2018 Scholars Summer Projects

SDSU Scholars

Setareh Akhavan  
Major: Public Health  
Exp. Grad. Date: Spring 2020  
Mentor: Hatim Husain, M.D. Dept of Medicine, UCSD  
Project Title: Noninvasive Kinetic Monitoring of Response to Targeted Therapy using Circulating Tumor DNA in Non-Small Cell Lung Cancer Patients

Sati Alexander  
Major: Biology  
Exp. Grad. Date: Spring 2020  
Mentor: Silvio Gutkind, Ph.D., Dept. of Pharmacology, UCSD  
Project Title: Inhibition of mTOR and PD1 in Oral Squamous Cell Carcinoma

Bayan Almasri  
Major: Microbiology- Chemical Laboratory Science  
Exp. Grad. Date: Spring 2019  
Mentor: Nicholas Webster, Ph.D., Dept. of Medicine, UCSD  
Project Title: The Effect of Hyperinsulinemia on Tumor Cell Growth

Yesenia Avitia  
Major: Microbiology- Chemical Laboratory Science  
Exp. Grad. Date: Spring 2019  
Mentor: Maria E. Martinez, Ph.D., Dept. of Health Sciences, UCSD  
Project Title: Human Papillomavirus (HPV) vaccination in Pediatric Oncology Survivors

Katelyn Bachand  
Major: Chemistry/Biochemistry  
Exp. Grad. Date: Fall 2018  
Mentor: James Murphy M.D., M.S., Dept. of Medicine, UCSD  
Project Title: Impact of Hospital Safety Net Burden on Oncology Patterns of Guideline Concordant Care

Samantha Crawford  
Major: Chemistry/Biochemistry  
Exp. Grad. Date: Spring 2019  
Mentor: Adam Burgoyne, M.D., Ph.D., Dept. of Medicine, UCSD  
Project Title: Characterization of Resistance Mechanisms to the Dual PIK3 and BRD4 Inhibitor SF2523

Kelly Dinh  
Major: Music-Piano Performance  
Exp. Grad. Date: Spring 2019  
Mentor: Rafael Bejar, M.D., Ph.D., Dept. of Medicine, UCSD  
Project Title: Characterizing Mutations in Myelodysplastic Syndrome (MDS)
Julia Escobedo  
Major: Biology  
Exp. Grad. Date: Fall 2020  
Mentor: Andrew Lowy, M.D., Dept. of Medicine, UCSD  
Project Title: Investigating Super Enhancer X's Potential Role in Pancreatic Cancer Oncogenesis

Kasim Hakimi  
Major: Biology and Kinesiology  
Exp. Grad. Date: Spring 2020  
Mentor: Sandip Patel, M.D., Dept. of Medicine, UCSD  
Project Title: ABO type as a predictor of efficacy in Immunotherapy

Nicholas Lucido  
Major: Public Health  
Exp. Grad. Date: Spring 2020  
Mentor: Kristen Wells, Ph.D., M.P.H., Dept. of Psychology, SDSU  
Project Title: Stigma as a Barrier to PrEP Initiation and Adherence among Young Latino Men who Have Sex with Men: A Qualitative Study

Andrew Macias  
Major: Biology  
Exp. Grad. Date: Spring 2019  
Mentor: Peter Zage, M.D., Ph.D., Dept. of Medicine, UCSD  
Project Title: Onco-GPS map depicting the cellular states of Neuroblastoma cell line response to 13-cis-retinoic acid

Valeria Ochoa  
Major: Public Health  
Exp. Grad. Date: Summer 2019  
Mentor: William Kim, Ph.D., Dept. of Medicine, UCSD  
Project Title: Breast Cancer Cellular States

Melissa Yakuta  
Major: Public Health  
Exp. Grad. Date: Spring 2019  
Mentor: James Murphy M.D., M.S., Dept. of Medicine, UCSD  
Project Title: Characterizing Information Structures and Processes Related to Cancer Screening in U.S. Medicare Population

Kevin Zarghan  
Major: Biology  
Exp. Grad. Date: Fall 2020  
Mentor: Manal A. Swairjo, Ph.D., Dept. of Chemistry, SDSU  
Project Title: Overexpression, Purification and Crystallization of the Queuine Salvage Protein DUF2419
Meseret Fesseha
Major: Nursing
Exp. Grad. Date: Fall 2018
Mentor: Mee Young Hong, Ph.D., Dept. of Exercise and Nutrition Science, SDSU
Project Title: Effects of Watermelon Consumption on Cellular Proliferation, and Apoptosis in Rat Colon

Muna Shariff
Major: Nursing
Exp. Grad. Date: Fall 2018
Mentor: Elva Arredondo, Ph.D., Dept. of Public Health, SDSU
Project Title: Are there gender differences in health behaviors among participants enrolled in a cancer prevention intervention?

2018 Partnership Scholars
Group Photo