



# ASDRP

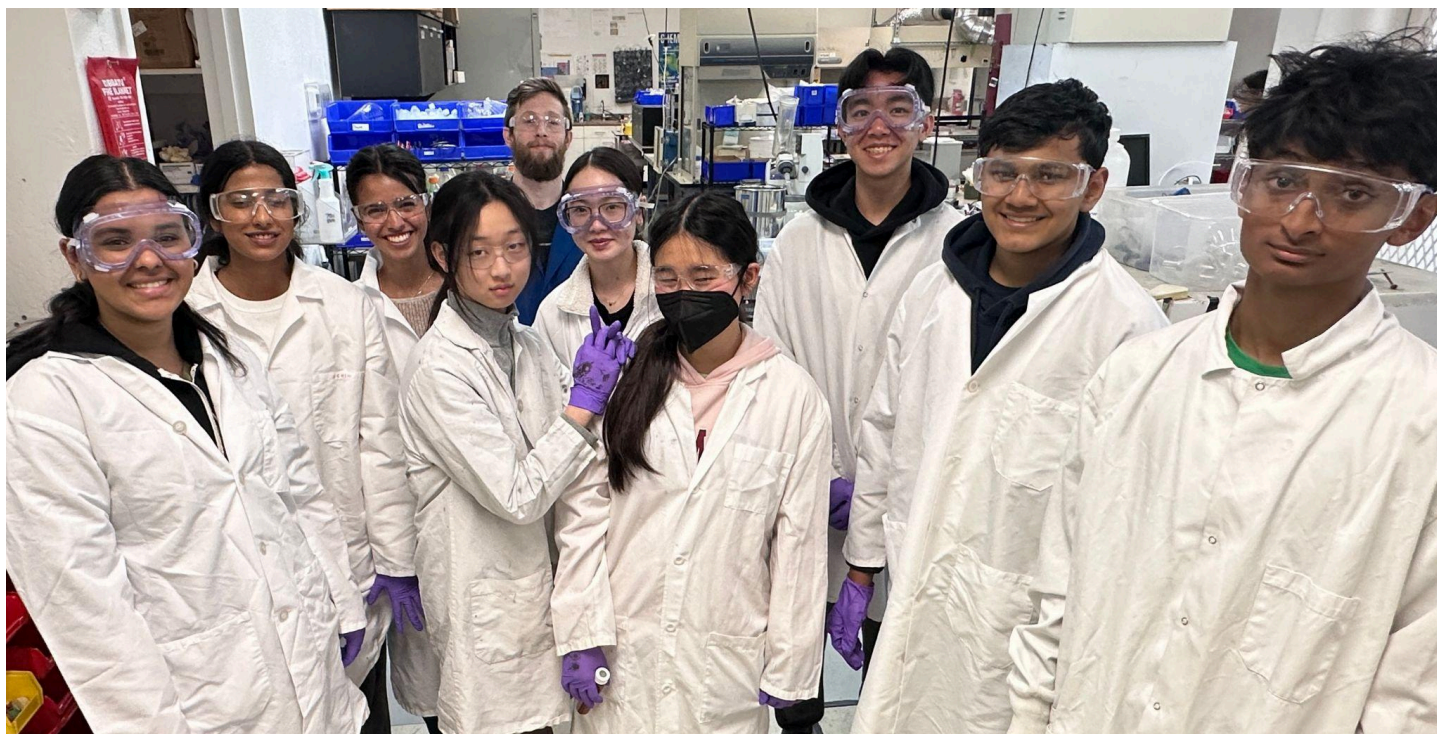
Aspiring Scholars Directed Research Program

# [NewsBytes]

## *Week of April 5 - 11, 2025*

### Announcements, Shoutouts, and Accolades

**Dr. Harrison Rahn's Team - just a few of them.**



*Dr. Harrison Rahn is our newest Principal Investigator and a World Level Competitor in Karate. He brings a wealth of knowledge in chemistry, research expertise, world travel and competition as well as student development. Dr. Rahn received his PhD from Stanford University, and his MS and BSc degrees from Tulane University, and is an expert in drug delivery and macromolecular organic chemistry.*

*According to the ASDRP [Rahn Lab website](#) "In the Rahn Lab we believe good chemistry is beautiful chemistry. Elegant syntheses of impactful therapeutics are made possible by the development of stable, effective, and accessible reagents. In our lab, we develop novel reagents that provide access to previously difficult to install functional-groups for late-stage functionalization in medicinal chemistry and material science. **Aim 1:** Reagent Development; **Aim 2:** High-throughput screening of drug-like molecules; **Aim 3:** Late-stage functionalization and evaluation of novel therapeutics" Check out the [Rahn Website](#).*

*Events schedule list is subject to change with or without notice. Please check the ASDRP website for the most up to date information.*

© Aspiring Scholars Directed Research Program 2025, All rights reserved.

ASDRP is a production of Olive Children Foundation, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization in Fremont, California.

[\[Link to Public ASDRP Events Calendar\]](#)

---

## New Publication Preprint from the Njoo Lab

Earlier this week, students from the Njoo lab published a new paper on BioRxiv, "[Synthesis, anticancer properties, and biological profiling of synthetic glycan analogs of proscillaridin A](https://www.biorxiv.org/content/10.1101/2025.03.31.646140v1)" in which the team disclosed the chemical synthesis of two analogs of Proscillaridin A, an anticancer natural product, and evaluated the effects of two prodrugs of Proscillaridin A in a variety of cell signaling pathways related to immunomodulation and cancer tumorigenesis in colorectal and liver cancer models. This paper was published in collaboration with Dr. Feng Wang-Johanning, MD, PhD; and Dr. Gary Johanning, PhD, from our collaborators at SunnyBay Biotech. Read the preprint at this link: <https://www.biorxiv.org/content/10.1101/2025.03.31.646140v1>

---

## Research 101 finishes up on April 5, 2025

This weekend is our 10th and final week of the Spring 2025 running this semester's rendition of Research 101, our foundation course for first semester students. Prof. Michael Amadi gave students their tenth lesson on principles and practical application of presenting, networking, poster presentations and being an effective communicator.

---

## Parents, Families and Friends of ASDRP can Donate - Any Time

Thank you to all of our families who helped us raise close to \$75,000 in only 4 months this past fall. Our goal for 2025 is to double that and reach \$150,000. Your generosity has a direct impact on student researchers and ASDRP's on campus and remote research teams. Many of our families utilize corporate matching benefits - thank you!

Financial donations can be made directly through our donation PayPal page. Options for one time and recurring donations are available. All donations are tax deductible and you can request that your donation be applied towards a specific laboratory. Check out donations webpage: [www.asdrp.org/donations](http://www.asdrp.org/donations). If you need assistance, please contact David Linnevers @ [david.linnevers@asdrp.org](mailto:david.linnevers@asdrp.org) for more information.

---

## On the Horizon: Upcoming Events

**Saturday, April 5 @ 9:30 - 1:00 PM**

**Research 101, Week 10 / Module 10: "Research Posters", Mr. Michael Amadi**

Research 101 is mandatory for all first semester students, and covers the fundamentals of research methodology, best practices, and basic statistics and writing skills. Module 10 / Week 10, Michael Amadi will discuss practical applications towards developing an impactful research poster, which is a necessary skill towards students' later aspirations to present work in conferences or in papers. First Semester Students are required to join us at [10:00 AM PDT via Zoom](#).

*Events schedule list is subject to change with or without notice. Please check the ASDRP website for the most up to date information.*

© Aspiring Scholars Directed Research Program 2025, All rights reserved.

ASDRP is a production of Olive Children Foundation, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization in Fremont, California.

[\[Link to Public ASDRP Events Calendar\]](#)

**Saturday, April 5 @ 7:00 - 8:00 PM**

**Spring School Year Seminar: The Logic of Chemical Synthesis (Dr. Njoo) @ Seminar Room**

*This seminar meets on Saturday nights, with a focus on retrosynthetic analysis, strategies in atom- and step-economical total synthesis of natural products, and mechanistic study of named reactions. In person only, open to all students.*

**Tuesday, April 8 @ 4:00 - 5:00 PM**

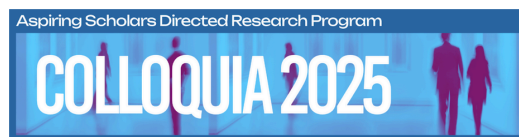
**Spring 2025 Core Training: Tissue Culture Training (In Person Only)**

*Students who have completed PI specific training and who need to learn cell culture techniques may attend this training.*

**Tuesday, April 8 @ 7:00 - 8:30 PM**

**Colloquia held online via Zoom (Weekly) Colloquia Website:**

[www.asdrp.org/colloquia](http://www.asdrp.org/colloquia). Join us every Tuesday at 7:00 PM on Zoom for the ASDRP student researchers Colloquia. All are invited and student researchers need to attend. [Zoom Link](#)



**Department of Chemistry, Biochemistry & Physics**

***“An Explainable AI Algorithm for COVID-19 Detection Based on Layer-wise Relevance Propagation”***

[Viktorija Liu's Lab](#). Presenters: Vedant Hathalia, Bellarmine College Preparatory '27; Tolulope Elegbede, James Logan High School '26; Krithi Tandyala, James Logan High School '26; Josh Karthikeyan, American High School '27

***“Robust Mobile Application for Pneumonia Detection: Evaluating CNN Performance with Noise and Distance Variability”***

[Viktorija Liu's Lab](#). Presenters: John Xie, Bellarmine College Preparatory '27; Vihaan Udayakumar, Mission San Jose High School '28

**Department of Computer Science & Engineering**

***“QC1”***

[Dr. Larry McMahan's Lab](#) Presenters: Leena Adwankar, Irvington High School '27; Linda Chang, Homestead High School '25; Sriaditya Pendyala, The Quarry Lane School '27; Nitya Pisolkar, Arch Bishop Mitty High School '27; Sahil Vijay, Leigh High School '26; Lakshmi Prasanna, Mission San Jose '25; Anjali Kukkamalla, Amador Valley High School '26

**Wednesday, April 9 @ 6:30 - 7:15 PM**

**Bi-weekly ASDRP Parent Fireside Chat (ASDRP Leadership Team)**

*Come and join us for our bi-weekly Parent's Fireside chat via zoom. This week we will be discussing the spring-to-summer transition; summer schedule; senior celebration (May 26, 2025), and various advisors will be sharing more about their labs and research projects/expectations. [Zoom Link](#)*

*Events schedule list is subject to change with or without notice. Please check the ASDRP website for the most up to date information.*

© Aspiring Scholars Directed Research Program 2025, All rights reserved.

ASDRP is a production of Olive Children Foundation, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization in Fremont, California.

[\[Link to Public ASDRP Events Calendar\]](#)

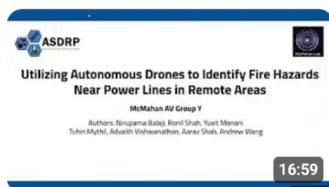




[NewsBytes]

## End Note

Are you following us on YouTube? Subscribe and listen to our student researchers present their research over the last 4 years. We have over [246 YouTube Colloquia](#) videos posted!



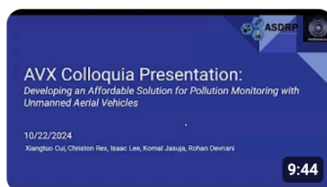
Utilizing Autonomous Drones to Target Fire Hazards in Close...

149 views • 5 months ago



Benchmarking SNN, CNN, and RNN Combination Models to Translate...

75 views • 5 months ago



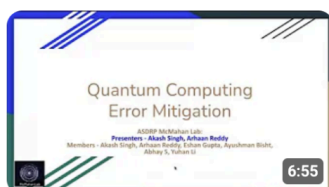
Developing an Affordable Solution for Pollution Monitoring with...

187 views • 5 months ago



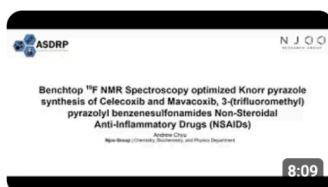
PsyColor Therapy: Investigating the Effect of Color Therapy on the...

94 views • 5 months ago



Quantum Computing Error Mitigation

82 views • 5 months ago



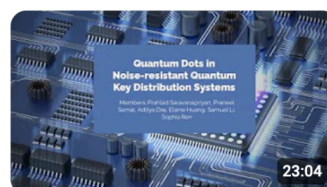
Benchmark 19F NMR Spectroscopy Knorr pyrazole synthesis of...

207 views • 5 months ago



Development of Protein Markers for Quantitative Western Blot Analysis

140 views • 5 months ago



Quantum Dots in Noise Resistant Quantum Key Distribution Systems

119 views • 5 months ago

Events schedule list is subject to change with or without notice. Please check the ASDRP website for the most up to date information.

© Aspiring Scholars Directed Research Program 2025, All rights reserved.

ASDRP is a production of Olive Children Foundation, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization in Fremont, California.

[\[Link to Public ASDRP Events Calendar\]](#)