

MIT Biology

# Undergraduate Celebration 2024

Honoring  
Graduating Seniors &  
Award Recipients

May 14<sup>th</sup>, 2024

MIT



Biology





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# Graduating Seniors by Course

## Course 7

Akwiwu, Andrea  
Allen, Kelcey  
Anderson, Luke  
Arterburn, Meredith  
Bae, Yunbeen  
Bleyenbergh, William  
Brotheridge, Balyn  
Carlo, Isabella  
Chakladar, Sundeep  
Chan, Lynette  
Choi, Seoyeon Chloe  
Doyle, Caitlin  
Duong, Fiona  
Dzieciol, Victoria  
Hare, Kyle  
Hodgood, Katherine  
Kalavacherla, Sruthi  
Kowal, Evan  
Lawrence, Savannah  
Lee, Hanjun  
Love, Makenzie  
Mandal, Mriganka  
Metcalf, Liza  
Nguyen, Dien  
Plank, Anna  
Ramirez, Josephine  
Rathinasabapathi,  
Brindha  
Rebolledo-Ledesma,  
Amari  
Restrepo, Alfonso  
Suggs, Jack  
Swartz, Phoenix  
Van Alstine, Estin  
Viets, Chris  
Yu, Melody  
Zhang, Caroine  
Zhang, Rebecca Siyi

## Course 5-7

Acoff, Peyton  
Bell, Katherine  
Chang, Heng Jui  
Duan, Katherine  
Florescu-Ciobotaru,  
Ana  
Fu, Flora  
Fuentes, Isabela  
Goyal, Mudita  
Hardart, Henry  
Heslip, Katherine  
Kim, Christina  
Luo, Jaden  
Mann, Jessica  
Martin, Emma  
Martinez, Oswaldo  
Sadagopan, Ananthan  
Savvidis, Achilleus  
Sharygin, Daniel  
Varongchayakul,  
Cholapet

## Course 6-7

Ashley, Savannah  
Attah, Ochiba  
Chen, Stanley  
Chen, Tina  
Clark, Keanu  
Cordero, Aidan  
Dell, Sydney  
Edwards, Lilly  
Eppinger, Aria  
Fan, Leon  
Gao, Angela  
Gotthold, Zoe  
Hon, Madeline  
Kwon, Anna  
Longe, Victoria  
Nie, Melissa  
Nweneka, Delight  
Parsan, Nithin  
Riki, Smah  
Sharma, Charvi  
Sun, Grace  
Thompson, Erin  
Wang, Brandon  
Zheng, Jared

# Award Recipients 2023–2024

## Biology Undergraduate Awards

### John L. Asinari Award

For outstanding research in the field of life sciences.

**Jessica Mann** '24, Course 5-7

**Erin Thompson** '24, Course 6-7

### Gene Brown Prize

For outstanding academic scholarship and demonstrated excellence as a teaching assistant.

**Benicio Tapia** '25, Course 7

### Susan Hockfield Prize in Life Sciences

For a third-year MIT undergraduate student in any area of the life sciences who has demonstrated both exceptional performance and promise for graduate study and research.

**Lara Ozkan** '25, Course 6-7

### Ned Holt Prize

For demonstrated excellence in scholarship as well as service to the Biology Department and the MIT community.

**Meredith Arterburn** '24, Course 7

**Katherine Duan** '24, Course 5-7

**Brindha Rathinasabapathi** '24, Course 7

### Salvador E. Luria Prize

For outstanding scholarship and research of publication quality.

**Hanjun Lee** '24, Course 7

### Merck Prize

For outstanding research and academic performance in biophysical or bioinformatics sciences.

**Lynette Chan** '24, Course 7

**Ananth Shyamal** '25, Course 6-7

### Whitehead Prize

For demonstrating outstanding promise for a career in biological research through academic scholarship as well as contributions to research and the MIT community.

**Mudita Goyal** '24, Course 5-7



# Award Recipients 2023–2024

## Course 5 Undergraduate Awards

### Research Award

For outstanding contributions in the area of research.

**Katherine Duan** '24, Course 5-7

**Henry Hardart** '24, Course 5-7

**Jaden Luo** '24, Course 5-7

**Jessica Mann** '24 Course 5-7

**Emma Martin** '24 Course 5-7

**Achilleus Savvidis** '24 Course 5-7

### Academic Achievement Award

For outstanding scholarship.

**Heng Jui Chang** '24 Course 5-7

**Katherine Duan** '24, Course 5-7

**Isabela Fuentes** '24, Course 5-7

**Henry Hardart** '24, Course 5-7

**Christina Kim** '24, Course 5-7

**Jessica Mann** '24 Course 5-7

**Emma Martin** '24 Course 5-7

**Ananthan Sadagopan** '24 Course 5-7

**Achilleus Savvidis** '24 Course 5-7

**Daniel Sharygin** '24 Course 5-7

**Cholapat (Turbo) Varongchayakul** '24 Course 5-7

### Alpha Chi Sigma

For outstanding achievement in scholarship, research and service to the department.

**Ana Florescu-Ciobotaru** '24, Course 5-7

**Mudita Goyal** '24, Course 5-7

### Royal Society of Chemistry Certificate of Undergraduate Excellence

For exceptional dedication, performance, and engagement in coursework and research.

**Josh Lian** '25, Course 5-7

**Leon Wang** '25, Course 5-7

### ACS Organic Chemistry Award

For excellence in Organic Chemistry.

**Cholapat (Turbo) Varongchayakul** '24 Course 5-7

## Award Recipients 2023–2024

### Biology students nominated for Phi Beta Kappa 2024

**Sundeeep Chakladar '24**  
Course 7

**Lynette Chan '24**  
Course 7

**Heng Jui Chang '24**  
Course 5-7

**Seoyeon Chloe Choi '24**  
Course 7

**Katherine Duan '24**  
Course 5-7

**Ana Florescu-Ciobotaru '24**  
Course 5-7

**Isabela Fuentes '24**  
Course 5-7

**Mudita Goyal '24**  
Course 5-7

**Henry Hardart '24**  
Course 5-7

**Sruthi Kalavacherla '24**  
Course 7

**Christina Kim '24**  
Course 5-7

**Hanjun Lee '24**  
Course 7

**Jessica Mann '24**  
Course 5-7

**Emma Martin '24,**  
Course 5-7

**Dien Nguyen '24**  
Course 7

**Achilleus Sawvidis '24**  
Course 5-7

**Daniel Sharygin '24**  
Course 5-7

**Jack Suggs '24**  
Course 7

**Grace Sun '24**  
Course 6-7

**Melody Yu '24**  
Course 7

## Special Recognition

### Biology Undergraduate Research Symposium 2024 Participants

**Yunbeen Bae**

**Angela Gao**

**Zoe Gotthold**

**Mudita Goyal**

**Maria Hernandez**

**Jonathan Huang**

**Katherine Kitzinger**

**David Kwabi-Addo**

**Pari Latawa**

**Kate Lu**

**Jessica Mann**

**Ananth Shyamal**

**Erin Thompson**

**Anika Wadhera**

# Special Thanks

## Tutors 2023-2024

|                         |                     |
|-------------------------|---------------------|
| Amina Abdalla           | Jessica Mann        |
| Mahmoud Abdelmoneum     | Rachel Nguyen       |
| Meredith Arterburn      | Edward Park         |
| Bereket Birbo           | Anisha Parsan       |
| Alexis Boykin           | Kannammai Pichappan |
| Willow Carretero Chavez | Anusha Puri         |
| Sundeeep Chakladar      | Shriya Rangaswamy   |
| Lynette Chan            | Achilleus Savvidis  |
| Ana Florescu Ciobotaru  | Ananth Shyamal      |
| Mudita Goyal            | Phoenix Swartz      |
| Chloe Hyun              | Anika Wadhera       |
| Sruthi Kalavacherla     | Naomi Zecharias     |
| Callie Karjane          | Kristina Zhang      |
| Erika Leasher           | Rebecca Zhang       |
| Emma Martin             |                     |

## BEXEC 2023-2024

Brindha Rathinasabapathi  
Stanley Chen  
Jessica Mann  
Charvi Sharma  
Amina Abdalla  
Alex Tang  
Jyotsna Nair  
Iris Pang  
Sophia Cai  
Dominique Dang  
Annabel Tiong  
Gitanjali Rao

## Department of Biology

### Head of Department:

Amy Keating

### Undergrad Officers:

Laurie Boyer  
Adam Martin

### Biology Education Office

Janice Chang  
Joshua Stone



# Student Biographies



**Andrea Akwiwu – Course 7**

Andrea grew up in London and is originally from Nigeria. After moving to the US during high school, she was excited to explore Cambridge and MIT! Andrea majored in biology and some of her favourite MIT classes include “Building with Cells” and her advanced molecular biology lab (thanks to her amazing lab partner). Andrea also participated in research during her time at MIT in the Sinskey and Hammond Labs. Along with her studies, Andrea loves writing poetry, reading fiction and watching basketball. After graduation, Andrea is off to work full-time in Biologics research at Merck. She’s grateful to her family and friends for their support and prayers!



**Kelcey Allen – Course 7**

Kelcey Allen is originally from St. Vincent and the Grenadines in the southern Caribbean. She found her academic passion at the intersection of Chemical Engineering and Biology and is proud of her research in the metabolic engineering of *E. coli* in the Kristala Prather lab. She was also involved in Christian fellowship and dance through MIT Cru and MIT Sakata Afrique respectively. With a passion for mentoring, she often spent her evenings tutoring underclassmen in her dorm, McCormick Hall, or through the Chemical Engineering Department’s mentoring program. In her leisure time, she enjoys crocheting, listening to music and trying new foods. After graduation, Kelcey will pursue her PhD in Chemical Engineering with the intention of moving into the pharmaceutical industry.



**Meredith Arterburn – Course 7**

Meredith Arterburn is from Cooksville, Maryland. At MIT, she majored in Biology (7) and minored in Finance (15-3). She conducted cancer genetics research at the Broad Institute and germ cell development research at the Whitehead Institute, and was a part of the MIT Biotech Group. Outside of academics, Meredith was an All-American and captain of the Varsity Women’s Lacrosse team, served as VP of Philanthropy in her sorority, and gave tours for MIT admissions. Meredith interned at a small biotech company in Copenhagen through MISTI-Denmark and taught biology to high schoolers in Como, Italy through Global Teaching Labs. After graduation, Meredith will be attending UPenn for a PhD in Cellular and Molecular Biology with a focus in Cancer Biology.

**Peyton Acoff  
Course 5-7**



**Luke Anderson  
Course 7**



# Student Biographies

Ochiba Attah  
Course 6-7



Savannah Ashley  
Course 6-7



Yunbeen Bae – Course 7



Yunbeen Bae was born in Seoul, South Korea and raised in Frisco, Texas. Yunbeen double majored in Chemical-Biological Engineering (10B) and Biology (7). She was a UROP in the Galloway Lab, working on developing an editable promoter to achieve precise control of gene expression. Outside of lab, Yunbeen was involved in MedLinks, Wellbeing Ambassadors, Korean Cultural Association, and Delta Phi Epsilon. Some highlights of her MIT experience included teaching chemistry and biology for Global Teaching Labs in Korea. After graduation, Yunbeen will work as a technician in the Galloway lab while applying for MD-PhD programs.

Katherine Bell – Course 5-7



Katie Bell is originally from Radnor, Pennsylvania and majored in Chemistry and Biology. During her time at MIT, she was captain of the MIT Women's Lacrosse team and served as President of her sorority. Katie also conducted research at the Koch Institute, completed an internship at Teva Pharmaceuticals, and worked with MIT Catalyst through the PKG IAP Health Program. While at MIT, she served as a passionate Associate Advisor, worked in the MIT Admissions Office, and volunteered in the Emergency Department at Massachusetts General Hospital. After graduation, Katie plans to attend medical school. She would like to thank her family, friends, and mentors for their love and support during her time at MIT!

Balyn Brotheridge – Course 7



Balyn Brotheridge is from Noblesville, Indiana. In addition to majoring in Biology, she spent her time studying education and working as a UROP student. Balyn was a teaching assistant for 7.012 Introduction to Biology for two semesters and was a part of the 2023 cohort of the MIT Scheller Teacher Education Program (STEP). Through STEP, she completed her student teaching to become a state licensed high school biology teacher. As part of the UROP program, Balyn worked with Prof. Cathy Drennan to carry out an independent research project utilizing anaerobic x-ray crystallography to study glycol radical enzymes. After graduation, Balyn is off to Bozeman, Montana to pursue a PhD in Chemistry and Biochemistry at Montana State University.

# Student Biographies

William Bleyenber  
Course 7



## Isabella Carlo – Course 7

Isabella Carlo is originally from Old Saybrook, Connecticut. In addition to studying Biology, she completed a second major in Brain & Cognitive Science, as well as a minor in Ancient and Medieval Studies. She is part of the Hammond Lab at the Koch Institute for Integrative Cancer Research, where she develops nanoparticle-based strategies to strengthen the delivery of cancer treatment to the tumor site. Outside of class, she is a volunteer EMT-B with MIT Emergency Medical Services, serving as the Director of Professional Development, and also plays right wing for the MIT Women's Club Ice Hockey team. Passionate about medicine, she will be pursuing her MD after graduation.



## Sundeep Chakladar – Course 7

Sundeep Chakladar is originally from Redondo Beach, California. Along with majoring in Biology, he minored in Science, Technology, and Society. His research work at MIT has included 4 years in the Lourido Lab, where he built several machine learning-based image analysis pipelines, as well as 1 year in the Kellis lab, where he designed a system that classifies inflammation based on genetic data. He also pursued data science and clinical research internships at UCSF, Mass General Hospital, and Brigham and Women's Hospital. Outside of academics, Sundeep spent most of his time working as an EMT for MIT EMS, where he served as a Scheduling Officer and Training Officer. After graduation, Sundeep will be pursuing his MD at the WashU School of Medicine.



## Lynette Chan – Course 7

Lynette Chan was born and raised in Walnut, California. At MIT, she majored in Chemical-Biological Engineering and Biology with a concentration in Korean. As a member of the Garg and Sharp labs, Lynette researched transcription factors and embryonic stem cell states; in the Chakraborty group, she researched computational simulations for 3D genome organization. During her summer at KAIST via the MISTI Korea program, she worked on artificial protein condensate design. When not working on her UROP(s), Lynette enjoys playing with the MIT table tennis team, learning and practicing languages with LCE, and playing various Hoyoverse games. After graduation, she will continue her studies with the Stanford Biophysics PhD program. Lynette thanks her amazing mentors, friends, and family for their unparalleled support!



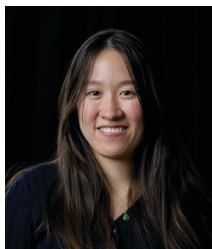


# Student Biographies

**Heng Jui Chang**  
Course 5-7

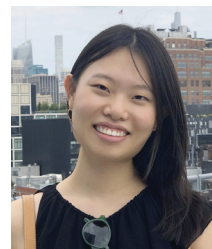


**Stanley Chen**  
Course 6-7



**Tina Chen – Course 6-7**

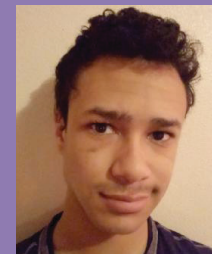
Tina Chen is originally from St. Louis, Missouri. In addition to studying computer science and biology in college, she also studied Asian and Asian diaspora. Some of her favorite HASS classes were Chinese Foreign Policy and a class on classical Chinese medicine. As a UROP in the Boyer Lab, Tina investigated the significance of transcriptional noise in cardiomyocytes. Outside of class, she enjoyed being a mentor for Codelt and Chinatown Citizenship. She is also a part of the Association of Taiwanese Students and MIT EMS. After graduation, Tina will stick around MIT for an MEng in Computer Science and Biology.



**Seoyeon Chloe Choi – Course 7**

Seoyeon Chloe Choi grew up in Seoul, South Korea but moved to the US for high school. At MIT, she double majored in Physics and Biology, with a minor in Mathematics. Initially aspiring to study theoretical cosmology, Chloe researched primordial black holes under Prof. Peter Fisher since her sophomore year. However, her growing interest in biology sparked by the introductory biology course 7.012 motivated Chloe to join Prof. Yukiko Yamashita's lab at the Whitehead Institute the summer before her junior year to explore the relationship between satellite DNA and hybrid incompatibility. Her experiences in the lab ultimately led to the decision to pursue a double major and a research career in biology. After graduation, Chloe will be pursuing a PhD in the Biological and Biomedical Sciences Program at Harvard Medical School.

**Keanu Clark**  
Course 6-7

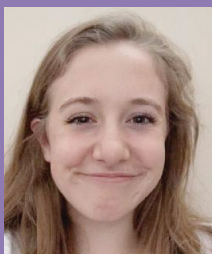


**Aidan Cordero**  
Course 6-7



# Student Biographies

Sydney Dell  
Course 6-7



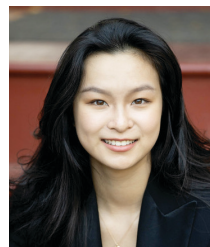
## Caitlin Doyle – Course 7

Caitlin Doyle is originally from Ballston Spa, New York. She is graduating with a major in Biology as well as a minor in Linguistics and a concentration in Spanish. During her time at MIT, Caitlin has been working in the Engelward Lab, where she has been spearheading a project to curate a comprehensive and up-to-date catalog of the genes involved in DNA repair. Outside of classes, she has enjoyed reading, gaming, nature photography, and spending time with her family and friends. After graduation, Caitlin will be taking some time to explore industry work before pursuing graduate school. She wishes to thank her family, friends, mentors, and fellow lab members for their continued support over the past four years.



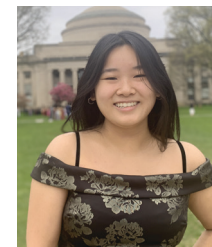
## Katherine Duan – Course 5-7

Katherine Duan is from Hanover, NH majoring in chemistry and Biology (5-7). She is a member of the Chen Lab at the Koch institute where she focuses on cancer immunology research and engineered CAR-NK cells. Outside of lab she enjoys teaching as a biochemistry TA at MIT, abroad in Korea as part of MISTI global teaching labs, and back home at the New Hampshire Academy of Science. In her free time Katherine loves exploring new food locations, baking, arts and crafts, and playing with her chickens. After graduation, she hopes to pursue a career in medicine.



## Fiona Duong – Course 7

Fiona Duong is originally from Newington, Connecticut. In addition to studying Chemical Engineering and Biology, she has also concentrated in the STS program at MIT. Her favorite part of her science and engineering education was carrying out research as one of the first members of Professor Maggie Qi's lab, working on developing organ-on-a-chip models of the blood-retinal barrier for physiological studies. Outside of class, she has enjoyed teaching and mentoring incoming students with the OME's Interphase program, as well as cooking and spending time with her living community, French House, and working on volunteer projects abroad with MIT Engineers Without Borders. After graduation, Fiona will pursue her PhD in the UC Berkeley-UCSF Joint BioEngineering program, and maybe learn to surf in the bay.



# Student Biographies



## Victoria Dzieciol – Course 7

Hailing from Camarillo on the coast of southern California, Victoria managed to experience one full semester of pre-Covid MIT in 2019. Five turbulent years later, she is finally graduating with a bachelor's degree in Biology and a concentration in the History of Architecture, Art, and Design. Though she has worked in three different labs over her MIT career, Victoria is currently conducting research in the Housman lab at the Koch Institute, investigating a potential gene therapy for Huntington's disease. Beyond biology, Victoria also enjoys backpacking, art, photography, coffee, and exploring new places.



## Aria Eppinger – Course 6-7

Aria Eppinger is from Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. She majored in Computer Science and Molecular Biology (6-7) and completed a Concentration in Education. While at MIT, she conducted research in the Teaching Systems Lab, the Kellis Lab, and the Lauffenburger Lab. A highlight of her MIT experience was serving as a volunteer tutor for Discrete Mathematics and as a teaching assistant for Introduction to Algorithms. Outside of research and classes, Aria was an active member of the MIT Catholic Community, serving as President and leading a women's bible study. She also swam breaststroke and distance freestyle events for the MIT Varsity Swimming and Diving Team. Next year, she will stay at MIT to complete her master's degree.



## Ana Florescu-Ciobotaru – Course 5-7

Ana is originally from Romania, Central-Eastern Europe, and first came to the US for studying at MIT. Ana majored in Chemistry & Biology (5-7) and double majored in Chemical-Biological Engineering (10B). The highlight of her Chem & Bio education has been taking advanced organic chemistry with Professor Swager during her freshman fall. The highlight of her Chem-Bio Eng education has been taking the advanced integrated chemical engineering topics courses, working with amazing MIT chemical engineers, and getting to "build" a monoclonal antibodies-producing plant from scratch. Ana carried out research in the Movassaghi group, working on developing methodologies for the synthesis of intermediates *en route* to ETP natural products, complex compounds with robust cytotoxic and antibacteriostatic activities.

After 2 years, she switched gears and joined the Dincă group, where she became passionate about discovering the mysteries of inorganic materials, designing novel phases with longer-term sustainability applications. Outside of the lab, Ana enjoys running with her labmates, baking cakes, and teaching her younger brother science. Ana will keep on unraveling the materials properties over the next 5 years pursuing a Chemistry PhD at Harvard.

## Lilly Edwards Course 6-7





# Student Biographies

Leon Fan  
Course 6-7



Flora Fu  
Course 5-7



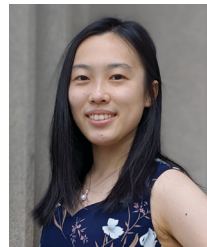
## Isabela Fuentes – Course 5-7

Isabela Fuentes grew up in Middletown, NJ. At MIT, she majored in Chemistry and Biology and minored in Science, Technology, and Society. She also worked as a UROP in the Yilmaz Lab at the Koch Institute under the mentorship of Dr. Jessica Shay, studying how diet affects intestinal stem cell function and colorectal cancer. On campus, Isabela was involved with BioMakers, the Biology DEI Council, MedLinks, and Sport Taekwondo. In her free time, she enjoys reading, drawing, and hanging out with friends. After graduation, Isabela will continue pursuing her interests in cancer biology through a PhD. Isabela would like to thank her family, mentors, and friends for supporting her throughout her time at MIT!



## Angela Gao – Course 6-7

Angela Gao is a Computer Science and Molecular Biology major from Fremont, California. She is interested in structural biology and investigated the LINE-1 retrotransposon in Professor Seychelle Vos's lab throughout her time at MIT. She has also been active in the BioMakerspace through its associated student group, the MIT iGEM team, and as a teaching assistant. A highlight of her time at MIT was teaching biology and chemistry to students in Korea through MISTI Global Teaching Labs. Outside of academics, Angela spends most of her time as a choreographer of the Asian Dance Team and captain of MIT Sport Taekwondo. She also enjoys watching cat videos and exploring new food places. After graduation, Angela will pursue a PhD in the Biology and Biomedical Sciences program at Harvard.



## Zoe Gotthold – Course 6-7

Zoe Gotthold is originally from Richland, Washington. At MIT, she studied computer science and molecular biology. She is currently working in the Lourido Lab studying the genetic regulation of *Toxoplasma gondii*, and after graduation will be moving to Baltimore to work on HIV research with the NIH. Zoe absolutely loves penguins and will miss all of the coffee dates with her friends.

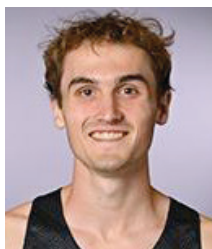


# Student Biographies



## Mudita Goyal – Course 5-7

Mudita Goyal was born and raised in Rajasthan, India. At MIT, she double majored in 5-7 (Chemistry and Biology) and 20 (Bioengineering) with a minor in Economics. Her current research in the Lourido lab at the Whitehead Institute is focused on studying the invasion mechanism of the apicomplexan parasite *Toxoplasma gondii*. When Mudita wasn't in lab or in class, she enjoyed acting in campus theatre productions, and participating in teaching and mentoring opportunities. After graduation, Mudita will pursue a PhD in Chemical Biology at Harvard.



## Henry Hardart – Course 5-7

Henry Hardart is originally from Annapolis, Maryland. At MIT, Henry has majored in chemistry and biology with a minor in brain and cognitive sciences and a concentration in philosophy. Since his freshman year, he has worked in the Nedivi lab characterizing transgenic mouse lines to label specific neuronal connections. In addition to his classwork, Henry has run for the MIT cross country and track and field teams primarily racing the 1500 and the mile. After graduation, Henry will be pursuing a PhD in Neuroscience.



## Kyle Hare – Course 7

Kyle is originally from Medford, New Jersey. In addition to studying Biology, he also majored in Chemical-Biological Engineering. The highlight of his Biology education was taking a class on cancer biology with prominent Koch Institute professors Tyler Jacks and Mike Hemann. He also really enjoyed being a TA for the introductory biology lab, 7.002. Outside of class, Kyle enjoyed working in Robert Langer's lab, watching football with friends, and spending time at his fraternity. After graduation, he is first going to work as a scientist at HiFiBio Therapeutics in Cambridge, and then will likely pursue a graduate degree in Bioengineering or Computational Biology.

## Katherine Heslip Course 5-7



## Katherine Hodgood Course 7



# Student Biographies



## **Madeline Hon – Course 6-7**

Madeline (Maddy) Hon is from Manhasset, New York. She majored in Computer Science and Biology and concentrated in Anthropology. She participated in research focused on computational analysis of vaccine-induced immune responses. Outside of class, she was president of MIT's Pi Beta Phi chapter and involved in the clubs Hacking Medicine and BEUB. Additionally, she competed on the track team all four years. After graduation, she will be pursuing an MEng at MIT.



## **Sruthi Kalavacherla – Course 7**

Sruthi is originally from Pleasanton, California. At MIT, she majored in Biology and minored in Women's & Gender Studies. Sruthi is involved in wet-lab research on HIV at the Ragon Institute, as well as public health research on food insecurity at Tufts Medical School. Her passions lie in HIV/infectious disease research, women's health, and global health equity. A highlight of her time at MIT was participating in the HST.434 trip to South Africa to learn about HIV/AIDS and COVID-19. Outside of classes and research, Sruthi was involved in MIT BrainTrust, Global Health Alliance, and DanceTroupe. In her free time, she enjoys crocheting, going on walks, and trying out fun dessert places around Boston. After graduation, she is continuing as a Research Technician at the Ragon Institute as she applies to MD programs.



## **Christina Kim – Course 5-7**

Christina Kim, from Princeton, NJ, arrived at MIT with an interest in Architecture but is graduating as a Chemistry and Biology Major. Since finding her passion in women's reproductive science, she has spent two years engineering 3D cell culture platforms for patient-derived models of endometriosis in Dr. Linda Griffith's lab within the MIT Center for Gynepathology Research (CGR). She has also enjoyed working as the UI/UX designer for Birth By Us, a maternal health app for Black birthing people, which has offered her a creative outlet and a way to explore her interests in reproductive health beyond the lab. Christina has loved being a mentor for underclassmen through running the McCormick First-Year Academic Support and Tutoring (McC-FAST) program, tutoring for the Chemistry Department and TSR<sup>^</sup>2, and being an Associate Advisor. She's

also made some of her closest friends being part of the Korean Cultural Association, for which she has been the treasurer and co-president. Outside of school, Christina is happiest when spending time with her loved ones and is incredibly grateful for their support throughout her years at MIT. After graduation, she will continue her UROP project with Dr. Roser Vento-Tormo at the Wellcome Sanger Institute in the UK for six months before pursuing graduate degree programs.

## **Anna Kwon Course 6-7**





# Student Biographies



## **Evan Kowal – Course 7**

Evan is originally from South Pasadena, California. At MIT, he majored in biology and minored in history. With his friends TH and Aidan, Evan started an outdoor science program that has taken over 230 low-income kids on day-long hikes to learn ecology and biology. Evan researched DNA damage and repair in the Engelward lab and especially enjoyed using CRISPR to turn hepatocytes into detectors for carcinogens. He also loved TAing and teaching a recitation section for the 7.20 human physiology course. At MIT, Evan was a four-year member and two-year captain of the Varsity Water Polo team, and president of the Theta Tau fraternity. In his free time, he enjoys playing treyball, reading the works of philosopher John Steele, and coaching his youth basketball team, the Testers. After graduation, Evan will walk from Mexico to Canada on the Pacific Crest Trail and then attend medical school.



## **Savannah Lawrence – Course 7**

Savannah Lawrence, a.k.a. Sav, is originally from Tucker, Georgia. Along with their major in Biology (7), they minored in Women's & Gender Studies (WGS). Their favorite WGS class was "Race, Place, and Modernity in the Americas," an immersive and transformative IAP course in Brazil. Sav was also a research intern at the Cambridge Health Alliance Health Equity Research Lab, where they co-authored a manuscript related to the intersection of mental health and criminal legal involvement. Outside of class and work, Sav enjoyed their work as a PLEASURE educator, BSU political action committee member, and designer and model for Infinite Magazine. After graduation, Sav will be traveling to their mother's hometown in Durban, South Africa to do public health research before applying to graduate school.



## **Hanjun Lee – Course 7**

Hanjun Lee was born and raised in Suncheon, South Korea. He began his undergraduate studies at Seoul National University College of Medicine before moving to MIT as a freshman. At the Institute, he majored in Biology and pursued a concentration in International Relations. MIT Biology faculty, most notably Aviv Regev and Robert A. Weinberg, strongly influenced him to appreciate teaching and mentorship, and he taught Fundamentals of Experimental Molecular Biology to undergraduates as a Teaching Assistant for three semesters, for which he won the Gene Brown Prize and earned a Biology Pedagogy Certificate. He began his research career in Biology at the Massachusetts General Hospital Cancer Center under co-advisors Michael S. Lawrence and Nicholas J. Dyson. There, he and colleagues unraveled the functions of the first functionally validated tumor suppressor, RB.

For his work on RB, cell cycle, and chromatin organization, he won the American Association for Cancer Research Undergraduate Scholar Award and the Gordon Research Conference Travel Award in Cell Growth and Proliferation. He served as a content editor at the MIT Undergraduate Research Journal. After graduation, he will pursue a PhD in Cancer Biology at Harvard Medical School's Biological and Biomedical Sciences PhD program.

## **Victoria Longe Course 6-7**



# Student Biographies

**Makenzie Love**  
Course 7



**Jaden Luo**  
Course 5-7



**Mriganka Mandal – Course 7**

Mri is from Charlottesville, VA. She double-majored in Nuclear Science and Engineering (Course 22-ENG) and Biology (7) at MIT and concentrated in Writing. The highlight of her academic career was conducting research at the Berbeco Lab at the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute on cellular immune response pathways involved in gadolinium-based nanoparticle radiotherapy for cancer. Outside of lab and class, she was very involved in her living group as a residential advisor, resident peer mentor, and entry chair at MacGregor, and has enjoyed being a member of SaveTFP, the MIT Monologues, and a cappella groups over the past five years. After graduation, she will continue working as a researcher, and she ultimately hopes to become a physician scientist, bridging between laboratory research and clinical practice to impact individuals.



**Jessica Mann – Course 5-7**

Jessica Mann is a Chemistry and Biology (5-7) major originally from Naperville, Illinois. At MIT, Jessica researched embryonic stem cell metabolism in the Vander Heiden lab and served on BUSA's executive board. In addition to studying biology, she minored in music and played oboe in MIT's Symphony Orchestra for three years. She also enjoys badminton, musicals, and playing board games with friends. After graduation, Jessica will attend Stanford University to pursue a PhD in cancer biology.

**Emma Martin**  
Course 5-7



**Oswaldo Martinez**  
Course 5-7



**Liza Metcalf**  
Course 7



# Student Biographies



## **Melissa Nie – Course 6-7**

Mel was born in Vancouver, British Columbia, but became no stranger to cold weather after moving to the midwest, attending high school in St. Paul, Minnesota. At MIT, they lived in East Campus before moving off-campus with friends after its closure. Mel studied computer science and biology and conducted a SuperUROP with Prof. Otto Cordero, researching quorum sensing systems in wild marine bacterial communities. In their free time, they love to knit, crochet, doodle, and dream. Mel will be completing their M.Eng at MIT next year before venturing into the world of biotech.



## **Delight Nweneka – Course 6-7**

Delight Nweneka is originally from Port Harcourt, Nigeria. Her upbringing in various East and West African countries has exposed her to diverse cultures, fostering a keen interest in international development and sustainability. She explored her interests through campus organizations focused on sustainability and development, like the Water Club, UA Sustain, and the Global Research Consulting Club. During her time at MIT, Delight joined the MIT Climate and Sustainability Consortium Scholars program, which allowed her to blend her fascination with biology with her passion for sustainability. During her time in program, she conducted her UROP at Professor Cathy Drennan's lab, where she investigated the structure of glycyl radical enzymes capable of catalyzing reactions with hydrocarbons, with the aim of uncovering potential applications in bioremediation. She is grateful

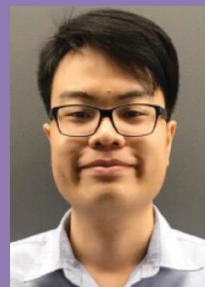
for the wealth of learning opportunities both inside and outside the classroom. As she wraps up her studies this February, she's excited to intern at CONCITO, Denmark's green think tank. There, she hopes to expand her knowledge of global sustainability issues and discover new ways to push the needle forward on the frontiers of climate change.



## **Anna Plank – Course 7**

Anna Plank is from Frederick, Maryland. During her time at MIT, she double majored in Biology (7) and Computation and Cognition (6-9), with a minor in Biomedical Engineering. She worked for 3 years in the Shoulders lab, where her project focused on improving methods of targeted mutagenesis. She was also a TA for Fundamentals of Experimental Molecular Biology and Introduction to Probability and Statistics. Outside of academics, Anna was very involved in the New Vassar community, where she worked for a year as the desk captain, and was involved in a variety of other organizations, including HKN, Medlinks, and GHA. In her free time, Anna enjoys going for walks, exploring Boston, and playing with her cat, Clover. After graduation, Anna will be heading to NYC to pursue a PhD in Biological Sciences at Columbia University.

## **Dien Nguyen Course 7**



## **Nithin Parsan Course 6-7**





# Student Biographies

Josephine Ramirez  
Course 7



Amari Rebolledo Ledesma  
Course 7



**Brindha Rathinasabapathi – Course 7**

Brindha Rathinasabapathi was born and raised in Gainesville, FL. Along with her major in biology, she also completed a minor in music. Brindha has spent the last 3 years doing research in the Boyer Lab, working to understand the transcriptional programs that control heart development. She enjoyed further exploring her interests through MISTI-India, as an intern at the National Centre for Biological Sciences. She is Co-President of the Biology Undergraduate Student Association, where she organizes events for the community. Outside of science, Brindha is an avid enjoyer of music! She's been part of MIT's Vocal Jazz Ensemble for the past 4 years, and has had private training through the Emerson Scholars program for the past 3 years. Her hobbies include reading, singing, and exploring Boston! After graduation, Brindha will be pursuing a PhD in Developmental and Stem Cell Biology at UCSF.



**Alfonso Restrepo – Course 7**

Alfonso Restrepo is originally from La Habra, CA. He is a double major with Chemical Engineering, and has a concentration in music. The highlight of his science and engineering education has been his research with Professor Paula Hammond's group at MIT, in which he characterized various properties of Layer-by-Layer nanoparticle drug delivery systems. He has also enjoyed teaching with the Educational Studies Program and the MISTI Mexico Global Teaching Labs program. Outside of the classroom, Alfonso enjoys cooking different dishes and spending time with members of his living group, French House, as well as volunteering in tutoring programs for MIT service employees. After graduation, Alfonso will pursue his PhD in the UC Berkeley-UCSF Joint Bioengineering program and hopefully get some more sunshine over on the west coast.



**Smah Riki – Course 6-7**

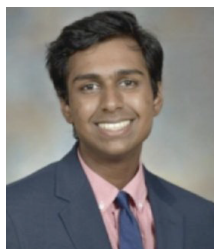
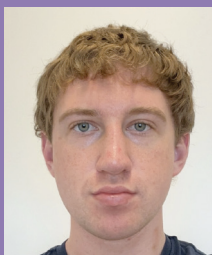
Riki spent most of his life in Los Angeles, California running around in the heart of Koreatown and getting ample amounts of sunny weather. When he came to MIT, he double majored in 6-7 and 10-B with an interest in the intersection of biological sciences, chemical manufacturing, and machine learning. These interests led Riki to UROP in labs part of the CS and ChemE departments, which he took part in during his summers between school years. In his spare time, Riki loves biking around parts of Boston in search of good-tasting food, but he also adores playing action-packed and decision-based video games. He loves playing Pokemon competitively, and is a fan of all things related to mystery and horror! After graduation, Riki hopes to go into industry, but he plans to come back for either a masters in CS or a PhD in Biological Engineering, whichever feels more exciting!

# Student Biographies

**Achilleus Savvidis**  
Course 5-7



**Daniel Sharygin**  
Course 5-7



**Ananthan Sadagopan –**  
Course 5-7

Ananthan Sadagopan is from Westborough, Massachusetts and studied Chemistry and Biology at MIT. In college, he worked in the lab of Srinivasan Viswanathan studying somatic perturbations of X-chromosome inactivation in cancer and worked on chemical biology projects co-mentored by Matthew Meyerson and Stuart Schreiber. Throughout college, he co-directed MIT Leadership Training Institute (LTI) and was president of the Chemistry Undergraduate Association (ClubChem). He also likes to lift, sail, play tennis, listen to music, and explore Boston with friends. After graduation, Ananthan is off to Harvard to pursue a PhD in the Biological and Biomedical Sciences program.



**Charvi Sharma – Course 6-7**

Charvi Sharma, originally from Tampa, Florida, came to MIT with a passion not only for computer science and biology, but also for the arts. As a UROP for the Yaffe Lab in the Koch Institute, Charvi worked to understand signaling pathways that regulate a cell's fate after DNA damage in cancer. Beyond her research and 6-7 degree, she also minored in Theater Arts and held leadership positions in her dance teams, MIT Mirchi and MIT Nritya. She also enjoyed volunteering her time to serve as an Associate Advisor, a MedLinks Residential Director, and a member of BUSA Exec. After graduation, Charvi will attend medical school and pursue an MD, ultimately continuing to apply CS to medicine as a clinician-scientist.



**Jack Suggs – Course 7**

Jack Suggs is from Raleigh, North Carolina. At MIT, Jack has a double major in Chemical-Biological Engineering (10-B) and Biology (7) and has attained minors in Chemistry (5) and Economics (14). While staying entirely online for his first year, Jack used a UROP position to get on campus during the summer of 2021 and has been in some form of a lab ever since. Over the three summers he has stayed in Cambridge, he has enjoyed sailing, rowing, and exploring Boston. While there are countless highlights from his time at MIT, some of his favorites are finding his bike after it was stolen, taking part in a sailboat race off the coast of Gloucester, and being a part of the Race Car team for his first two years. After graduation, Jack will either be working a technical consulting job or going off to California for a PhD in Chemical Engineering.



# Student Biographies



## Grace Sun – Course 6-7

Grace Sun grew up in Shreveport, Louisiana. At MIT, she majored in Computer Science and Molecular Biology while exploring public health and health policy interests. Outside of classes, she enjoyed being a TA for Organic Chemistry I in Concourse, conducting neuroimaging research in the Jasanoff Lab, volunteering as an EMT on the MIT ambulance, and mentoring through Camp Kesem and SHINE\*. One of the highlights of her time at MIT was serving as Chief of MIT EMS, an unforgettable experience that was both challenging and deeply rewarding. Grace also had the pleasure of teaching Biology, Chemistry, Physics, and English in Germany and Italy through MISTI Global Teaching Labs. In her free time, she loves to run, swim, bake, and spend time with friends. After graduation, Grace will work as a surgical technician fellow in the Boston area while applying to medical school.

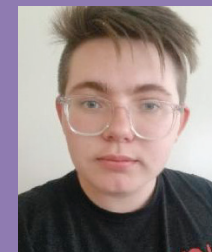


## Phoenix Swartz – Course 7

Phoenix is from the Phoenix area of Arizona (yes, really, and you may laugh a bit). They went through many life science and engineering majors in their time at MIT, eventually settling down in the Course 7 department with a concentration in theatrical arts. In the lab, they are most fond of genetics and virology work, though outside the lab they enjoy reading and intellectually exploring most any cellular-level publications. Phoenix worked as an undergraduate researcher under Alex Hostetler in the Irvine lab, exploring CAR-T cells and related immunologics. Outside of classes and research, they found many unique opportunities to lead and shape their communities, including working on multiple administrative committees and running Bad Ideas Weekend. In their undergraduate years, Phoenix served brief stints as an amateur fire-spinner, a guide for enthused tourists, and a dashing

yet dastardly Shakespearean villain. After graduation, Phoenix will begin their career in the biotechnology industry.

## Estin Van Alstine Course 7



## Cholapet Varongchayakul Course 5-7



# Student Biographies



## Erin Thompson – Course 6-7

Erin Thompson is from Long Island, New York. She is graduating with a major in Computer Science and Molecular Biology and a minor in Environment and Sustainability. One of the academic highlights of Erin's time at MIT has been the opportunity to conduct research, in both medical biology, investigating rare blood disease under Dr. Hojun Li at the Koch Institute, and environmental sciences, performing computational analysis of microbiomes under Dr. Otto Cordero. On campus, Erin worked as an MIT Admissions tour guide and TA'd during her final semester for 7.002. She was a Wellbeing Ambassador and a member of Alpha Phi, serving on the Panhellenic Executive board during her junior year. In her free time, she enjoyed playing soccer with MIT Women's Club soccer team and performing with MIT Dance Troupe and MissBehavior.

Erin enjoys hiking, attending concerts and comedy shows around Boston, and playing Spikeball on Kresge. Next year, Erin will be conducting research at the University of Copenhagen through MISTI Denmark before pursuing graduate school.

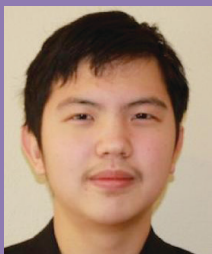


## Chris Viets – Course 7

Chris Viets, MIT graduating class of 2024, was created in a lab in 2017. In a secret bunker deep within the New Mexico desert, near the Trinity nuclear bomb test site, the world's leading geneticists gathered to create the first viable synthetic human embryo. After years of trials, they successfully induced morphogenesis in a cluster of stem cells and carried the fetus to term. As *in vitro* became *in vivo*, the scientists named their creation CHRIS (CRISPR-mediated Haplotype Replacement in Induced pluripotent Stem cells). Upon teaching Chris English, science, and mathematics, they released Chris into the wild. Raised by a pack of coyotes, Chris grew from sand, cacti, the sun, moon, and stars, eventually reaching MIT and achieving success studying physics and biology. After graduation, Chris plans to realize a Unified Artistic Vision through the Death of

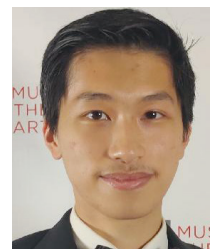
Normalcy and the Creation of a New Natural Order, embarking on a journey to make people ask: "Has science gone too far?"

**Brandon Wang**  
Course 6-7



**Melody Yu – Course 7**

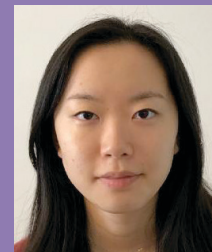
Melody Yu is originally from Taipei, Taiwan, and grew up in Los Angeles, California. At MIT, Melody pursued a double major in Biology and Brain and Cognitive Sciences with a Music minor, engaging in research in neurodegenerative disease, viral phylogenetics, and ulcerative colitis treatment. Outside of class, Melody is most grateful to have served as the Director of MIT Science Olympiad in addition to leadership roles in other organizations including BrainTrust and Global Health Alliance. Melody has moreover enjoyed being a choreographer and cover director in the Asian Dance Team and playing violin in the MIT Symphony Orchestra. Melody loves going to concerts, spending time with her friends, and playing with her four cats. After graduation, Melody will be attending medical school.



**Jared Zheng – Course 6-7**

Jared Zheng, hailing from Maryland with family roots in Fuzhou, China, pursued an interdisciplinary path at MIT, studying computer science and molecular biology, complemented by coursework in chemistry and mathematics. His research, conducted within the Zhang Group, focused on modeling biological systems with deep learning and biophysics, where he explored his interest in bridging diverse scientific fields. A defining moment of his MIT experience was the adventure of exploring safe hacking locations, where he cherished the Boston skyline at night alongside friends. Outside of his academic and research commitments, Jared enjoys sleeping, cooking experimental fusion dishes, and playing in video games with friends.

**Caroline Zhang**  
Course 7



**Rebecca Siyi Zhang**  
Course 7







