

Research Opportunities 2026 SMRF Program

College of Science and Math

Below is a listing of research opportunities that are available for Rowan-Virtua SOM Medical Students who have an interest in submitting applications for approval to participate in the 2026 Summer Medical Research Fellowship Program.

Contact Name/Department	Contact Information	Project Title/Information
Dr. Mary Alpaugh Biological & Biomedical Sciences & Research Joint Health Science Center	Email: alpaugh@rowan.edu	Project 1: Molecular mechanism of an alternate means of metastasis. Students will assist in developing microfluidic biomimetics of metastasis, perform time lapse analysis of ex vivo IBC metastatic process, ultrastructural analysis of lymph vascular embolus. Project 2: Exosomes and metastatic progression in inflammatory breast cancer. Students will isolate and analyze exosome profile as it relates to progression of IBC. Project 3: Pharmacological approaches in treatment of inflammatory breast cancer. Students will perform small molecule drug screens on preclinical model of IBC.
Dr. Danielle Arigo Psychology Robinson Hall 116G	Email: arigo@rowan.edu	Title: Real-World Assessment of Associations between Daily Experiences and Health Behaviors. This is a line of research that uses intensive ambulatory assessment in people's natural environments to determine (1) within-person associations between predictors and behaviors of interest, and (2) identify novel targets of intervention, and (3) evaluate new interventions for promoting physical activity, healthy eating, and good sleep quality. Specific projects include investigation of menstrual cycle symptoms/physical activity, social experiences/physical activity, and social experiences/weight control. Populations of interest are those with elevated risk for cardiovascular disease.
Dr. Zachary Boles Geology 319 Discovery Hall	Email: bolesz@rowan.edu	Title: Paleopathology in fossil reptiles from NJ. Describing and attempting to identify cause(s) of pathologic bone seen in a few sea turtle specimens collected from the Edelman Fossil Park. Project may expand to include specimens at the New Jersey State Museum. The study will involve gross macroscopic description of the pathologies, identifying cause(s)/type of disease, histologic thin-sectioning, 3D scanning and possibly uCT scanning of specimens.

Chemistry and Biochemistry Science Hall, Room 154A The student will be screening novel antimicrobial compounds. There are several longing antimicrobial projects including structure-activity relationships in antimicrobial projects including structure-activity relationships in antimicrobial agents for biomedical devices, and combinatorial application of FDA approved drugs with ionic liquids. Dr. James Grinlas Chemistry and Biochemistry Science Hall. Room 301 Email: grinlas @rowan.edu Project 2: Development of point-of-need measurement platform for PTSD biomarkers in blood. Students will help develop a ministurized liquid chromatography-mass spectromerty assay to detect biomarkers in blood that indicate PTSD susceptibility. Project 2: Development of point-of-need measurement platform for urinary metabolities of substance use disorder. Students will help develop a ministurized liquid chromatography-mass spectromerty assay to measure potential use of tillicit substances in urine. This is being developed for a tool to be implemented in drug treatment and rehabilitation facilities. Project 3: Analytical methodology for the characterization of neurotransmitters. Students will help develop a ministurized liquid chromatography-mass spectromerty assay to measure potential use of tillicit substances in urine. This is being developed for a tool to be implemented in drug treatment and rehabilitation facilities. Project 3: Analytical methodology for the characterization of neurotransmitters profiles from animal model samples and bacterial cultures. Titles (Use of Mobile apps for depression)distress within a primary care setting. I am broadly interested in the use of mobile application in the high people with depression, anxiety and other mood disorders. Potential projects can include application in the people with depression, anxiety and other mood disorders. Potential projects can include application in frastructure risks, including recurrent roadway flooding, limited transportation neuropart providers and organize	Dr. Gregory Caputo	Email:	Title: Antimicrobial development.
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Chemistry and Biochemistry	Dr. Subash Jonnalagadda	Email:	<u>Title:</u> Design of Novel Therapeutics for the Treatment of
characterization of novel small molecules as potential therapeutics for TNDE. Additional opportunities also available for testing the anti-cancer efficacy of these compounds in vitro. Dr. JiaBel Lin Chemistry and Blochemistry Science Hall, 301F Email: Project 1: ALS and FTD TDP-43 diseases variants	Chemistry and Biochemistry	jonnalagadda@rowan.edu	Triple Negative Breast Cancer.
therapeutics for TNBC. Additional opportunities also available for testing the anti-cancer efficacy of these compounds in vitro. Dr. Jabel Lin Chemistry and Biochemistry Science Hall, 301F Email: Initia®rowan.edu Email: Initia®rowan.edu Email: Project 12: ALS and FTD TD P-43 diseases variants Screening. Student Will use a yeast model to screen TDP-43 variants connected to ALS and fTD to verify their RNA binding and aggregation propensity. Project 12: Screen for therapeutic peptides that identify or reverse TDP-43 pathological aggregates. Student will perform in vitro screening for small peptides that specifically recognize or reverse TDP-43 pathological aggregates. Student will perform in vitro screening for small peptides that specifically recognize or reverse TDP-43 pathological aggregates. Student will perform in vitro screening for small peptides that specifically recognize or reverse TDP-43 pathological aggregates. Student will perform in vitro screening for small peptides that specifically recognize or reverse TDP-43 pathological aggregates. Student will perform in vitro screening for small peptides that specifically recognize or reverse TDP-43 pathological aggregates. Student will perform in vitro screening for small peptides that specifically recognize or reverse TDP-43 pathological aggregates. Student will perform in vitro screening for small peptides that specifically recognize or reverse TDP-43 pathological aggregates. Project 13: Study AAA+ motor protein and co-factors. Investigate the molecular mechanism of VCP/P97, and develope aggregates. This research centers on the development of advanced smart drug delivery pathors aimed at optimizing the papeutic efficiency and introduced and controlled drug release. These innovation of multi-struction are appetited efficiency and introduced and controlled drug release. These innovation of multi-struction are properties. The project aims at developing novatement and triggers, thereby offering enhanced therapeutic outcomes with minimized side effects.	Science Hall, 130C		Students will assist with synthesis, purification,
Dr. JiaBei Lin Chemistry and Biochemistry Science Hall, 301F Email: Imja@rowan.edu Email:			characterization of novel small molecules as potential
Dr. Jiabel Lin Chemistry and Biochemistry Science Hall, 301F Email: Linia@rowan.edu Email: Linia@row			therapeutics for TNBC. Additional opportunities also
Dr. Jiabel Lin Chemistry and Biochemistry Science Hall, 301F Email: Linia@rowan.edu Email: Linia@row			
Dr. Jael Lin Chemistry and Blochemistry Science Hall, 301F Project 1 Als S and FTD TDP-43 diseases variants			-
Initia@rowan.edu Screening Student will use a yeast model to screen TDP-43 variants connected to ALS and FTD to verify their RNA binding and aggregation propensity.	Dr. JiaBei Lin	Email:	•
Science Hall, 301F Student will use a yeast model to screen TDP-43 variants connected to ALS and FTD to verify their RNA binding and aggregation propensity. Project 2: Screen for therapeutic peptides that identify or reverse TDP-43 pathological aggregates. Student will perform in vitro sening for small peptides that specifically recognize or reverse TDP-43 pathological aggregates. Project 3: Study AAA+ motor protein and co-factors. Investigate the molecular mechanism of VCP/P97, and develop a yeast model (Damp CDC48) that could evaluate its disaggregation activity for ture screening experiments. Dr. Ping Lu Chemistry and Biochemistry Science Hall 3011 Email: Intel® Fowart Drug Delivery Systems. This research centers on the development of advanced smart drug delivery platforms aimed at optimizing therapeutic efficacy and improving patient compliance. Specifically, my group has ploneered the reation of multi-stimuli-responsive delivery systems, leveraging cutting-edge nanomaterials to achieve precision-targeted and controlled drug release. These innovative systems address significant limitations of conventional drug delivery approaches by responding dynamically to environmental triggers, thereby offering enhanced therapeutic outcomes with minimized side effects. Project 1: Novel Diazepines and Benzodiazepines. This project aims at developing novel synthetic strategies for the production of pharmacologically relevant benzodiazepines and benzodiazepines and benzodiazepines and benzodiazepines are the recommendation of the synthetic strategies for t	Chemistry and Biochemistry	liniia@rowan.edu	
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Dr. Ping Lu Email: Itile: Smart Drug Delivery Systems.			
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			new protein-protein interactions underlying
neurodegenerative disease.			

Dr. Natasha Shylo	Email:	Project 1: Genome editing with Adeno Associated Viruses
Biological & Biomedical	shylohyson@rowan.edu	(AAVs).
Sciences & Research Science Hall 201H		Use a panel of AAVs to determine which infect veiled chameleon embryos most efficiently. Once the best serotype is identified, the project will move onto using AAVs to knock out in chameleon embryos genes associated with left-right patterning and congenital heart defects in humans. Project 2: Evolution of gastrulation in amniotes. Determine the unique functions of genes Nodal1 and Nodal2 in gastrulation in veiled chameleons. The project will involve cell and embryo culture and cloning of expression vectors for genes of interest.
Dr. Nicolas Whiting P&A and BBS Science Hall 101I	Email: whitingn@rowan.edu	Project 1: Carbon dots as multimodal contrast agents. Develop carbon quantum dots as optical and magnetic resonance reporters for targeted molecular imaging. Project 2: Parahydrogen enhanced magnetic resonance. Generate parahydrogen gas and use to enhance magnetic resonance signals for biologically-relevant small molecules.
Dr. Chun Wu Chemistry & Biochemistry Molecular & Molecular & Cellular Biosciences, and Research Science Hall 340B	Email: wuc@rowan.edu	Project 1: Enhanced Detection and Molecular Modeling of Adaptive Mutations in deadly viruses (HIV, Zika, Ebola etc). Students will run in-house bioinformatics programs to analyze the public sequence dataset to probe the evolution dynamics of these deadly viruses. Project 2: Antivirus drug development. Students will carry out virtual screening to identify lead compounds and design experiments to test the compounds. Project 3: Vaccine development. Students will carry out virtual screening to identify potential epitopes from the viruses' genome, and design experiments to test the epitopes.

If you have an interest in any of the above projects, please reach out right away to the contact person for that department.

NOTE: The deadline for application submissions is (Monday) February 9, 2026.

The 2026 SMRF Program Instructions/Guidelines and the Application Cover Page are available at

http://som.rowan.edu/oursom/pipeline/research/smrf.html

If you have any questions, or difficulty accessing the hyperlink above, please contact the Rowan-Virtua SOM Research Office at somresearch@rowan.edu.