



ASDRP

Aspiring Scholars Directed Research Program

[NewsBytes]

Week of April 12 - 18, 2025

Announcements, Shoutouts, and Accolades

BLITZ Talks coming up on Tuesday, May 6, 2025 from 7:00-9:00 PM

ASDRP holds our online Research Symposium, via zoom, where we feature over 60 student researchers presenting their latest finds and success. Presentations are featured across all of our research laboratories. Student Researchers - registration is open. [Register HERE](#). **Deadline to register is April 30, 2025 and the presentation schedule will be posted on the BLITZ talks website on May 1, 2025.**



New Publication in Springer Nature Discover Chemistry from Pazzi and Njoo Lab

Earlier this week, students from the [Pazzi Lab](#) and [Njoo Lab](#) collectively got their [publication online in Springer Nature's Discover Chemistry Journal](#), where the team reported the synthesis and biological evaluation of a series of analogs of the small molecule [Carmofur](#), which was initially developed decades ago as a treatment for colorectal cancer, but was recently discovered by to be a potent covalent inhibitor for the main protease of the SARS-CoV-2 coronavirus. Enabled by [an earlier study by the Njoo lab published in Canadian J. Chem \(Wang, et al. 2023\)](#), the team synthesized a library of diverse analogs of carmofur with different side chains, and found that some compounds were far more potent at inhibiting the main protease of the coronavirus compared to carmofur. Uniquely, the

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.

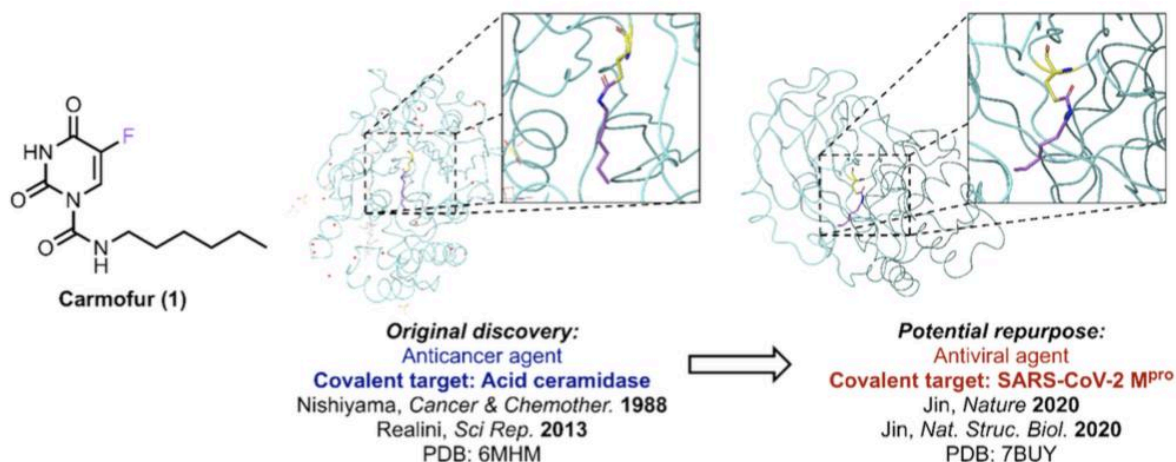
ASDRP is a production of Olive Children Foundation, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization in Fremont, California.

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

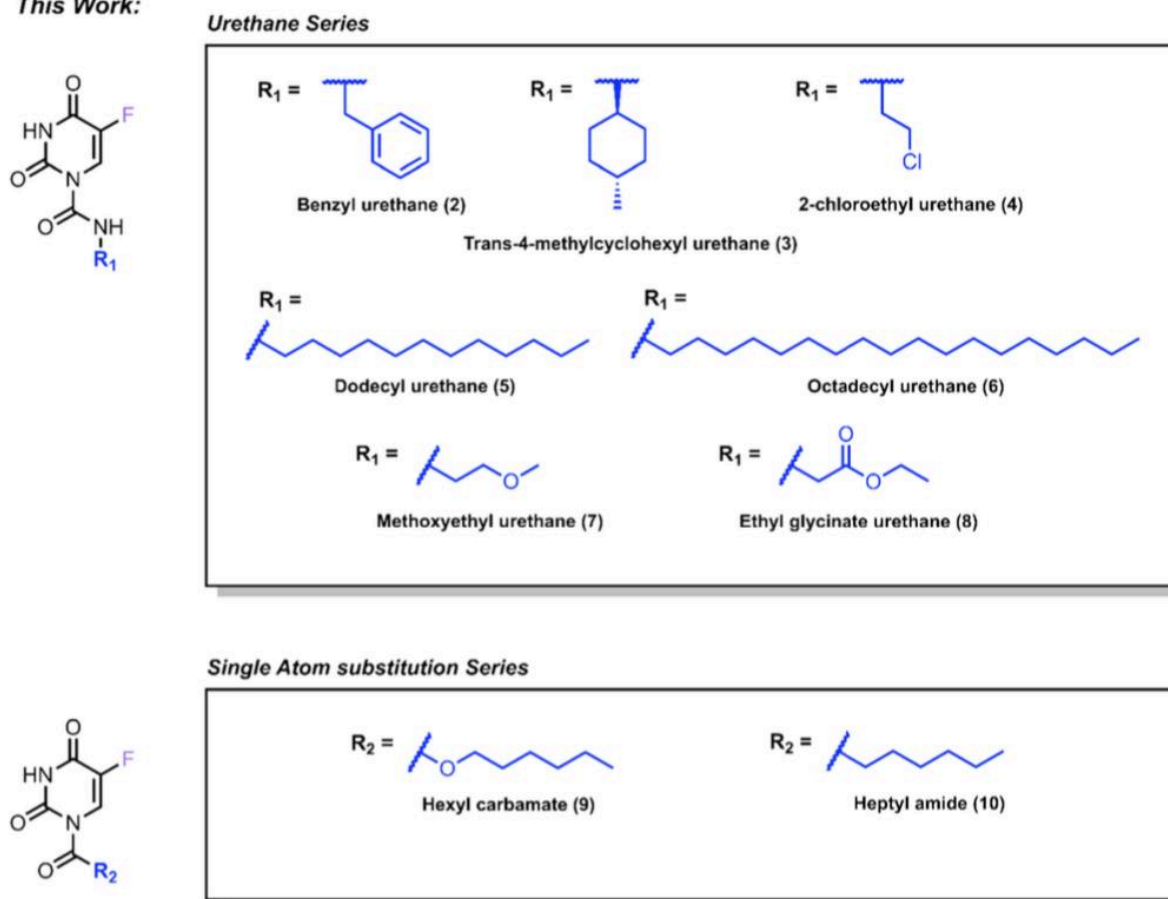
Pazzi lab team identified that a dodecyl urethane analog of carmofur, with a 12-carbon long tail, induces potent membrane rupture of giant unilamellar vesicles (GUV's). Read the full paper here:

<https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s44371-025-00144-9>

A)



B) **This Work:**



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.

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



ASDRP Students Meet Nobel Laureate Prof. Dr. Francis Arnold at the American Chemical Society National Meeting

Last week, students from the [Njoo Lab](#), [Brah Lab](#), and [Amadi Lab](#) presented their research at the [Spring 2025 National Meeting of the American Chemical Society](#), joining nearly twenty thousand professional life scientists and physical scientists at the largest national gathering of molecular scientists in the world, held this spring at the San Diego Convention Center. Among the many highlights was a unique opportunity for the Njoo lab presenters to meet Professor Francis Arnold, the 2018 Nobel Laureate in Chemistry, after the plenary session at the conference. Dr. Arnold is the Linus Pauling Professor of Chemical Engineering at Caltech, and received the 2018 for the development of evolved enzymes to perform noncanonical chemistry.

In addition to meeting Dr. Arnold, the Njoo lab presented nine posters at the Division of Organic and Division of Medicinal Chemistry, and the Brah Lab and Amadi Lab each brought a poster as well, joining nearly twenty thousand professional chemists who gathered in San Diego from around the world to share the latest in molecular science.

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

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.

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

a specific laboratory. Check out donations webpage: www.asdrp.org/donations. If you need assistance, please contact David Linnevers @ david.linnevers@asdrp.org for more information.

On the Horizon: Upcoming Events

Tuesday, April 15 @ 4:30 - 6:30 PM

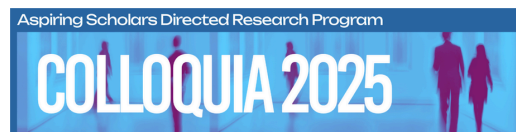
Spring 2025 Core Training: Optical Spectroscopy, Plate Readers (In Person Only)

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

Tuesday, April 15 @ 7:00 - 8:30 PM

Colloquia held online via Zoom (Weekly) Colloquia Website:

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

“Progress towards the total synthesis of Sporovexin A”

Dr. Edward Njoo’s Lab Presenters: Jay McChesney, Cherine Zhou, Anca Stephan, Dr. Edward Njoo

Department of Computer Science & Engineering

“QCY - Using machine learning to diagnose spinal defects, injuries and illnesses.”

Dr. Larry McMahan’s Lab Presenters: Alyssa Chou, Bashkar Kabbara

Saturday, April 19 @ 6:30 - 7:15 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.

Saturday, May 3 @ 10:00 - Noon

ASDRP Spring 2025 Parent Coffee & Behind The Scenes at ASDRP.

Parents - check your email for the invitation and RSVP form. We look forward to seeing you all on campus!

Tuesday, May 6 @ 7:00 - 9:00 PM

ASDRP Spring 2025 BLITZ Talks via Zoom

*ASDRP holds our online Research Symposium, via zoom, where we feature over 60 student researchers presenting their latest finds and success. Presentations are featured across all of our research laboratories. Student Researchers - registration is open. [Register HERE](#). **Deadline to register is April 30, 2025 and the presentation schedule will be posted on the BLITZ talks website on May 1, 2025.***

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.

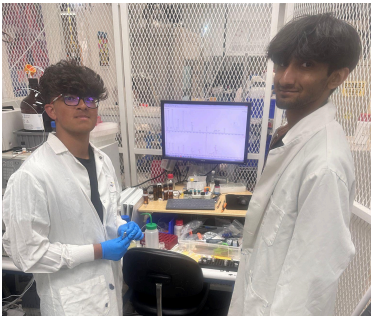
ASDRP is a production of Olive Children Foundation, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization in Fremont, California.

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



End Note

Around the Labs and a few other spots....



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.

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