
2ND ANNUAL QUEENS COLLEGE

UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH OPPORTUNITIES SHOWCASE

Wednesday, September 28, 2016 | Science Building Atrium



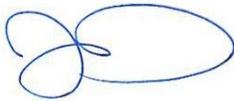
WELCOME TO THE 2ND ANNUAL QUEENS COLLEGE UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH OPPORTUNITIES SHOWCASE

SCIENCE BUILDING ATRIUM | Wednesday September 18th, 2016

Dear Student,

Research is the scholarly pursuit of new knowledge, discovery, or creative activity in an area with the goal of advancing that area's frontiers or boundaries. Engaging in research as an undergraduate can be a transformative experience. Students receive one-on-one mentoring from a professor, hand-on experience in their field, exposure to cutting edge techniques, and a competitive advantage in post-college employment, graduate school or professional school applications. Ideally, research experiences would be available for every undergraduate student that desires one. In practice, finding a research position takes considerable effort, persistence, and even a bit of luck. We started the Office of Undergraduate Research to help Queens College students find research opportunities, and to make the most of the opportunities they receive. The Office of Undergraduate Research hosts two events each year. In the fall, we host the Undergraduate Research Opportunities Showcase. Here faculty present on the research ongoing in their laboratories and talk to students about getting involved. In addition, student organizations are on hand to talk about what their groups have to offer. In the spring, students have an opportunity to present their own research at the Undergraduate Research Day. We hope to see you at these events!

Sincerely,



Dr. John J. Dennehy, Director
Office of Undergraduate Research
Queens College
john.dennehy@qc.cuny.edu
<http://ougr.qc.cuny.edu/>

SCHEDULE

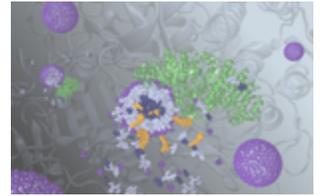
11:00am Welcome Message from Dean Klotz

12:00pm Lightning Talk Schedule (Roomm B137)

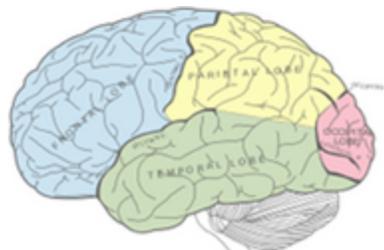
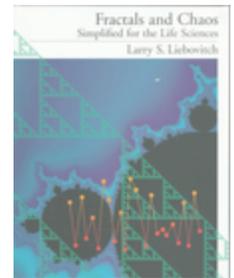
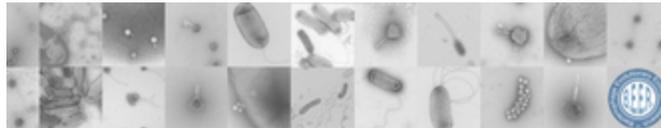
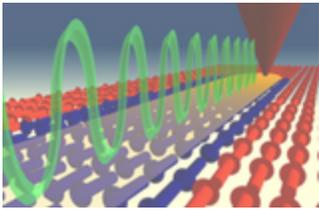
- 12:15 Dr. Daniel Weinstein (Biology MA Program)
- 12:22 Dr. Azriel Genack (Physics)
- 12:29 Dr. Andrea Li (Psychology)
- 12:36 Dr. Larry Liebovitch (Physics and Psychology)
- 12:43 Dr. Elizabeth Riina (Family, Nutrition and Exercise Sciences)
- 12:50 Dr. Keitaro Yukawa (Computer Science)

Posters (11am - 1:30pm)

1. [Dr. Larissa Swedell \(Anthropology\)](#)
2. [Dr. Jose Anadon \(Biology\)](#)
3. [Dr. John Dennehy \(Biology\)](#)
4. [Dr. Alicia Melendez \(Biology\)](#)
5. [Dr. Cathy Savage-Dunn \(Biology\)](#)
6. [Dr. Zahra Zakeri \(Biology\)](#)
7. [Dr. Robert Engel \(Chemistry and Biochemistry\)](#)
8. [Dr. Cherice Evans \(Chemistry and Biochemistry\)](#)
9. [Dr. Uri Samuni \(Chemistry and Biochemistry\)](#)
10. [Dr. Keitaro Yukawa \(Computer Science\)](#)
11. [Dr. Sung Eun Choi \(Family, Nutrition and Exercise Sciences\)](#)
12. [Dr. Elizabeth Riina \(Family, Nutrition and Exercise Sciences\)](#)
13. [Dr. Azriel Genack \(Physics\)](#)
14. [Dr. Larry Liebovitch \(Physics and Psychology\)](#)
15. [Dr. Richard Bodnar \(Psychology\)](#)
16. [Dr. Andrea Li \(Psychology\)](#)
17. [Association for Computing Machinery](#)
18. [Biology Honors Society](#)
19. [Biology Master of Arts program](#)
20. [The Graduate Center of the City University of New York](#)
21. [Honors in Mathematics and Natural Sciences program](#)
22. [Minority Association of Pre-Medical Students](#)
23. [The Queens College Neuroscience Club](#)
24. [Office of Undergraduate Research](#)
25. [Maximizing Access to Research Careers](#)
26. [NERA MedPrep Program](#)
27. [Science Organization of Minority Students](#)
28. [Sigma Xi: The Scientific Research Society](#)
29. [Summer Public Health Scholars Program](#)



Faculty Research Interests



Dr. Larissa Swedell (Anthropology Department)

Email: LarissaSwedell@gmail.com

Field of Research
Behavioral Ecology



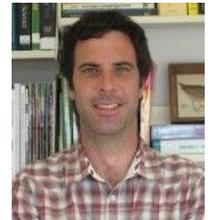
Our team studies the social behavior, ecology, genetics, and endocrinology of hamadryas baboons in Ethiopia. While our research takes place mainly in the field, we also have opportunities for students to review, score, and analyze video data on campus.

Website: <http://larissaswedell.org/research>

Dr. José Anadón (Biology Department)

Email: jose.anadon@qc.cuny.edu

Field of Research
Ecology



We are investigating the composition of the scavenger community at the Black Rock Forest. Scavengers provide important ecosystem services to humans by removing dead animal carcasses, and thus preventing the spread of diseases. Obligate scavengers (vultures) are one of the most threatened groups of species at a global scale. In our lab, we are studying how scavenger communities change due to natural and human mediated factors in two contrasting systems: the US East coast and Nepal. Here, we present the composition of the scavenger community in our first pilot location, the Black Rock Forest of New York. This work has been developed within the College Now Program that provides research opportunities to high school students.

Website: <https://anadonlab.wordpress.com/>

Dr. John Dennehy (Biology Department)

Email: john.dennehy@qc.cuny.edu



Field of Research

Microbiology

Research in my laboratory has three main foci. 1) We study virus emergence (host switching) using bacteriophage and influenza as model organisms. 2) We study how precision in the timing of cellular events is ensured despite noisy gene expression. 3) We are investigating the impact of human disturbances on soil microbial communities across Long Island. We have a history of success in involving undergraduate students in research and have had numerous publications with undergraduate students as coauthors.

Website: <https://dennehylab.org/>

Dr. Alicia Melendez (Biology Department)



Field of Research

Developmental genetics and autophagy in *C. elegans*

The decision of a stem cell to proliferate and differentiate is finely controlled. The *C. elegans* germ line provides a tractable system to study the mechanisms that control stem cell proliferation and homeostasis. Autophagy is a conserved cellular recycling process crucial for cellular homeostasis in many different contexts, but its function in germline stem cell proliferation remains poorly understood. Here, we describe a function for BEC-1/Beclin1, a tumor suppressor protein that is an essential component of the autophagy machinery, in germline homeostasis. We show that BEC-1/Beclin1 and other autophagy genes act independently of the GLP-1/Notch or DAF-7/TGF-beta pathways, but upstream or in parallel of the DAF-2/IIR signaling pathway to promote germline stem cell proliferation during development. Interestingly, BEC-1/Beclin1 acts cell non-autonomously in somatic tissues, and requires the phosphatase and tensin DAF-18/PTEN activity, along with the transcriptional regulator SKN-1/Nrf1, but not the DAF-16/FOXO transcription factor, to promote stem cell proliferation.

Website: <https://aliciamelendezcuny.wordpress.com/>

Dr. Cathy Savage-Dunn (Biology Department)

Email: cathy.savagedunn@qc.cuny.edu



Field of Research

Molecular and Cellular Biology

Our lab studies how cell-cell communication influences development and homeostasis in animals. We use the small nematode *C. elegans* for these studies, due its simple anatomical plan, large brood size, and amenability to genetic analysis.

Website: <http://biology.qc.cuny.edu/people/faculty/cathy-savage-dunn/>

Dr. Zahra Zakeri (Biology Department)

Email: zahra_zakeri@qc.cuny.edu



Field of Research

Programmed cell death, apoptosis and autophagy

Our basic interest is in cellular response mechanisms. Our work has focused primarily on programmed cell death and apoptosis, and more recently on how gender differences affect the fate of the cell and hence the organism. In the last few years there has been an explosion in the study of how the cells die. Cell death is a fundamental aspect of embryonic development, normal cellular turnover and maintenance of homeostasis. It plays an essential role in diseases such as Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS), cancer, Alzheimer's and other degenerative diseases. During development of embryos, cell death shapes and influences the function of almost all organs. In fact, without cell death there would be no embryo. However, too much or too little cell death can be detrimental to the embryo. Alteration of the correct pattern of cell death can result in developmental defects including neural defects, cleft palate, and numerous malformations. We recently published our work on influenza-induced autophagy and cell death, as the cover story in *Virology* on Feb 5, 2014. The article can be found at this website: <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/24606695>

Website: <http://biology.qc.cuny.edu/people/faculty/zahra-zakeri/>

Dr. Robert Engel (Chemistry and Biochemistry Department)

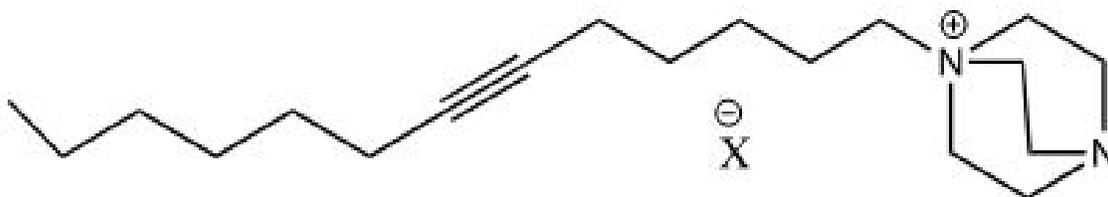
Email: robert.engel@qc.cuny.edu



Field of Research

Antimicrobial Surfaces

Our laboratory has for some time now been involved with the development of surfaces that serves as antimicrobials, preventing the transmission of microbes (particularly pathogenic bacteria) from surface to surface without the use of antibiotics. While we have been quite successful with ordinary Gram – and Gram + bacteria (among other microbes) in this effort, *mycobacteria* have remained resistant to our approaches. Our current approach toward these bacteria (responsible for tuberculosis) that has proven of significant potential, involves incorporating various π -linkages into the lipophilic chain of cationic lipids. We are synthesizing cationic alkynes of the type shown below.



Website: https://www.qc.cuny.edu/Academics/Degrees/DMNS/Pages/ENGEL_Research_Interests.aspx

Dr. Cherice Evans (Chemistry and Biochemistry)

Email: cherice.evans@qc.cuny.edu



Field of Research

Experimental physical chemistry

Supercritical fluids are important green solvents in chemistry, since they combine the diffusivity properties of a gas with the solvation properties of a liquid. My group probes the structure of the gas/liquid to supercritical fluid transition using a low-energy quasi-free electron as a probe. Our studies use vacuum-ultraviolet synchrotron radiation from the LSU Center for Advanced Microstructures and Devices in Baton Rouge, LA to study the energy of a quasi-free electron in near critical point molecular fluids. We also use femtosecond to microsecond pulsed light to generate free electrons in order to investigate the mobility (i.e., mean free path) of electrons in near critical point fluids. We are currently developing new theoretical models that relate the fluid structure to the mean free path and/or momentum scattering cross-section, as well as new models for the structure of polar fluids.

Website: <http://chem.qc.edu/~cevans/>

Dr. Uri Samuni (Chemistry and Biochemistry Department)

Email: usamuni@qc.cuny.edu



Field of Research

Biophysics and Nanotechnology

Our lab is interested in the sol-gel encapsulation of proteins, structure-function and spectroscopic studies, along with the fabrication and characterization of sol-gel based nanoparticles for drug delivery applications. To this end, we utilize Raman Spectroscopy, Dynamic Light Scattering, and Transmission Electron Microscopy. Our other focuses include the synergetic killing effect of nitric oxide and hydrogen peroxide on bacteria, and the mechanism and applications of the oxidation of hydroxamic acids. Lastly, we focus on the application of a novel class of catalytic antioxidants - nitroxides.

Website: <http://chem.qc.cuny.edu/~usamuni/>

Dr. Keitaro Yukawa (Computer Science Department)

Email: ljn787@gmail.com

Field of Research
Database Systems



Website: <http://www.cs.qc.cuny.edu/yukawa.html>

Dr. Sung Eun Choi (Family, Nutrition and Exercise Sciences Department)

sungeun.choi@qc.cuny.edu

Field of Research
Food Sensory Science



My research interests are as follows: the effects of taste perception on health, the influence of genetic sensitivity in bitter taste on taste preference and food intake, and optimization of food formulations using sensory evaluation. My research projects examined the relationships of genetic taste sensitivity (6-n-propylthiouracil test for detection of taste blindness), food acceptances, food consumption patterns and body weight between African Americans and Asian Americans, meat eaters and non-meat eaters, and chili pepper users and non-users. My undergraduate students have participated in research projects developing healthy and highly delicious food products using sensory evaluation. As one of the undergraduate research projects, the poster titled "Sensory and physical properties of low fat Macaroni and Cheese prepared by replacing whole fat cheese with nutritional yeast" will be presented at the Undergraduate Research Showcase 2016.

Website: <http://people.qc.cuny.edu/Faculty/Sungeun.Choi/Pages/Default.aspx>

Dr. Elizabeth Riina (Family, Nutrition and Exercise Sciences Department)

Email: elizabeth.riina@qc.cuny.edu

Field of Research

Family studies and Lifespan Development

My research examines connections between family processes and child development, and considers the social contexts (neighborhoods, culture) that influence child and family life.

Dr. Azriel Genack (Physics Department)

Email: genack@qc.edu



Field of Research

Waves in Disordered Media

Fundamental theorems of localization generally assume that the average local density of states (LDOS) is uniform throughout the volume of random samples. We find, however, that the LDOS in ensembles of a waveguide filled with randomly positioned dielectric spheres falls dramatically towards the center of the sample once the sample exceeds the localization length. The LDOS is more strongly suppressed as the sample length and boundary reflectivity are increased and as the waveguide diameter is decreased. The suppression is present over a wide range of frequencies and is not the result of residual periodicity. The conductance continues to fall with increasing sample length, but the mode line width and number of modes saturate. This represents a new transport regime in which waves are localized near the boundaries.

Website: <http://nanoscience.asrc.cuny.edu/people/dr-azriel-z-genack/>

Dr. Larry Liebovitch (Physics and Psychology Departments)

Email: larry.liebovitch@qc.cuny.edu

Field of Research

Mathematics of Sustainable Peace

Peace is not just the absence of war. For decades scholars in conflict resolution have studied the pathologies of war, violence, and aggression. Conflict and peace have been studied only in the context of those processes. Very little is known about the fundamental conditions needed to sustain peace. An international team convened by the Advanced Consortium on Cooperation, Conflict, and Complexity, AC4, at Columbia University has been conducting a multi-year initiative aimed to provide a comprehensive view of peace and its sustainability. One objective is to build a causal loop diagram that represents the factors involved in sustaining peace and how they influence each other. We are adding new insights to these studies by: 1) creating rigorous quantitative mathematical models of the qualitative causal loop diagrams, and 2) using modern data science methods to measure the values of the peace factors from social media. A mathematical model can: 1) reveal properties about a system that may be difficult to discern in a qualitative causal loop model, 2) determine how the quantitative values of the variables depend on each other and evolve in time, and 3) make quantitative predictions. We are developing graphic interactive displays so that policy makers can explore the consequences of different possible interventions. We are also developing computer programs to collect and analyze data from social media, such as Facebook, Twitter, and trending Google searches to: 1) yield quantitative measures of the values of the peace factors, and 2) assess the validity of the mathematical model.



Website: <http://www.physics.qc.edu/people/faculty/liebovitch>

Dr. Richard Bodnar (Psychology Department)

Email: richard.bodnar@qc.cuny.edu

Field of Research

Behavioral Neuroscience



The Bodnar Behavioral Pharmacology laboratory has been at Queens since 1979, and has been recently studying the pharmacological substrates of sweet and fat intake and preferences in rats and inbred mouse strains. We have differentially implicated dopaminergic (D1 and D2), NMDA, cholinergic (muscarinic and nicotinic), GABAergic and opioid processes in the consumption of sugar, saccharin and fat intake, as well as in the acquisition (learning) and expression (maintenance) of conditioned flavor preferences (CFP) for sugars and fats. The rat studies have allowed the identification of the nucleus accumbens, amygdala, prefrontal cortex and lateral hypothalamus in these responses. The inbred mouse studies have identified important observations of the role of genetic variance in differentially mediating the potency and participation of these pharmacological interventions. Current studies are examining the ability of muscarinic receptor antagonism with scopolamine to affect sucrose and saccharin intake as well as the acquisition and expression of sucrose-CFP in inbred SWR, BALB/c and C57BL/6 mouse strains.

Website:

<https://www.qc.cuny.edu/Page-Elements/Academics-Research-Centers-Initiatives/Doctoral-Programs/Psychology/Faculty-Bios/Richard-Bodnar>

Dr. Andrea Li (Psychology Department)

Email: andrea.li@qc.cuny.edu

Field of Research:

Visual perception and Psychophysics



Visual impairment is reduced vision that results from aging, disease, or injury that cannot be corrected by corrective lenses or surgery. With an aging population and increased prevalence of visual impairment, there is a growing need for understanding the effects of visual impairment on how we perceive and interact with the environment. Our ultimate goal is to contribute to the development of technologies that can be used to improve vision on an individual basis. Towards this goal, we aim to determine the effects of simulated visual impairment on the perception of a range of different visual stimuli ranging from simple patterns and shapes to more complex objects and text. Impairments such as blur and reduced contrast are digitally applied to visual stimuli and we systematically measure the perception of these stimuli under normal viewing conditions and impaired viewing conditions using psychophysical techniques. Results thus far suggest that mild blur (with which someone can still legally obtain a driver's license) has little effect on the perception of tilt but equivalently mild contrast reduction significantly impairs tilt perception. These results highlight the fact that different types of visual impairment result in different perceptions of the environment, and thus must be examined separately, before we can develop technologies to improve vision on an individual basis.

Website: <http://qcpages.qc.cuny.edu/Psychology/people/faculty/li.html>

MARC
MAXIMIZING ACCESS TO RESEARCH CAREERS

THE GRADUATE CENTER
CITY UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK

NERA
Northeast Regional Alliance
Health Careers MedPrep Program

Clubs and Opportunities



Association for
Computing Machinery



SIGMA XI
THE SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH SOCIETY
QUEENS COLLEGE CHAPTER



Columbia University Medical Center
Summer Public Health Scholars Program

Association for Computing Machinery

The Queens College chapter of the Association for Computing Machinery (ACM) aspires to involve all computer technology enthusiasts in Queens College by providing networking, learning and career-building opportunities. We're also on Slack! Register at this link [qc-acm.slack.com] to receive updates or just chat with other members.

Contacts: Aldolfas Lapsys (President): adolfas.lapsys23@gmail.cuny.edu; Zohaib Tariq (Vice President) Zohaibsuccess@gmail.com; Henry He (Secretary) henry.he44@gmail.cuny.edu

Biology Honors Society

The Biology Honor Society works to educate the students of Queens College by providing information about the opportunities offered by the biology department. In addition to holding a number of events throughout each semester, BHS offers tutoring for a number of introductory level biology courses through the Queens College Tutoring Center. The Biology Honor Society also provides a recitation program to help and educate Bio 105 students. This recitation program implements key concepts and questions that students will be tested on.

Contacts: Dov Bitterman (Co-President): dovibitterman@gmail.com and David Bitterman (Co-President): leeper9494@gmail.com.

Biology Master of Arts Program

An advanced degree confers a distinct advantage in today's competitive job market, along with the satisfaction of mastery in a specialized field. The Biology Department at Queens College offers a wide range of courses and research training opportunities leading to the Master of Arts degree. Our program provides enhanced credentials, skills, and knowledge to motivated individuals who wish to pursue careers in science-related fields, including biotechnology, occupational health and safety, patent law, forestry, science education, animal care, and conservation biology. The MA can also be a gateway into doctoral programs in the basic sciences, human and veterinary medicine, dentistry, public and allied health professions, law, technology, and engineering.

The flexible program accommodates both full- and part-time students; depending on student course load, with typical time-to-degree ranging from two to four years. MA candidates may choose between a course-intensive track, which offers advanced training in the biological sciences, and a research-intensive track, tailored to provide an immersive field- or laboratory-based experience, culminating in a research thesis. All students, regardless of track, are urged to participate in the extensive research opportunities within the department, and are eligible to receive credit toward their degree for this work.

Contact: Dr. Daniel Weinstein (Director, Biology Department): daniel.weinstein@qc.cuny.edu

Honors in the Mathematical and Natural Sciences Program

The Honors in the Mathematical and Natural Sciences program (HMNS, or Science Honors) is the Science Division's honors program. HMNS is an interdisciplinary program that offers undergraduates the opportunity to join research groups and carry out long-term research projects, for course credit, under the direction of faculty mentors. The first course in the program is HMNS 101, the Science Honors Seminar, which is an introduction to science research. Students can then register for the HMNS research courses, which culminate in presentation of an undergraduate thesis based on their project.

Contact: Dr. Wilma Saffran (Director, Chemistry and Biochemistry Department):
wilma.saffran@qc.cuny.edu

The Graduate Center of the City University of New York

Is a PhD in your future?

Interested in a career in science? Learn about the Science PhD programs at the CUNY Graduate Center (www.gc.cuny.edu/sciences). Find out how to apply and optimize your PhD application.

Contact:

Jason Patterson (Science Recruiter, Graduate Center Admissions Office) jpatterson@gc.cuny.edu

Minority Association of Pre-Medical Students

The Minority Association of Pre-Medical Students (MAPS) is a club that helps pre-health students achieve their academic and social goals. We do this by providing our members with opportunities to do volunteer work in our community, as well as allowing our members to network with medical schools and medical students.

Contact: Cristina Rodriguez (President): Queenscollegemaps@gmail.com

Maximizing Access to Research Careers

The MARC program is designed to provide junior and senior students extensive research experience with appropriate guidance, to gain entrance to graduate biomedical research programs and to succeed in their graduate studies. The program is divided into several phases, with applications due in the spring prior to the student's junior year, and activities beginning starting the summer preceding junior year. The activities designed to enhance graduate research success include workshops every semester and summer for students enrolled in the program. The workshops provide information and enhance skills in research basics, such as performing literature searches, critical analysis of research papers, basic research ethics, and how to examine, analyze and present data. The sessions are designed to prepare students for successful entry into graduate school, including strategies for preparation and applying to graduate programs.

The heart of the program is the opportunity for hands-on research experience. This activity starts in the first summer of the students' entry into the Program in the form of laboratory rotations and soon after in a mentor's laboratory. We monitor each student's progress through regular advisement, group meetings, student presentations, and written evaluations. Students gain awareness of the breadth and depth of sciences by attending departmental colloquia, student presentations, and internal and external scientific meetings. Interactions of MARC students with other students both encourages the non-MARC students to enter the field and builds self-confidence in the MARC students.

Contacts: Dr. Zahra Zakeri (Director): zahra.zakeri@qc.cuny.edu; Lynnmarie Alafnourian (Program Coordinator): qc.marc@hotmail.com

NERA MedPrep Program

The NERA MedPrep Program is a free 3 year summer commitment aimed to assist students who represent economic, geographic, cultural, racial, and ethnic diversity in their pursuit of gaining admission to medical school. As health care disparities continue to persist, MedPrep is committed to developing a diverse medical workforce as they will be well-suited to address such gaps. Participants are Freshman or Sophomore college students OR a community college student and from an economically disadvantaged background; a racial or ethnic group that has been historically underrepresented in medicine and dentistry; or a part of the country where residents have been historically underrepresented in medicine. The NERA MedPrep program uniquely builds on the collective expertise of four outstanding institutions (Rutgers New Jersey Medical School, Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons, Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai and Hofstra Northwell School of Medicine at Hofstra University) to expand health career preparation for minority and disadvantaged students from junior high school through medical school, with the goal of increasing competitiveness for and in medical school. Ultimately, we expect our scholars will have the humanism, professionalism, and interpersonal skills required of a future physician caring for a diverse population. The program offers stipend support, MCAT Prep, Clinical and Research Experience, and Academic Counseling and Mentoring. For the application, please visit <http://www.neramedprep.org/apply.html> starting November 1st, 2016. The application deadline is March 1st, 2017.

Contact: Cindy Estevez (Program Coordinator): cr2322@cumc.columbia.edu

The Queens College Neuroscience Club (QCNC)

QCNC is a collection of students dedicated to making the field of Neuroscience approachable, informative, and inclusive. We're an interdisciplinary group that believes art, technology, and other scientific disciplines have a place in furthering the way we understand the brain. Find us on Facebook! <https://www.facebook.com/qcneuro/>

Contact: Katarina Weingartner (President): katarinawengert@gmail.com

Office of Undergraduate Research

The Office of Undergraduate Research provides information to Queens College students and faculty about research opportunities and the successful practice of research. Recent research shows that involving students in research has many beneficial outcomes: higher GPAs, greater retention, faster graduation rates, greater satisfaction with the college experience and increased pursuit of graduate degrees. In short, the undergraduate research experience can be one of the most transformative experiences an undergraduate student can have. Visit our website at ougr.qc.cuny.edu to find opportunities, resources, funding and classes involving undergraduate research at Queens College.

Contact: Dr. John Dennehy (Director): john.dennehy@qc.cuny.edu

Science Organization of Minority Students

The Science Organization of Minority Students (SOMS) is a pre-professional club dedicated to aiding ethnic minorities others in pursuing a career in the sciences and math-related fields. Since 1972, SOMS has been a major factor in sending hundreds of Queens College students to the professional/graduate schools of their choice. As a member of SOMS or a "somie", one is equipped with the skills and strategies necessary to achieve admission into some of the nation's top professional/graduate schools. Our partnership with the Office of Minority Affairs in Frese Hall has allowed our members to be offered with top-notch advisement services. Our executive board and older members are made up of passionate individuals who enjoy sharing beneficial opportunities, and aiding you in your journey to professional or graduate school.

Contact: Myrtle Montague (President): Myrtle.Montague46@gmail.com

Sigma Xi: The Scientific Research Society

Sigma Xi, The Scientific Research Society is the honor society of scientists and engineers that recognizes scientific achievement. The Society is a diverse organization of members and chapters dedicated to companionship in science and engineering and to the advancement of knowledge through research, service and teaching. Its mission is to enhance the health of the research enterprise, foster integrity in science and engineering, and promote the public's understanding of science for the purpose of improving the human condition.

Contacts: Dr. John Dennehy (President, Queens College Chapter): john.dennehy@qc.cuny.edu;
Dr. Timothy Eaton (Treasurer, Queens College Chapter): timothy.eaton@qc.cuny.edu and Dr.
Richard Bodnar (Secretary, Queens College Chapter): richard.bodnar@qc.cuny.edu.

Summer Public Health Scholars Program

The Summer Public Health Scholars Program (SPHSP) is designed for undergraduate students to increase their interest and knowledge of public health and biomedical science careers. SPHSP is a partnership of Columbia University's College of Physicians and Surgeons, College of Dental Medicine, School of Nursing and the Mailman School of Public Health. Together they represent the broad spectrum of public health practice. SPHSP has been possible through grant funding awarded by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Office of Minority Health & Health Equity. It serves as a platform integrating science and practice for future public health professionals, physicians, dentists, nurses and research scientists, giving them a head start for a brilliant career.

This is a free ten week summer program with the application being officially open November 1st, 2016 and ending January 31st, 2017. The program includes:

- Trip to the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC): Introduces students to national and international public health work and opportunities in a government setting.
- Orientation: One week Orientation at Columbia University Medical Center.
- Field Experience/Mentoring
- Field Trips
- Public Health Coursework: 1) Introduction to Public Health, 2) Introduction to Epidemiology and 3) Health Disparities & Cultural Competence.
- Case Studies & Analysis
- Test Prep
- Professional Development

Program Benefits:

- A stipend, round-trip travel, and housing will be provided to the 42 selected program participants.
- Ongoing follow up and career/academic advisement from Columbia University staff and faculty.
- Students from across the country learn together on the same platform and network in one of the prime cities of the world with the ability to tap into the resources of Columbia University and the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention.

Please see the link below for more information:

<http://ps.columbia.edu/education/student-life/office-diversity/programs/college-and-post-baccalaureate-students/summer-publ>

For more information about the Office of Undergraduate Research, visit us at:

<http://ougr.qc.cuny.edu>

