

For Immediate Release:

June 20, 2023

***NINE SCHOLARS WELCOMED TO THE 2023
MASONIC MEDICAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE
SUMMER FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM***

Students Gain Valuable Experience Learning from Leading Scientists

UTICA, NY — The Masonic Medical Research Institute (MMRI) is pleased to introduce the fellows selected for the 2023 Summer Fellowship Program. This year, we are proud to welcome nine talented individuals who represent universities from New York, Pennsylvania, and Florida. This scholarship-based program gives college students the unique opportunity to work at a prestigious laboratory while learning from leading scientists whose biomedical research focuses on cardiovascular, neurological, and autoimmune disorders.

“We are thrilled to have these talented students with us at MMRI this year, each of whom was selected for their scientific prowess and curiosity. This year was especially competitive, as we received 48 applications from highly qualified individuals, the highest number of applications received to date,” said Dr. Khanh Ha, Predoctoral Research and Postdoctoral Affairs Program Coordinator.

The Summer Fellowship Program is a hallmark of MMRI’s dedication to education and training. Fellows are immersed in intensive training involving Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) topics, providing fellows the opportunity to work with cutting-edge tools in state-of-the-art research programs. Each fellow is paired with a scientist at the Institute, and together they work to design a scientific project that complements both the interests of the student and those of the laboratory. The program runs from May through July, concluding with a special graduation ceremony with community leaders, parents, staff, and donors.

The 2023 MMRI Summer Fellows include:

Joseph DeTraglia, University of Rochester
Dasomie Kim, Hamilton College
Ryan Klappmeyer, University of Florida
Meghan Lynskey, Rochester Institute of Technology
Joshua Macera, Binghamton University
Alexander Mandia, Lehigh University
Adelina Rivera, Vassar College
Nikita Shah, SUNY Polytechnic Institute
Caitlin Snyder, Fredonia

Summer Fellows - Class of 2023



Joseph DeTraglia

- School: University of Rochester
- Major: Molecular Genetics
- Career Plan: Graduate School, Medical Research
- Preceptors: Dr. Bing Xu & Dr. Maria Kontaridis



Dasomie Kim

- School: Hamilton College
- Major: Biochemistry
- Career Plan: Dental School
- Preceptors: Dr. Jason McCarthy & Dr. Khanh Ha



Ryan Klappmeyer

- School: University of Florida
- Major: Biomedical Engineering
- Career Plan: Graduate School, Biomedical Research
- Preceptors: Dr. Kumar Chennappan & Dr. Maria Kontaridis



Meghan Lynskey

- School: Rochester Institute of Technology
- Major: Biology
- Career Plan: Graduate School
- Preceptor: Dr. Nathan Tucker



Joshua Macera

- School: Binghamton University
- Major: Integrative Neuroscience
- Career Plan: Graduate School, Neuroscience
- Preceptor: Dr. Chase Kessinger



Alexander Mandia

- School: Lehigh University
- Major: Biology
- Career Plan: Graduate School & Biotechnology
- Preceptor: Dr. Nathan Tucker



Adelina Rivera

- School: Vassar College
- Major: Biochemistry and Mathematics
- Career Plan: Graduate School, Biomedical Research
- Preceptor: Dr. Jason McCarthy & Dr. Vikas



Nikita Shah

- School: SUNY Polytechnic Institute
- Major: Biology
- Career Plan: Upstate Medical University
- Preceptor: Dr. Zhiqiang Lin



Caitlin Snyder

- School: State University of New York at Fredonia
- Major: Biochemistry
- Career Plan: Graduate School, Biomedical Research
- Preceptor: Dr. Chase Kessinger

Since 1960, the MMRI Summer Fellowship Program has provided an immeasurable opportunity for young scholars to launch their careers. Alumni of the Fellowship have gone on to become scientists, clinicians, business professionals, and community leaders. This success would not have been possible if not for the generous support of our local sponsors. This year, MMRI was grateful to receive support from Drs. Atul and Amita Butala, Gary T. Forrest, The Mele Family Fund, Alera Group, Walter R. Leong, Burrows Foundation, Utica Lodge #47 F&AM, M&T Bank / Partners Trust Bank, and the Charitable Fund of the Community Foundation. The MMRI wishes to thank all our sponsors, and we wish all the 2023 Fellows a productive summer.

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MMRI is a non-profit dedicated to scientific research that improves the health and quality of life for all humankind. We strive to conduct high quality research aimed at developing a deeper understanding of cardiovascular, neurocognitive, and autoimmune disease etiology, in the hopes of generating innovative cures and treatments for these ailments. Visit us online at:

www.MMRI.edu