Monika Bapna, Certificate*
John Bane, Certificate*
Hugh E. Barclay, Certificate*
Sydney A. Barksdale, Certificate*
Neeladri Bhattacharyya, Certificate
Christopher S. Blake, Certificate*
Michael B. Bly, Certificate*
Nancy A. Fonkoua Bogne, Certificate*
Simran Budhwani, Certificate*
Sebastian N. Chero, Certificate*
Alexa N. Dray, Certificate*
Ramon E. Duran, Certificate
Jillian P. Faber, Certificate*
Sonya Feeser, Certificate*
John T. Fune, Certificate*
Joseph H. Gallagher, Certificate*
John H. Garrett, Certificate
Kayla Harley, Certificate*
Alexus M. Harris, Certificate*
Anufa A. Hossain, Certificate*
Harneet K. Jaswal, Certificate*
Earthik Kumar R. Kasireddy, Certificate*
Khalid Kateb, Certificate*
Raquel Kragel, Certificate
Erik M. Lamb, Certificate*
Dean Lee, Certificate*
Thomas Lee, Certificate*

Pre-Medical Basic Health Sciences contd.

Catherine V. Legge, Certificate*
Eric H. Lien, Certificate*
Andrew Maduakor, Certificate*
Parshva Mehta, Certificate*
Nuhome Mulugeta, Certificate*
Sanjna Nag, Certificate
Alekhya Nanduri, Certificate*
Chi H. Nguyen, Certificate
Eliot Niessen, Certificate*
Zuby Okafor, Certificate*
Jooheon Park, Certificate*
Heema S. Patel, Certificate*
Kayen K. Patel, Certificate
Alexandra Pedin, Certificate*
Prathyusha Pinnamaneni, Certificate*
Sudeep Poludasu, Certificate
Brian J. Pratt, Certificate*
Javier A. Blanco Ramos, Certificate*
Alexandria M. Ritchie, Certificate
Melleeah S. Robinson, Certificate
Maxwell R. Rowshandel, Certificate
Gabriel R. Saavedra, Certificate
Clare M. Schmedes, Certificate*
Shaanit Sen, Certificate*
John Seo, Certificate*
Merwa A. Siddek, Certificate*
Zoya Siddiqui, Certificate*
Jingwei Song, Certificate*
Victoria Strunk, Certificate*
Peter J. Stubin, Certificate*
Aminatta Z. Tejan-Kamara, Certificate
Nikita Thakur, Certificate*
Megan S. Thompson, Certificate*
Aakash B. Vaidya, Certificate*
Habebah Z. Vohra, Certificate*
Thidavone L. Vongkaysone, Certificate
David D. Wildman, Certificate*

Pre-Medical Basic Health Sciences contd.

Morgan R. Williams, Certificate
Evan T. Woods, Certificate*
Lucas Wohler, Certificate
Jessica Wunsch, Certificate*
Woo Young Yoon, Certificate*
Prateek Yadav, Certificate

Public Health

Kyle J. Baumann, MPH
Pamela L. Bailey, MPH*
Lori Beck, MPH*
Leslie M. Bobb, MPH*
Brianna Bonat, MPH*
Benjamin T. Burkart, MPH*
Nora J. Daly, MPH
Devki S. Gajera, MPH*
Nadira C. Johnson, MPH*
Stacie Lefeafvers, MPH*
Abigail C. Mariani, MPH*
Chandni M. Patel, MPH*
Taylor Forr Reid, MPH*
Ashley G. Rosenberg, MPH*
Brianna Rossi, MPH*

Social and Behavioral Sciences

Kofoworola Williams, PhD*
Jodi Winship, PhD

