27th Annual

UROC PROGRAMS & SPONSORS
27TH ANNUAL UROC PARTICIPANTS & SPONSORS

The Undergraduate Research Opportunities Consortium (UROC) is managed by the University of Arizona Graduate College and is comprised of 10 undergraduate research programs. Five of the programs are managed and/or supported by the Graduate College and five are affiliated programs sponsored by the National Science Foundation Research Experience for Undergraduates (NSF REU) Program and the U.S. Department of Energy. The objective of the consortium is to increase the number of underrepresented students who apply to graduate school. UROC Scholars engage in faculty-supervised research and participate in a comprehensive graduate school preparation program that includes Graduate Record Examination (GRE) test preparation, graduate admission and funding workshops, presentation skills seminars and a professional research conference experience. A special thank you to Graduate College leadership, faculty mentors, staff, graduate assistants, and supporters!

Frans Tax, PhD, Faculty Director
Graduate College – Office of Diversity & Inclusion

Donna Treloar, MA, Director
Undergraduate Research Opportunities Consortium
Graduate College – Office of Diversity & Inclusion

2022 UROC PROGRAMS, STAFF, AND SPONSORS

UROC GRADUATE COLLEGE PROGRAMS

Access, Wellness, and Relational Determinants of Student Success (UROC-PREP/AWARDSS)
PI: Michelle Perfect, PhD,
Co-PI: Brandy Brown Perkl, PhD
Program Coordinator: Stephanie Moreno, MBA
Assistant Professor: Andrew Huerta, PhD
Sponsors: U.S. Department of Education - Institute of Education Sciences (Award: #R305B160003 and #R305B210019), University of Arizona, University of Arizona College of Applied Science and Technology, University of Arizona Graduate College

MINIMIZING HEALTH DISPARITIES SUMMER RESEARCH PROGRAM (MHD)
Program Coordinators: Tianna MacMeans and Holly Lopez
Sponsors: University of Arizona Graduate College, Western Alliance to Expand Student Opportunities (WAESO)
Ronald E. McNair Achievement Program (McNair)
PI/Program Director: Andrew Huerta, PhD
Program Coordinator: Holly Lopez
Administrative Assistant: Victoria Juvera
Graduate Teaching Assistants: Jacqueline Larriva, ABD and Fernando Paredes
Sponsors: U.S. Department of Education, Federal TRIO Program, Ronald E. McNair Postbaccalaureate Achievement Program (Award: #P217A170284), University of Arizona Graduate College

SUMMER RESEARCH INSTITUTE (SRI)
Program Coordinators: Tianna MacMeans and Donna Treloar, MA
Teaching Supervisor: Andrew Huerta, PhD
Graduate Teaching Assistants: Melinda Willett, MA
Sponsors: University of Arizona Graduate College and Western Alliance to Expand Student Opportunities (WAESO)

UROC-PREP
Program Director: Andrew Huerta, PhD
Administrative Assistant: Victoria Juvera
Graduate Teaching Assistants: Joanna Sanchez Avila, ABD and Mary L. Bankhead
Sponsors: University of Arizona Graduate College, Western Alliance to Expand Student Opportunities (WAESO)

UROC AFFILIATE PROGRAMS

RESEARCH EXPERIENCES FOR UNDERGRADUATES SITE: Environmental and Earth Systems Research at Biosphere 2 (B2 REU)
PI: Katerina Dontsova, PhD
Co-PI: Kevin Bonine, PhD
Sponsors: National Science Foundation Research Experiences for Undergraduates (NSF REU) Program and University of Arizona Graduate College

COGNITIVE AND AUTONOMOUS TEST VEHICLE (CAT VEHICLE) PROGRAM/ELECTRICAL AND COMPUTER ENGINEERING RESEARCH EXPERIENCES FOR UNDERGRADUATES (ECE REU)
PI: Gregory Ditzler, PhD
Coordinator: Noel Hennessey, PhD
Graduate Assistant: Haeleah Lester
Graduate Assistant Mentors: Safwan Elmadani, Arminda Estrada, and David Schwartz
Sponsors: National Science Foundation REU and University of Arizona Graduate College
COGNITIVE AND HIGH FREQUENCY LONG RANGE COMMUNICATIONS (HF Program)
PI: Michael Marefat, PhD
Co-PI: Tamal Bose, PhD and Loukas Lazos, PhD
Coordinator: Noel Hennessy, PhD
Graduate Assistant: Haeleah Lester
Graduate Assistant Mentors: Jingcheng Li, Noel Teku, and Ziqi Xu
Sponsors: National Science Foundation (NSF) and University of Arizona Graduate College

PARTNERSHIP AND PROACTIVE CYBERSECURITY TRAINING (PACT)
PI: Salim Hariri, PhD
Co-PI: Tamal Bose, PhD and Gregory Ditzler, PhD
Coordinator: Noel Hennessy, PhD
Graduate Assistant: Haeleah Lester
Graduate Assistant Mentors: Alex Berian, Srishti Gupta, and Shalaka Satam
Sponsors: U.S. Department of Energy (DoE) and University of Arizona Graduate College

SCHOLAR TRAINING ACADEMY FOR RESEARCH IN STEM (STARS)
PIs: Nura Dualeh, MA and Rebecca Gomez, PhD
Program Director: Nura Dualeh, MA
Coordinator: Leah Callovini
Graduate Teaching Assistants: Joanna Sanchez-Avila, ABD and Mary Bankhead
Sponsors: The Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation, Arizona’s Science, Engineering, and Math Scholars Program (ASEMS), University of Arizona Graduate College

GUEST PROGRAM SUPPORTED BY UROC
BLAISER: Border Latino and American Indian Summer Exposure to Research/FRONTERA:
Focusing Research in the Border Area Summer Internship
PI: Francisco Moreno, MD
Director: Allison Huff, DHEd
Coordinator: Genesis Garcia
Sponsor: Office of the Senior Vice President for Health Sciences, Arizona Area Health Education Centers (AZ-AHEC) and Arizona Health Opportunities Pathways to Excellence (AZ-HOPE)
Michael D. L. Johnson, PhD

Associate Professor, Immunobiology
Member, BIO5 Institute
Member, Valley Fever Center for Excellence
Member, Asthma & Airway Disease Research Center
Director of Graduate Studies, Industrial Microbiology Track, Applied Bioscience Program
Director of the National Summer Undergraduate Research Project (NSURP)

Michael D. L. Johnson received his bachelors from Duke University. He obtained a Ph.D. in Biochemistry and Biophysics from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, where he studied the effects of calcium on bacterial motility and attachment under the mentorship of Matthew Redinbo. For his postdoctoral training, Michael Johnson went to St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital in order to work with Jason Rosch on metal homeostasis of Streptococcus pneumoniae and subsequently with Douglas Green on the mechanisms of LC3-associated phagocytosis. Michael Johnson joined the faculty of the University of Arizona in 2016.