



NEWS RELEASE

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Eight Undergraduate Students Awarded \$42K in uCIBR Student Grants

Utah State University Center for Integrated BioSystems (CIB) has awarded grants to eight undergraduate students from various departments in the Colleges of Agriculture, Engineering, Natural Resources, and Science. These students were selected from a very competitive field and will join other graduate and undergraduate students who receive support for their research from the Center for Integrated BioSystems.

The students, departments, mentors, and their projects, are listed below:

- Sara Huefner, Chemistry and Biochemistry with Dr. Alvan Hengge, in support of her presentation at the American Chemical Society's 236th National Meeting in Philadelphia, PA with a poster entitled: "Protein-Tyrosine Phosphatases: Comparing the Effects of Mutation on Protein Conformation and Catalysis."
- Jake Jones, Animal, Dairy and Veterinary Sciences with Dr. Lee Rickords, in support of his undergraduate research entitled "Metabolic Differences between Murine Inner Cell Mass Cells and Murine Embryonic Stem Cells Grown in the Presence of Leukemia Inhibitory Factor."
- Hyrum Gillespie, Plants, Soils and Climate with Dr. Yajun Wu, in support of his undergraduate research entitled "Developing Tools for Gene Function Analysis in Crops."
- Richard Gardner, Wildland Resources; Conservation & Restoration Ecology with Dr. Karen Mock, in support of his undergraduate research entitled "Genetic and Phytochemical Associations in Aspen."
- C. Luke Peterson, Biology with Dr. Joseph Li, in support of his undergraduate research entitled "Affects of Toll-Like Receptor Inhibition in A549 Cells."
- Mitchell Bassett, Animal, Dairy and Veterinary Sciences with Dr. Ken White, in support of his undergraduate research entitled "Characterizing Histone Modifications to the Bovine Oct4 Gene in Early Embryonic Development Using Carrier Chromatin Immunoprecipitation."

- Leslie Munteer, Biological & Irrigation Engineering with Dr. Anhong Zhou, in support of his undergraduate research entitled “Modeling of Chemotaxis of *Pseudomonas putida* Utilizing Quartz Crystal Microbalance (QCM) Sensors and Chemoattractants.”
- Hunter Timbimboo, Nutrition and Food Sciences with Dr. Korry Hintze, in support of his undergraduate research entitled “Effect of Milk Fat Globular Membrane on Epithelial Integrity and Gene Expression.”

CIB Associate Director Dr. Kenneth White says, “This is a unique opportunity for students at USU to interact with other students across disciplines to better understand research activities on campus. The goal is to foster in these students the potential for interdisciplinary research and provide them with unique educational opportunities.”

The Undergraduate Center for Integrated BioSystems Research (uCIBR) Student program provides support for research and travel. In addition to financial support, students meet monthly to present their research and attend workshops to prepare them for today’s competitive research environment. For more information, visit www.biosystems.usu.edu.

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