NEURONETWORK FOR EMERGING THERAPIES

THE TAUBER FAMILY STUDENT INTERNSHIP

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THE TAUBER FAMILY STUDENT INTERNSHIP

Established in 2013 by Shelley and Joel Tauber, the Tauber Family Student Internship was inspired by the educational journey of their granddaughter, who furthered her studies in medical school, and is now a resident in pediatrics.

This salaried 10-week program gives undergraduate students the ability to dip their toes in and experience cutting-edge research. After being chosen through an application process, each Tauber Family Intern is paired up with a NeuroNetwork for Emerging Therapies researcher who will serve as their mentor. In addition to hands-on training in a variety of biomedical research techniques, with the help of their mentor, students develop their very own research projects.

Many past recipients have progressed to successful careers in graduate school, medical school, and other Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) careers.

THE IMPACT

Their work has led to...

40 CITATIONS

26 PUBLICATIONS

21 JOURNALS

21 INTERNS WENT TO MED SCHOOL

4 INTERNS HAVE PLANS TO ATTEND

"Guiding and supporting the future of the medical research field is central to the NeuroNetwork for Emerging Therapies efforts. The Tauber Family Student Internship is so important because it gives undergraduates the support they need to feed their curiosity and grow into the research leaders and doctors of tomorrow."

— EVA FELDMAN, M.D., PH.D.

James W. Albers Distinguished University Professor of Neurology
Russell N. DeJong Professor of Neurology
Director, NeuroNetwork for Emerging Therapies
Director, ALS Center of Excellence

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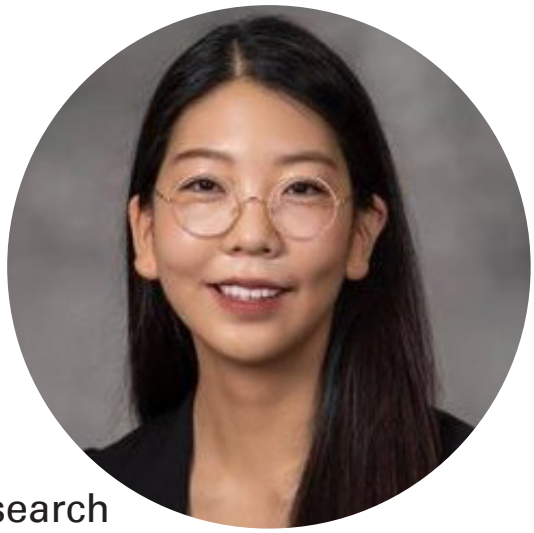
THE TAUBER FAMILY INTERNS

2013
Anna Bakeman
Liz Bruno
Rebecca Glasser
Sangri Kim

2014
Anna Bakeman
Ashley Berry
Liz Bruno
Josh Chang
Rebecca Glasser
David Haidar
Kristen Mikhail
Abishek Rajkumar
Emily Stern
Claire Welsh
Laura Wyatt

2015
Kevin Barlow
Liz Bruno
Bader Kashlan
Ellie Krasnick
Samantha Lyons
Kristen Mikhail
Christopher Sesi
Andrew Solway
Jessica Walter



SANGRI KIM, M.D.
Neurology Resident
Northwestern University
Feinberg School of Medicine

"Honestly, the Tauber Internship did so much. It's very hard to find good research opportunities as an undergrad, especially with mentors who care about your growth and development and take the time to teach and invest in you. That's what the internship did for me. It helped put me on a path to becoming a neurologist."

CHRISTOPHER SESI, M.D.
Opthamology Resident
Henry Ford Hospital

"Having lost my grandfather to ALS, I began to search for ways to become involved in the fight against this terrible disease. Getting involved in research truly made me feel that I was on the front line of this battle. Furthermore, it confirmed my decision to pursue medicine and inspired me to become the best physician I could be."

2016

Liz Bruno
Sabrina Deutsch
Kristen Mikhail
Kristen Raue
Christopher Sesi
Matthew Silbergleit
Andrew Solway
Jessica Walter

2017

Monica Choi
Julia Haidar
Olivia Krys
Giovanni LoGrasso
Kristen Mikhail
Hayley Petit
Erin Reasoner

2018

Kriti Babu
Alp Karaboga
Katharina Kretzler
Juan Grillo-Mosquera
Hayley Petit
Ghislaine Taubman

KATHERINA KRETZLER

First-year Med/Ph.D. Student
University of Freiburg

WHERE ARE YOU FROM?

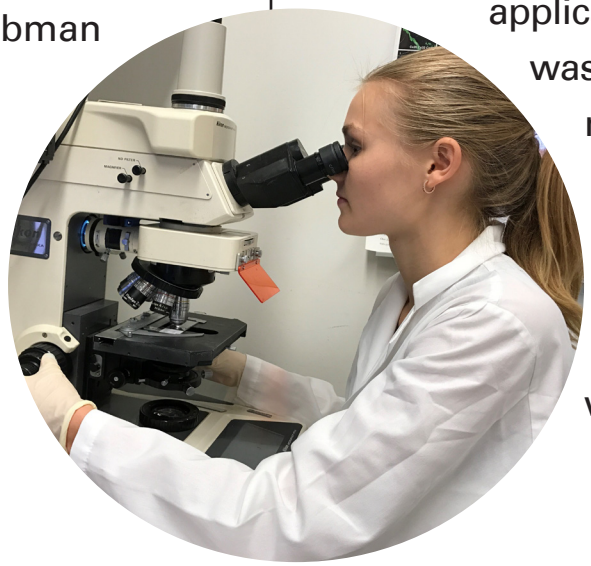
I was born in Munich, Germany, and I moved with my family to Ann Arbor when I was five years old.

WHAT DID YOU DO IN THE NEURONETWORK LAB?

My first time as a Tauber Intern was after my sophomore year of high school, then, during college. Both times involving diabetic neuropathy. For my honors thesis I looked at how different dietary interventions affect diabetic neuropathy and diabetic nephropathy.

HOW DID THE INTERNSHIP IMPACT YOU?

As a Tauber Intern, my eyes were opened to the world of research at a young age. Through the support of the Tauber Internship and Dr. Feldman, I was able to get my first experiences at the lab bench and contribute to research. I cherished the chance to have hands-on applications of the laboratory techniques I was learning in my classes and study molecules under the microscope that I read about in my textbooks. It was also impactful to get to know high-achieving women in STEM, and form a personal relationship with many members of the team.



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2019

Shannon Chan
Noha Eid
Sebasitan Iniguez
Katharina Kretzler
Jackson McGrath
Athul Nair
Kaitlyn Pacut
Cole Pieroni
Whitney Rubin

2020

Katharina Kretzler
Jacquelin Kwentus
Jackson McGrath
Athul Nair
Whitney Rubin

2021

Katharina Kretzler
Jacquelin Kwentus
Jackson McGrath
Athul Nair
Whitney Rubin

2022

Adam Allouch
Katharina Kretzler
Jackson McGrath
Victoria Villanueva Guzman

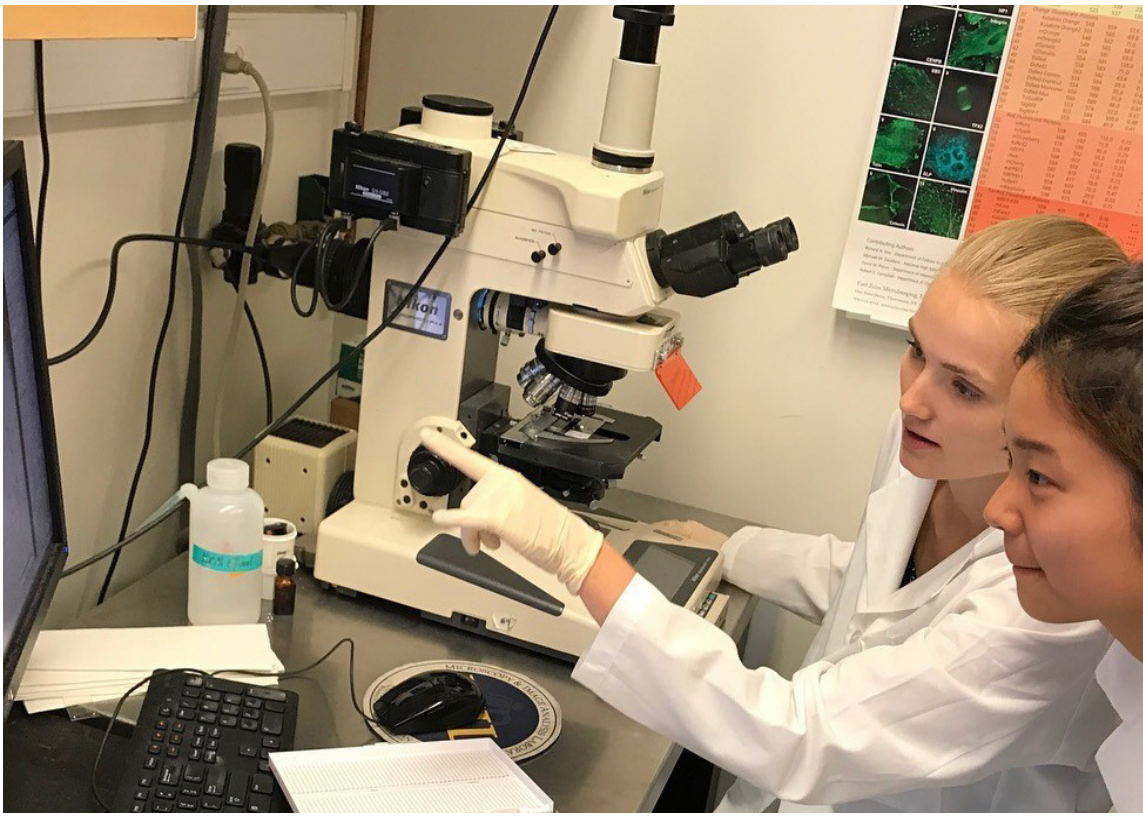
+ MORE TO COME

NOTE: Names in blue went to medical school

COLE PIERONI

Prospective Med Student
Research Assistant
Frankel Cardiovascular Center

"I worked with the ALS group for 3 years. Being a Tauber Scholar has fundamentally impacted my career and education for the better. Working alongside the amazing colleagues under Dr. Feldman, I learned the value of fostering a culture of asking questions and being thorough in finding answers. This program has ignited my passion for medicine and research and has provided a foundational experience from which my career continues to grow."



“Tauber Family Interns, like Adam, help us move critical research forward and are a great way to teach the next generation of scientists the basic fundamentals of translational research.”

— SARAH ELZINGA, PH.D.
Edith Briskin Emerging Scholar

CURRENT INTERN

ADAM ALLOUCH

Sophomore
(newly declared neuroscience major)
University of Michigan

WHERE ARE YOU FROM?

I am originally from Lebanon and I was raised in Dearborn, Michigan.

WHY DID YOU BECOME A TAUBER INTERN?

I’m fixated on understanding the “how and why” of everything I come across. We don’t have many answers when it comes to the brain, so I couldn’t help but be completely enthralled by the idea of helping to solve some of these puzzles. Also, since obesity and diabetes have become so prevalent, understanding the interactions between metabolic dysfunction and cognitive health pique my interest.

WHAT IS THE MOST INTERESTING EXPERIENCE YOU HAVE HAD TO DATE?

It would be floating tissue immunohistochemistry of mouse brains, which produces a 3-dimensional image of microglia, resident immune cells of the brain, and provides massive amounts of information.

HOW HAS THE TAUBER FAMILY INTERNSHIP IMPACTED YOU?

I’ve grown a great deal and I hope to continue to build on the wide range of skills I’ve learned as I start the first steps of developing my independent project. The idea of following in the footsteps of the researchers and leading my own scientific inquiry really excites me and serves as a long-term goal for future.

I’m especially thankful to Dr. Sarah Elzinga, who always takes the time to explain, discuss, and teach. I will be forever grateful for her commitment to my development and growth. It’s truly a privilege to have her as a mentor!

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"The Tauber Family Student Internship is important for many reasons. It enables undergraduate students to contribute to the lab while gaining invaluable hands-on experience. Getting this kind of exposure to lab work early on helps foster a love of science and research and prepares those interested for future careers in these fields. Having M.D.s that are interested in research is incredibly important to the scientific process. Often these clinician-scientists form a bridge between the bench and the bedside that lead to new therapies."

— BENJAMIN MURDOCK, PH.D.

Robert A. Epstein and Joan M. Chernoff-Epstein Emerging Scholar
Research Assistant Professor of Neurology

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