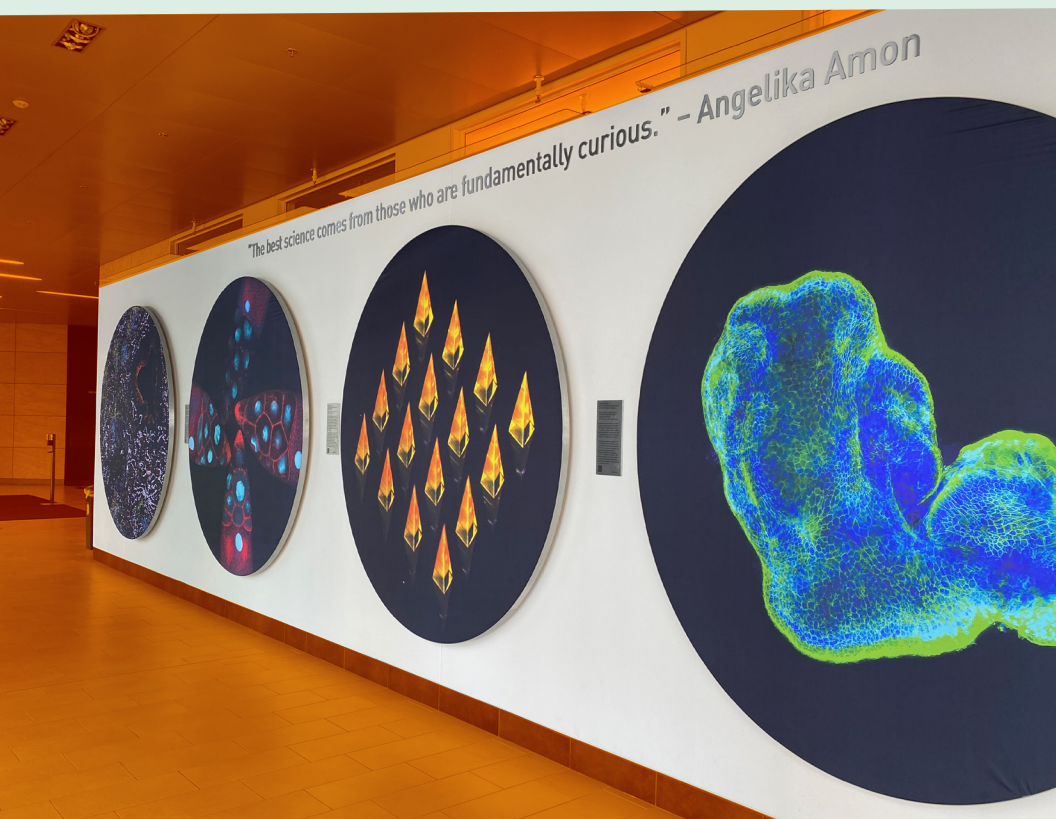


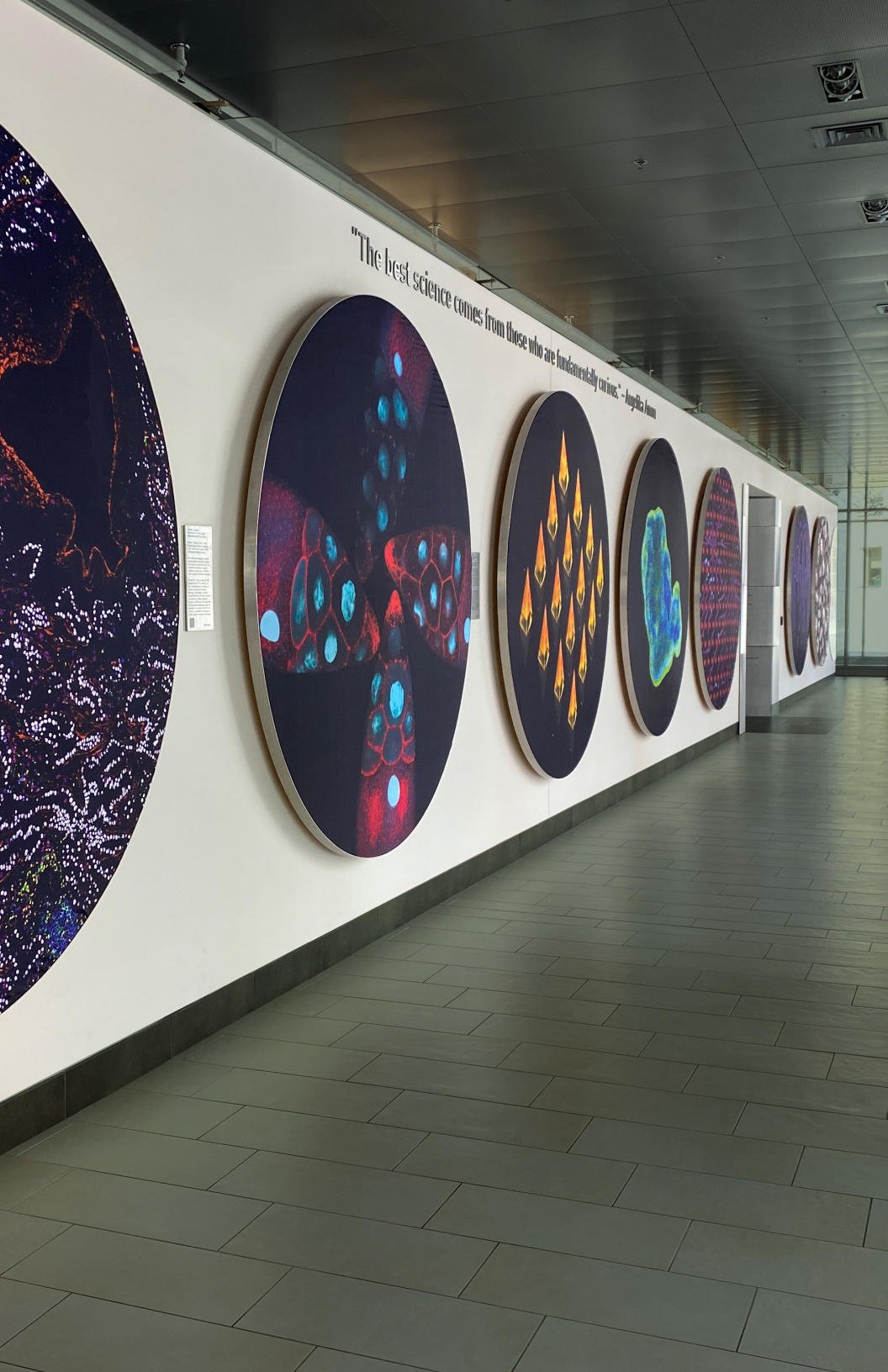
Undergraduate Celebration 2026

Honoring

Graduating Seniors & Award Recipients

May 12th, 2026





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Graduating Seniors by Course

Course 7

Chang, Renee
Chen, Derek
Chen, Minyi
Cleves, Luna
Cortez, Estevan
Dong, Anna
Du, Yiqing
Fei, Sean
Felton, Nia
Firlie, Cole
Hung, Ruting
Ibanez Moran,
Caroline
Karjane, Callie
Kothare, Prathysha
McCoy, Vera
Meador, Peyton
Okwuadigbo, Ugo
Park, Sarah
Qi, Joyce
Sankari, Safiya
Wu, Amy
Yang, Danny
Yang, Marggie
Yao, Katherine

Course 5-7

Cao, Sarah
Chen, Yizhen
Howard, Katelyn
Li, Annie
Liu, Kevin
Luca, Izzy
Orkhon, Temujin
Petulla, Nina
Prewitt, Zee
Reich, Ethan
Robert, Sol
Shutt, Kyra
Tang, Alex
Tang, Mary
Tiarawut, Wasin
Tischer, Bailey

Course 6-7

Bi, Eric
Cai, Sophia
Chen, Lee
Cobb, Jacob
Graseck, Maggie
Kim, Siyoung
Latawa, Pari
Lian, Anna
Libos, Munir
Miyares, Amanda
Pang, Iris
Phuong, Kien
Ren, Greycen
Sanchez, Gabriel
Simao, Alexa Rae
Simon, Keonna
So, Anson
Tamene, Ayantu
Tan, Ashlee
Thomas, Abigail
Vergara, Matias
Wang, Emily
Wang, Hannah
Wang, Linda
Yao, Sophia
Yasonik, Jacob

Award Recipients 2025–2026

Biology Undergraduate Awards

John L. Asinari Award

For outstanding research in the field of life sciences.

Renee Chang, '26

Course 7

Bailey Tischler, '26

Course 5-7

Gene Brown Prize

For outstanding academic scholarship, research, and excellence as a teaching assistant.

Emmanuel Adetunji, '27

Course 5-7

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.

Diya Ramesh, '27

Course 6-7

Ned Holt Prize

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

Anna Dong, '26

Course 7

Salvador E. Luria Prize

For outstanding scholarship and research of publication quality.

Clara Zhu, '27

Course 7

Merck Prize

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

Andrew Van Dusen, '27

Course 20

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.

Nupur Ballal, '27

Course 7

Award Recipients 2025–2026

Course 5 Undergraduate Awards

Research Award

For outstanding contributions in the area of research.

Ethan Reich '26

Course 5-7

Bailey Tischler '26

Course 5-7

Academic Achievement Award

For outstanding scholarship.

Alex Tang '26

Course 5-7

Katelyn Howard '26

Course 5-7

Temujin Orkhon '26

Course 5-7

Nina Petulla '26

Course 5-7

Service Award

For significant contributions in the area of service to the chemistry department.

Kevin Liu '26

Course 5-7

Royal Society of Chemistry Certificate of Undergraduate Excellence

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

Na Therdpraisan '27

Course 5-7

Award Recipients 2025–2026

Biology Students Nominated for Phi Beta Kappa

Eric Bi '26

Course 6-7

Derek Chen '26

Course 7

Anna Dong '26

Course 7

Yiqing Du '26

Course 7

Katelyn Howard '26

Course 5-7

Sarah Park '26

Course 7

Nina Petulla '26

Course 5-7

Alex Tang '26

Course 5-7

Danny Yang '26

Course 7

Special Recognition

Biology Undergraduate Research Symposium

2026 Participants

Devin Baynes

Eugenie Cha

Renee Chang

Lee Chen

Luna Cleves

Alexander Li

Yuru Lin

Cindy Pyo

Diya Ramesh

Greycen Ren

Ayantou Tamene

Nikitha Thoduguli

Bailey Tischer

Amy Zheng

Clara Zhu

Megan Zhu

Special Thanks

BEXEC 2025-2026

Sophia Cai
Dominique Dang
Farin Liani
Iris Pang
Alex Tang
Annabel Tiong
Michael Turmilov

Tutors 2025-2026

Mahmoud Abdelmoneum
Michael Albanez
Olivia Bartrum
Emily Bautista
Clarice Borges
Caroline Brown
Sophia Cai
Kareena Caton
Minyi Chen
Fernan Coo
Dominique Dang
Richard Deng
Anna Dong
Jolyn Fang
Jensen Fiskin
Tori Fowler
Stella Gassman
Wendy Geng
Maggie Graseck
Jonah Gurion
Hailey Harden
Kyra Henriques
Chloe Hyun

Emma Jakubicka
Callie Karjane
Anna Kim
Prathysha Kothare
Renuka Late
Fiona Li
Jada Li
Yiwei Liang
Annie Lin
Vernon Lin
Madeleine Noll
Rachel Nguyen
Anisha Parsan
Kannammai Pichappan
Leah Prizant
Diya Ramesh
Karie Shen
Alice Situ
Tiffany Stephens
Ayantu Tamene
Alex Tang
Annabel Tiong
Zuri Vallery
Srishti Venkatesan

Ria Verma
Colin Zhang
Clarence Zheng
Jessica Zheng
Megan Zhu

Department of Biology

Head of Department:

Amy Keating

Undergrad Officers:

Laurie Boyer
Adam Martin

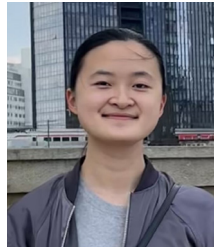
Biology Education Office:

Janice Chang
Joshua Stone

Student Biographies



Eric Bi – Course 6-7



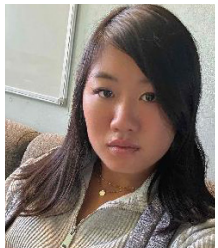
Sophia Cai – Course 6-7



Minyi Chen – Course 7



Sarah Cao
Course 5-7



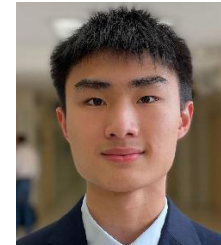
Renee Chang
Course 7

Sophia Cai is originally from Barrington, Illinois. At MIT, she studied Computer Science and Molecular Biology and completed a minor in Music. She conducted research in the Koch Institute, where she studied genetic modifiers of Huntington's disease in the Housman Lab and tumor suppressive functions of chromatin adaptor proteins in the Soto-Feliciano Lab. On campus, she served as a member of BUSA's executive board and as an Associate Advisor. Sophia also enjoys music, having played flute in the MIT Symphony Orchestra and received private training through the Emerson/Harris Scholars program. After graduation, she will be pursuing a PhD in the Translational Molecular Medicine, Pharmacology, and Physiology program at Yale University.

Minyi Chen is originally from Albany, New York. She double majored in Biology and Computation and Cognition. During her time at MIT, Minyi conducted research in the White Lab, where she studied signaling pathways in cancer and their role in therapeutic drug resistance. Beyond the lab, Minyi was involved with ITEC, where she tutored ESL adults in the Greater Boston community, volunteered at Boston Specialists Allergy Clinic, and served as an Associate Advisor. She also participated in GTL Germany, where she taught biology and chemistry to German high school students, and in Global Classroom in Abu Dhabi, where she helped develop an informational platform to share women's health resources with girls in the UAE. After graduating, Minyi plans to pursue a career as a physician-scientist.



Derek Chen
Course 7



Lee Chen
Course 6-7

Student Biographies



Yizhen Chen
Course 5-7



Estevan Cortez
Course 7



Luna Cleves
Course 7

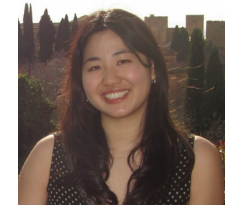


Jacob Cobb
Course 6-7



Anna Dong – Course 7

Anna Dong, originally from Portland, Oregon, double majored in Brain and Cognitive Sciences and Biology with a concentration in Writing. As an undergraduate researcher in the Jasanoff Lab, she studied sensory pathways in the brain using genetic functional MRI methods. In addition to her academic pursuits, she was actively involved with the MIT Pre-Medical Society and the MIT Undergraduate Research Journal in leadership roles. During her time at MIT, Anna especially enjoyed leading peer support meetings as the Vice President of Peer Support with MIT BrainTrust and volunteering at Massachusetts General Hospital. After graduation, Anna plans to pursue medical school to become a physician.



Yiqing Du – Course 7

Yiqing Du is originally from Pullman, Washington. At MIT, she double majored in Biology (7) and Computer Science and Engineering (6-3), with a minor in Mathematics (18). She developed an interest in applying computational methods to biological systems through internships at AWS and research in the Uhler Lab, where she used machine learning to study biological perturbations. Passionate about teaching, she served as head TA for 6.3900 (Introduction to Machine Learning) and contributed to several other courses such as 6.1210, 18.600, 6.1800, and 6.7960. She was also actively involved in campus organizations like TechX, AI@MIT, and IEEE. Outside of academics, Yiqing enjoys crafting, baking, and trying new cuisines. After graduation, she plans to pursue an MEng at MIT, continuing her work in the Uhler Lab.

Student Biographies



Chinese and has been working on his Japanese proficiency. After graduation, Sean plans to head to medical school to pursue a career as a physician, though he'll likely still be found playing Shengji or Valorant in his spare time.

Sean Fei – Course 7

Sean Fei is originally from Lexington, Massachusetts. At MIT, he is completing a double major in Computer Science and Biology. While he's spent plenty of time in the lab, he's also spent many hours perfecting his rhythm as a member of the MIT osu! club. His research journey has been a deep dive into the molecular and the computational. He spent a summer at the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation using Prime Editing to rescue CFTR function. Most recently, Sean has been applying his CS skills in the Idris Lab, using the MUNIS machine learning model to hunt for immunogenic regions in Plasmodium falciparum for malaria vaccine research. When he wasn't debugging code or running PCRs, Sean was a leader in the MIT Science Bowl Club, where he served as Lead Question Writer and Treasurer. Beyond the science, Sean has a passion for languages—he is fluent in



Nia Felton – Course 7

Nia Felton is originally from Newport News, Virginia. In addition to studying Biology, she played violin in MIT's Video Game Orchestra. Throughout her time in the orchestra, she arranged one piece from Super Mario Galaxy 2 and two pieces from Genshin Impact. Through her science education, she prepared for veterinary school by working with MIT's Division of Comparative Medicine, the Massachusetts General Hospital with Dr. Joshua Tam, and the Ragon Institute with Prof. Facundo Batista. Nia also spent her summers and IAP working at vet clinics, shadowing an animal chiropractor, and assisting an animal physical therapist. Outside of her scientific activities, Nia was a member of MIT Cru, and lead Cru's prayer team, publicity team, and a Cru small group for BC, MacGregor, and EC residents. After graduation, Nia plans to work as a veterinary assistant before attending veterinary school.



Katelyn Howard
Course 5-7

Katelyn Howard grew up in Portland, Oregon. At MIT, she studied Chemistry & Biology with a Minor in Writing. Katelyn conducted the bulk of her undergraduate research on drug delivery polymers in the lab of Professors Robert Langer and Giovanni Traverso. She currently works with Jeremiah Johnson and Linda Griffith to design polymers for women's health applications, a field she hopes to continue developing in her career. In terms of writing, Katelyn has published several science articles in The Tech and is the recipient of multiple Karmel prizes for undergraduate writing. Outside of research and writing, she is a three-time All-American in the pole vault for MIT Track and Field. After graduation, Katelyn will pursue a PhD in Chemistry at Duke University.



Cole Firlie
Course 7



Maggie Graseck
Course 6-7

Student Biographies



Rutung Hung
Course 7



Callie Karjane
Course 7



Siyoung Kim
Course 6-7



Caroline Ibanez Moran
Course 7

Caroline L. Ibáñez Moran is originally from Maygüez Puerto Rico. She majored in both Biology and Brain and Cognitive Sciences, where she discovered a passion for researching neurobiological systems. She conducted research in the Weissbourd lab on the roles of neural subpopulations in regulating the medusae behavioral state of the jellyfish *Clytia hemisphaerica*. Outside of her academic pursuits, Caroline played soccer on the MIT Women's Club Soccer Team. She was also a part of multiple student lead groups such as Associate Advising, MIT pre-Med Society, and dynaMIT. After graduation she plans to obtain an MD and pursue a career in medicine.



Prathysha Kothare
Course 7

Prathysha (Tysha) is from Allentown, Pennsylvania. At MIT, she double majored in Biology and Brain and Cognitive Sciences, with a concentration in Comparative Media Studies. Her academic interests focus on understanding the molecular mechanisms of disease, particularly how cellular microenvironments shape cell behavior, and on developing improved models for complex diseases. At MIT, Prathysha conducted research in Professor Laurie Boyer's lab, where she studied how trisomy 21 affects cardiac cell development using stem cell-derived models. She also explored translational and industry-facing projects through her work at Volta Medical, working on AI-guided tools for atrial fibrillation, and through the MISTI-Brazil program, where she studied biomedical

innovation pipelines and health-tech entrepreneurship. Beyond academics, Prathysha is an active member and heels choreographer in MIT DanceTroupe. She has also served as a teaching assistant in the Brain and Cognitive Sciences department and as a mentor for MIT-Brazil Global Startup Labs. In her free time, she enjoys reading crime thrillers, crocheting, weightlifting, doing art projects with her mom, and exploring Boston's live music and nightlife! After graduation, Prathysha will join the Cellular and Molecular Medicine (CMM) graduate training program at Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine, with the goal of leading translational research in biotechnology and medicine.

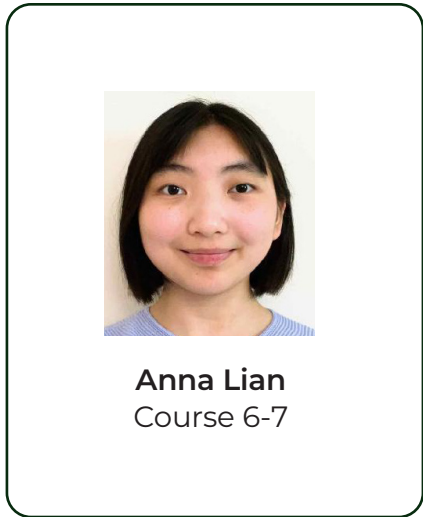
Student Biographies



Pari Latawa – Course 6-7

Pari Latawa is from Austin, Texas, majoring in Computer Science and Molecular Biology (6-7) with a minor in Economics (14). At MIT, she has been a researcher and SuperUROP student with Professor Feng Zhang's lab at the Broad Institute, where she has worked on genome mining for evolutionary discovery. Pari has also been a researcher in Professor Giovanni Traverso's group at the Koch Institute, working on building machine learning models for molecular and biological design. Pari has been a teaching assistant for 18.05 Introduction to Probability and Statistics and co-founded EasyComm, a platform to help children with Down Syndrome improve speech in a gamified format. Pari is on the board of MIT SAAS, worked at Boston Medical Center through the PKG Center and became an Ambassador, receiving her

NEET Living Machines certificate, and is Co-Chair of the Class of 2026 Senior Week Committee. Additionally, she was involved as a member of the MIT EECS Committee for Community Engagement and the School of Engineering Undergraduate Advisory Group. During her summers, Pari has interned across the biological innovation ecosystem at Eli Lilly and Company, MD Anderson Cancer Center, and at an AI-powered biotech startup in Copenhagen, Denmark as an Innovation Diplomats Scholar through MIT MISTI. She is currently completing her MEng with the Zhang Lab on applying DNA LLMs for non-coding genomic discovery.



Anna Lian
Course 6-7



Annie Li – Course 5-7

Annie Li is originally from the Bay Area, California. She majored in Chemistry and Biology at MIT. Outside of class, she conducted research at the Koch Institute for Integrative Cancer Research in the White Lab, studying phosphorylation of key enzymes involved in cancer metabolism, and in the Nolan Lab, designing fluorescent probes to track how bacteria take up siderophore-conjugate molecules. At MIT, she mentored underserved high school students in the Boston region through Amphibious Achievement and tutored chemistry and biology as part of McCormick Hall's First-Year Tutoring Program, delighting in the curiosity, energy, and unexpected questions her students brought to every session. Outside of MIT, she was dedicated to patient care as a volunteer in the Chemotherapy Infusion Ward at Massachusetts General Hospital and at Boston Medical Center,

witnessing firsthand how small acts of kindness can make a big difference. When she wasn't in the lab, volunteering, or attending classes, she could be found wandering Boston with friends, snapping photos of everyday wonders, experimenting with new recipes, or getting lost in a book that whisked her away to worlds both strange and fantastical. After graduation, she will work as a Clinical Medical Assistant and research assistant in the Bay Area while applying to medical school.



Munir Libos
Course 6-7

Student Biographies



Kevin Liu – Course 5-7

Kevin Liu is from Southaven, Mississippi (near Memphis) and majored in Chemistry and Biology. He UROPed in Prof. Maggie Qi's lab using organ on a chip models to study different disease mechanisms in the eye. Outside of class and UROP, Kevin enjoyed playing pingpong and tennis with friends, buying bitcoin, and EATING!



Izzy Luca – Course 5-7

Izzy Luca is a Chemistry and Biology major from the St. Louis, MO metro area. She did a stint as a UROP in the the Griffith Lab, playing with polymers and image acquisition to model how pain works in the lining of the uterus. They are also finishing up a minor in Women's and Gender Studies, which they enjoyed for its blend of historical, philosophical, and literary analyses and application on current events and politics. Outside of class, she has been an active member of MIT EMS since freshman year, serving as a volunteer EMT, the Director of CPR and First Aid Education, and the Director of Ambulance Operations. Post grad, Izzy is taking a gap year to work with the AmeriCorps St. Louis Emergency Response Team before applying to medical school.



Peyton Meader – Course 7

Peyton Meader was born and raised in the mountains of Maine. At MIT, she studied Chemical Engineering and Biology, and spent most of her free time tinkering in a makerspace or the lab as part of ChemE Cube and the First Nations Launch Rocket Team. As a proud member of the Passamaquoddy Tribe of Maine, she was also very active in the Native American student groups on campus, namely the Native American and Indigenous Association (NAIA) and the American Indian Science and Engineering Society (AISES). She is interested in biotech, renewable energy, and energy storage, and hopes to pursue a career that improves the health of our planet, preserving its diversity and beauty for the next seven generations and beyond.



Vera McCoy
Course 7



Amanda Miyares
Course 6-7

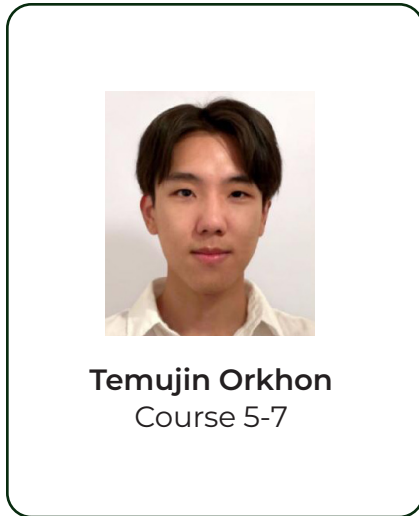
Student Biographies



Ugo Okwuadigbo
Course 7

Ugo Okwuadigbo lives in Hampton, Georgia. At MIT, he double majored in Chemical-Biological Engineering (IOB) and Biology (7), minoring in Science, Technology, and Society (STS). His latest research was as a SuperUROP in Chemical Engineering, where he worked on fermentation systems and process monitoring for recombinant protein production under Dr. Jean-François Hamel. Outside of school, Ugo was a STEM volunteer instructor, an avid traveler, and a writer, likely to be found updating his website: ugoarchive.com. After graduation, he plans to continue his work with Mobile Health Map at Harvard Medical School, analyzing large scale datasets to better understand the role of mobile clinics in expanding healthcare access. He will also attend the University of Oxford

and pursue an MSc in Evidence-Based Healthcare, with the long term goal of becoming a physician-scientist focused on the clinical applications of neuroimmune mechanisms and data-driven approaches to healthcare.



Temujin Orkhon
Course 5-7



Iris Pang – Course 6-7

Iris Pang is from Seattle, Washington. At MIT, she majored in Computer Science and Biology (6-7). At MIT, Iris researched with Dr. Joel Hirschhorn at Boston Children's Hospital, investigating diet-responsive metabolites, causal and/or predictive of cardiometabolic diseases. Most recently, she's been working with the Barzilay Lab, where she's studying predictive models of TCR and peptide-MHC binding. Outside of research, Iris helped found MIT's Kidney Disease Screening and Prevention chapter and served on the officer team for the Biology Undergraduate Student Association. She also enjoyed flooding Canvas announcements with cheesy science memes for ESG Introductory Biology and Chemistry students, as well as the (very) early mornings at the PACU/preop units of Brigham and Women's Hospital, where she had the pleasure of volunteering. After

graduation, she will pursue an MD at Johns Hopkins University. Iris is very grateful for all the support from family, friends, and mentors at MIT, and hopes to make the most of all the guidance!

Student Biographies



Sarah Park – Course 7

Sarah Park is from Winter Garden, Florida. At MIT, she majored in Biology, working in the Hrvatin Lab as a UROP to study the neuronal populations involved in hibernation. Sarah also explored her interests in music through a Music concentration and through singing in the MIT Asymptones and MIT Syncopasian. Additionally, she enjoyed serving as a leader in MIT Asian Christian Fellowship and being a source of first aid for her friends and living community as a MedLink. When off campus, she dedicated her time to supporting young patients and families in the PICU at MGH, along with exploring foods and sights in the wonderful city of Boston. After graduation, Sarah plans to spend a few years working in hospitals and teaching K-12 before applying to MD programs. She is very grateful to her family, friends, and mentors for their support through the years!



Nina Petulla – Course 5-7

Nina Petulla is from Natick, Massachusetts. At MIT, she studied Biology and Chemistry with a concentration in Dance. A highlight of her academic experience was conducting drug delivery research in the Straehla and Hammond Labs to improve clinical outcomes for pediatric cancer patients. As a soloist in MIT's Spring 2025 production VOLTA, she was awarded a Special Citation for Outstanding Performance Collaboration. Beyond the classroom, Nina is deeply involved in Camp Kesem at MIT, where she serves as the Director of Volunteers and Camp Operations. She is looking forward to bringing the camp experience to over 200 children of cancer patients this summer! She also served as captain of the MIT Varsity Women's Lacrosse team and Vice President of Health, Wellness, and Accountability for Alpha Phi. In her spare time, Nina also enjoys

crocheting, exploring the city with friends, and watching sunsets on Jack Barry field. Through her undergraduate experience at MIT, Nina has developed a passion for translational medicine and patient support. After graduation, she plans to work as a Patient Care Coordinator and apply to medical school.



Kien Phuong – Course 6-7

Kien grew up in Hanoi, Vietnam, moved to Bethesda, Maryland in 2020, and came to MIT in 2022, where he double majored in Computer Science & Molecular Biology and Physics. Outside class, he studied Chinese and was part of the MIT Biotech Group. His research highlights include studying cancer-immune interactions in Dr. Forest White's lab and developing a fluorescent-based PFAS sensor in Dr. Tim Swager's lab. He loves exploring Boston/Cambridge food spots, karaoke, and gaming. He'll next be pursuing his PhD in Chemistry and Chemical Biology at UCSF.



Zee Prewitt
Course 5-7

Student Biographies



Joyce Qi – Course 7

Joyce Qi is from Qingdao, China, and grew up in Vancouver, Canada. At MIT, she studied biology and neuroscience and graduated in three years. During her time at MIT, Joyce conducted research in the Sellers Lab, Getz Lab, and Langer Lab, where she worked at the intersection of functional genomics, cancer genomics, and translational research using both experimental and computational approaches. She is also deeply interested in the application of artificial intelligence in healthcare. Beyond the lab, Joyce participated in MISTI in South Africa, where she studied HIV and other epidemics and gained firsthand insight into how medicine is translated into real-world clinical and public health settings. She also served as a teaching assistant for 7.371, Biological and Engineering Principles Underlying Novel Biotherapeutics. In addition,

she has been involved in the Committee on the Undergraduate Program. In her free time, Joyce enjoys exploring Boston's food scene with friends and playing Werewolf and poker. After graduation, she will continue pursuing her research interests as a Herschel Smith Fellow in the Biological and Biomedical Sciences PhD Program at Harvard Medical School.



Ethan Reich
Course 5-7



Gabriel Sanchez
Course 6-7



Greycen Ren – Course 6-7

Greycen Ren grew up in the Chicago suburbs and studied computational biology and math. During his time at MIT, he pursued research in both the Ringel Lab and Coley Research Group, working on projects focused on immunometabolism and AI for chemistry. Outside of academics, he is involved with his fraternity, Zeta Beta Tau, where he has served as chapter president. He has also been involved with and held officer positions for MIT EMS and MIT Science Olympiad. After graduation, he will continue to pursue his interests in the intersection of computation and the life sciences.



Sol Robert – Course 5-7

Sol Robert, originally from Miami, FL, will be graduating with a double major in 5-7 and 9 as well as a minor in French. While a dedicated student, she is also a passionate dancer, mainly in hip hop. She has choreographed and performed with MIT Ridonkulous, Dance Troupe, and Asian Dance Team. She is also a member of the Choi Lab at the Picower Institute of Learning and Memory where she studies neuroimmunology in mouse models to better elucidate the mechanisms behind autism spectrum disorder (ASD). After graduation, Sol will be a Research Associate at a neuroscience institute for a year before applying to PhD programs in molecular and cellular neuroscience.

Student Biographies



Safiya Sankari
Course 7



Alexa Rae Simao
Course 6-7



Anson So
Course 6-7



Kyra Shutt – Course 5-7

Kyra Shutt is originally from Murray, Kentucky. At MIT, Kyra studied Chemistry and Biology with a concentration in ethics. Kyra assisted with a variety of projects at MIT, including the development of a lateral flow assay for PFAs detection, optimizing exosome collection for nanotherapeutic delivery, identifying extraction methods for metabolites from yeast, and studying how pathogens survive outside of the human body. When not in the lab, Kyra also worked for the Peer Educator Program, MIT Annual Giving, and the Rainbow Lounge. Free time was usually spent with friends, family, or cats. After graduation, Kyra is planning to work for the Fluids and Health Network at MIT before pursuing a PhD.



Keonna Simon – Course 6-7

Keonna Simon is from Fairhall, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines. She majored in Computer Science and Molecular Biology, where she discovered a passion for neurodegenerative diseases, neuropsychosocial diseases, and the gut-brain axis. Her senior thesis project in the Fraenkel Lab involved improving biomarker detection from cyclic immunofluorescence images of medulloblastoma tumors. Outside of coursework and research, Keonna enjoyed trying new foods and visiting museums. She also enjoyed serving as a Residential Peer Mentor and an Associate Advisor to various cohorts of first-year students, as well as a Lab Assistant for 6.100. Some of Keonna's favorite moments at MIT include participating in MISTI Denmark and HST.434: Evolution of an Epidemic, an IAP global classroom with field study of the

impacts of HIV in South Africa. After graduation, Keonna will pursue a MISTI Spain internship on the use of oncogenic viruses to treat glioma.

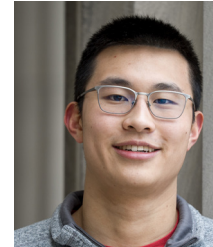
Student Biographies



Ayantú Tamene
Course 6-7

Ayantú Tamene is originally from Woodland, California. At MIT, she majored in Computer Science and Molecular Biology, with a concentration in Science, Technology, and Society. She worked as a UROP in the Kamm Lab, where she modeled cancer metastasis on a 3D tumor-on-a-chip model. She then moved to the Cancer Data Science group at the Broad Institute, where she has been working on various projects using genomic datasets to elucidate the molecular mechanisms involved in cancer. She has also been heavily involved in organizations on campus, including the MIT Biotech Group, Love & a Sandwich (now Burnt Sugar - an R&B band at MIT), Associate Advising, and various black affinity groups (MIT NSBE, BWA, EESA). She has also enjoyed teaching and mentorship roles through working as a Lab Assistant for introductory

computer science/data science courses 6.100A/B, and as a tutor for the biology department. Post-graduation, she will be pursuing an MEng in Computer Science and Molecular Biology and applying to medical school.



Alex Tang
Course 5-7

Alex Tang is originally from Lexington, Massachusetts. At MIT, Alex majored in Chemistry and Biology and minored in Biomedical Engineering. For the past three and half years, he investigated spatially organized immunity in lung and colorectal cancer under Nir Hacohen at the Broad Institute and MGH. Alex was involved with BUSA and served as an Associate Advisor and teaching assistant for 7.06. Outside of academics, he was the editor-in-chief of The Tech and competed in three triathlons over the course of undergrad. After graduation, Alex will be pursuing an MD at Harvard Medical School through the HST program.



Ashlee Tan
Course 6-7

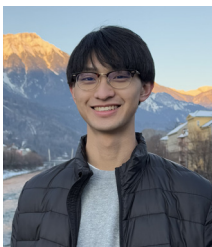


Mary Tang
Course 5-7



Abigail Thomas
Course 6-7

Student Biographies



Wasin Tiarawut – Course 5-7

Mac Tiarawut is from Bangkok, Thailand. At MIT, he majored in Chemistry and Biology (5-7), as well as Physics (8) with a minor in Computer Science. He started doing research in Professor Ronald Raines' Lab, designing and synthesizing collagen mimetic peptides for structural studies. He then joined Professor Jianshu Cao's Group, where he developed numerical methods for simulating open quantum systems. Mac taught chemistry in Regensburg, Germany as part of MISTI Global Teaching Labs and interned at the Novartis Institutes for Biomedical Research in summer 2025. Outside of academics, Mac served as a vice president of Thai Students at MIT. He was a part of MIT Climbing Team and one of the founding members of MIT LIVE where he played acoustic guitar. After graduation, Mac is planning to start his PhD in computational and theoretical chemistry.



Bailey Tischer – Course 5-7

Bailey Tischer is originally from Pheonix, Arizona. At MIT, she majored in Chemistry and Biology and concentrated in Mandarin Chinese. Early on she worked with the Xia lab at the Broad Institute, becoming interested in epigenetic regulation and cellular plasticity. After a summer project studying neural tube development, she found a deep interest in studying cellular communication and tissue organization. She now works with the Li lab at the Whitehead Institute, using human stem cells to model branching morphogenesis in lung development. Alongside research, she has enjoyed international travel through the MISTI-UK program and studying abroad through the language exchange program at National Sun Yat-Sen University in Taiwan. In her free time, she enjoys playing video games with friends, creating digital art, and listening to

video essays on Youtube. After graduation, she is pursuing a PhD with the Briscoe lab at the Francis Crick Institute in London.



Hannah Wang – Course 6-7

Hannah is from Boulder, Colorado and majored in Computation and Molecular Biology at MIT. She UROPed at the Koch Institute with Dr. Hemann, where she investigated resistance mechanisms to childhood leukemia. She also leads a project in the Lee Lab at Boston Children's Hospital, applying live-cell markers for breast cancer diagnosis. Outside of school and research, Hannah is involved as a Wellbeing Ambassador, Camp Kesem counselor, Medlink, and tutor. In her free time, she enjoys staying active, reading, and photography, often taking on freelance projects. Hannah plans to spend a year at home while applying to medical school.



Matias Vergara
Course 6-7



Emily Wang
Course 6-7

Student Biographies



Amy Wu
Course 7



Marggie Yang
Course 7



Linda Wang
Course 6-7



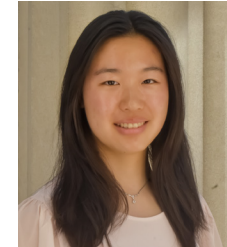
Danny Yang – Course 7

Danny Yang is a proud native of Queens, New York. At MIT, he studied Biology and Japanese, on top of spending a year as a high school student teacher at Cambridge Rindge and Latin School teaching neurobiology. Some of the highlights in his college period were TAing and teaching biology courses, as well as spending a summer working on human blastocyst organoids at Kyoto University. Outside of lab or class, his favorite hobbies included weightlifting and Chinese lion dancing. After graduating, Danny is going to Columbia University to do a PhD in the biological sciences.



Katherine Yao – Course 7

Katherine Yao is from Frisco, Texas, and spent her time at MIT majoring in Biology with a minor in Chemistry. She conducted research in the Furst Lab under Professor Ariel Furst, where she focused on the use of metal-phenolic networks to optimize drug delivery systems. Outside of academics, Katherine was a member of MIT's Swimming and Diving Team and had been named an NCAA Division III All-American and NEWMAC Academic All-Conference athlete. She had also served as a two-time tutor for 7.002, volunteered at Massachusetts General Hospital, and been a floor chair and Residential Peer Mentor in Burton-Conner. After graduation, Katherine plans to attend medical school and pursue a career as a physician.



Sophia Yao – Course 6-7

Sophia Yao is from Los Angeles, California. At MIT, Sophia majored in computer science and molecular biology and discovered a passion for using computational tools to study drug delivery systems. She conducted research in the Traverso Lab and completed her thesis on the use of generative AI for the development of RNA therapeutics. Outside of the lab and classroom, Sophia held leadership roles in clubs like Leadership Training Institute (LTI), MedLinks, and the Undergraduate Association (UA). She was also a student representative on the Committee of Curricula (CoC), volunteer tutor for MIT ESOL, and member of the varsity women's swim team. For fun, she enjoys visiting cafes and restaurants with friends, running along the Charles River, and exploring new places through programs like MISTI Denmark and GTL Italy.

Student Biographies



Jacob Yasonik
Course 6-7



