

Kirschstein-NRSA Postdoctoral T32 Fellow (Sept 2026-present),
Harvard Medical School | Boston Children's Hospital

EDUCATION

Ph.D. in Neuroscience (2020-September 2026) University of California, Los Angeles *Kirschstein-NRSA F31 Fellow*
Dissertation: "From Synapse to Syndrome: Substance Use, Psychosis, and the Neural Architecture of Risk"

B.A. in Psychology, Minor: Japanese Language and Culture
(2014-2018) Boston University, Boston MA. *Honors in Psychology, summa cum laude, Phi Beta Kappa*

PUBLICATIONS

In review/preparation

- 2026 **Amir, C.**, Cooper, Z.C., Bearden, C.E. Mechanisms underlying the link between early cannabis exposure and psychosis. Under review, Trends in Neurosciences.
- 2026 **Amir, C.**, Wang, H., Walsh, C., Ghahremani, D., Chang, S., Ho, T., Uddin, L., Rissman, J., Cooper, Z., Bearden, C. Predicting and Characterizing Substance Use and Psychosis Outcomes in Adolescence Using Neuroimaging, Clinical, and Demographic Factors. Under review, Nature Partner journals Mental Health .
- 2026 **Amir, C.**, Wang, H., Karlsgodt, K., Bearden, C., Luppi, A. Uncovering Neural Complexity in Early Psychosis: Insights from Entropy Measures. In preparation.
- 2026 Wang, H. R., Schleifer, C. H., Liu, Z. Q., McKinney, R. A., Boen, R., **Amir, C. M.**, ... & Karlsgodt, K. H. (2026). Symptom Dimension-Specific Neurotransmitter Correlates of Psychopathology and Cognition in Early Psychosis. Under review.
- 2026 Boen, R...**Amir, C...** & ENIGMA-22q Working Group. (2026). The Hidden Architecture of Brain Structural Variability in 22q11. 2 Deletion Syndrome: A Multi-site Study. Under review.

Published

- 2026 Fung, H., O'Hora, K. P., Boen, R., Wang, H. R., **Amir, C.**, Schleifer, C. H., ... & Bearden, C. E. (2026). Convergent and divergent cerebellar alterations in 22q11. 2 copy number variants. Biological Psychiatry Global Open Science.
- 2025 **Amir, C.**, Ghahremani, D.G., Chang, S.E., Cooper, Z.C., Bearden, C.E. Altered neurobehavioral reward response predicts psychotic-like experiences in youth exposed to cannabis prenatally. Biological Psychiatry.
- 2025 Necka, EA, Akintola, T, Yu, Q, **Amir, C.**, Oretsky, O., Atlas, LY. Isolating brain mechanisms of expectancy effects on pain: Cue-based stimulus expectancies versus placebo-based treatment expectancies. The Journal of Neuroscience.
- 2025 Mummaneni, A., **Amir, C.**, Allen, N. B., & Ho, T. C. (2025). Connectome-Based Predictive Models Optimized for Sleep Differentiate Patients With Depression From Psychiatrically Healthy Controls. Biological Psychiatry: Cognitive Neuroscience and Neuroimaging.
- 2024 **Amir, C.**, O'Hora, K., Chiem, E., Schleifer, C., Grigoryan, V., Irwin, M., Chiang, J., Irwin, MR Bearden, CE. Differential inflammatory profiles in carriers of reciprocal 22q11.2 copy number variants. Psychoneuroendocrinology.
- 2024 Schleifer, C., Chang, S., **Amir, C.**, O'Hora, K. P., Fung, H., Kushan-Wells, L., ... & Bearden, C. E. Unique Functional Neuroimaging Signatures of Genetic Versus Clinical High Risk for Psychosis. Biological Psychiatry.
- 2024 Kennedy, L, Addington, J, **Amir, C**, Bearden, CB, Cannon, TD...Cadenhead, KS. Occasional cannabis use is associated with higher premorbid functioning and IQ in youth at clinical high-risk (CHR) for psychosis: Parallel findings to psychosis cohorts. Schizophrenia Research.

- 2023 **Amir, C.**, Kapler, S., Hoftman, G., Kushan, L...Bearden, CE. Substance use in youth at genetic and clinical high risk for psychosis. *Frontiers in Psychiatry*.
- 2023 Kapler, S, Avery, L, Hoftman, G, **Amir, C.**, Kushan, L., Cooper, Z, Bearden, CE. Assessing Evidence supporting cannabis harm reduction practices for adolescents at clinical-high risk for psychosis: a review and Clinical implementation Tool. *Psychological Medicine*.
- 2023 Dildine, T., **Amir C.**, Parsons, J., Atlas, L,Y. Perceivers exhibit inconsistent sociocultural biases assessing pain-related facial expressions. *Affective Science*.
- 2022 **Amir, C.**, Weger, R., Rose-McClandish, M., Dildine, T., Atlas, L.Y. Test-retest reliability of an adaptive thermal pain calibration procedure in healthy volunteers. *Journal of Pain*.
- 2021 Necka, E.A., **Amir, C.**, Dildine, & Atlas, L.Y. Expectations about pain and analgesic treatment are shaped by medical providers facial appearances. *Journal of Social Science & Medicine*, 2021
- 2020 Mercurio A.E., Hong F., **Amir C.**, Tarullo A., Samkavitz A., Ashy M., Malley-Morrison, K. Relationships among childhood maltreatment, limbic system dysfunction, and eating disorders in college women. *J. Intepersonal Violence*.

Invited Talks and Oral Conference Presentations

- a. **Amir C.**, Bearden, C.E. Cannabis Exposure and psychosis risk across development. Invited talk, National Institute on Drug Abuse Cannabis Science Interest Group, Washington, DC, 2026.
- b. **Amir C.**, George, T., Hill, M., Ghahremani, D.G., Cooper, Z.C. Cannabis and Mental Health across development: A Translational Perspective. Symposium Chair, Society of Biological Psychiatry 2026.
- c. **Amir C.**, Ghahremani, D.G., Chang, S.E., Cooper, Z.C., Bearden, C.E. Drug exposures and psychosis risk across development. Invited talk, Yale University, New Haven, Connecticut. 2026.
- d. **Amir C.**, Ghahremani, D.G., Chang, S.E., Cooper, Z.C., Bearden, C.E. Drug exposures and psychosis risk across development. Invited talk, Harvard Medical School, Boston, Massachusetts, 2026.
- e. **Amir C.**, Ghahremani, D.G., Chang, S.E., Cooper, Z.C., Bearden, C.E. Drug exposures and psychosis risk across development. Invited talk, McLean Hospital, Belmont, Massachusetts. 2026.
- f. **Amir C.**, Ghahremani, D.G., Chang, S.E., Cooper, Z.C., Bearden, C.E. Drug exposures and psychosis risk across development. Massachusetts General Hospital Center for Addiction Medicine Grand Rounds, Boston, Massachusetts, 2025.
- g. **Amir C.**, Ghahremani, D.G., Chang, S.E., Cooper, Z.C., Bearden, C.E. The link between substance exposure and psychosis across development. Society of Biological Psychiatry Pre-conference Meeting, University of Toronto, Canada, 2025.
- h. **Amir, C.**, Wang, H., Walsh, C., Ghahremani, D., Chang, S., Ho, T, Uddin, L, Rissman, J, Cooper, Z, Bearden, C. Predicting and Characterizing Substance Use and Psychosis Outcomes in Adolescence Using Neuroimaging, Clinical, and Demographic Factors. College on Problems of Drug Dependence, 2025.
- i. **Amir C.**, Ghahremani, D.G., Chang, S.E., Cooper, Z.C., Bearden, C.E. The link between substance exposure and psychosis across development. ABCD All-site meeting, University of California, Los Angeles, 2025
- j. **Amir C.**, Ghahremani, D.G., Chang, S.E., Cooper, Z.C., Bearden, C.E. Prosocial behavior moderates the relationship between psychotic-like experiences and elevated substance use in the Adolescent Brain and Cognitive Development Study. American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, 2024.
- k. **Amir C.**, Ghahremani, D.G., Chang, S.E., Cooper, Z.C., Bearden, C.E. Altered neurobehavioral reward response predicts psychotic-like experiences in youth exposed to cannabis prenatally. University of Southern California Institute for Addiction Science 2024.
- l. **Amir C.**, Ghahremani, D.G., Chang, S.E., Cooper, Z.C., Bearden, C.E. The Role of Prenatal Cannabis Exposure in Reward-related Neural Circuitry and Psychotic-like Experiences in Youth. University Center for Cannabis and Cannabinoids, 2024.
- m. **Amir, C.**, Necka, E.A., & Atlas, L.Y. Modeling Pain Responses. National Institutes of Complementary and Integrative Health Annual DIR Retreat 2019.
- n. **Amir, C.**, Hong, F., Tarullo, A., Mercurio, A., Song, J., Lin, Y., Liu, S., Rapoport, S., & Malley-Morrison, K. Childhood maltreatment, limbic system dysfunction, resiliency, and eating disorders in young adults. Talk Presented at New England Psychological Association Annual Meeting 2017

Conference Poster Proceedings

- a. **Amir, C.**, Walsh, C., Wang, H. R., Ghahremani, D. G., Chang, S. E., Ho, T. C., ... & Bearden, C. E. Predicting Substance Use and Psychotic-Like Experiences in Adolescents. *American College of Neuropsychopharmacology*, 2026.

- b. Dietterich, T., Boen, R., Fung, H., **Amir, C.**, Kushan, L., Bearden, C. 16p11.2 Copy Number Variation has Selective Effects on Dispersion of Neurodevelopmental and Psychiatric Traits. Society of Biological Psychiatry, 2026.
- c. **Amir, C.**, Wang, H., Karlsgodt, K., Bearden, C., Luppi, A. Uncovering Neural Complexity in Early Psychosis: Insights from Entropy Measures. Society of Biological Psychiatry, 2025.
- d. **Amir, C.**, Wang, H., Walsh, C., Ghahremani, D., Chang, S., Ho, T., Uddin, L., Rissman, J., Cooper, Z., Bearden, C. Predicting and Characterizing Substance Use and Psychosis Outcomes in Adolescence Using Neuroimaging, Clinical, and Demographic Factors. College on Problems of Drug Dependence, 2025.
- e. Bøen, R., O'Hara, K., Fung, H., Kushan, L., Bondy, E., Schleifer, C., **Amir, C.**... & ENIGMA 22q11DS Working Group. The Impact of Rare Genetic Variants on Brain Structure and Risk for Neuropsychiatric Disorders. European Neuropsychopharmacology, 2025.
- f. Kang, J. W., Schleifer, C., **Amir, C.**, Fung, H., Chang, S., Boen, R., ... & Bearden, C. (2025). 528. Characterizing White Matter Alterations in Youth at Clinical High Risk for Psychosis. *Biological Psychiatry*, 97(9), S315.
- g. **Amir, C.**, Ghahremani, D. G., Chang, S. E., Fung, H., Cooper, Z. D., Bearden, C. E. Altered neurobehavioral reward response predicts psychotic-like experiences in youth exposed to cannabis prenatally. Organization for Human Brain Mapping Meeting 2024.
- h. **Amir, C.**, Ghahremani, D. G., Chang, S. E., Fung, H., Cooper, Z. D., Bearden, C. E. Altered neurobehavioral reward response predicts psychotic-like experiences in youth exposed to cannabis prenatally. National Institutes of Health Adolescent Brain and Cognitive Development Study Insights and Innovations Meeting, 2024.
- i. **Amir C.**, Ghahremani, D.G., Chang, S.E., Cooper, Z.C., Bearden, C.E. Prosocial behavior moderates the relationship between psychotic-like experiences and elevated substance use in the Adolescent Brain and Cognitive Development Study. Flux Conference, 2024
- j. Kang, JW, Schleifer, CS, **Amir, C.**, Fung, H, Chang, SE...Bearden, CE. Characterizing white matter alterations in youth at clinical risk for psychosis. Flux Conference, 2024.
- k. **Amir C.**, Ghahremani, D.G., Chang, S.E., Cooper, Z.C., Bearden, C.E. Prenatal Cannabis Exposure and Neural Alterations in Reward-related Brain Regions Linked to Psychotic-Like Experiences in Adolescents. Society of Biological Psychiatry Annual Conference, 2023.
- l. **Amir, C.**, Grigoryan, V., O'Hara, K., Chiem, E., Irwin, M., Chiang, J., Bearden, CE. Underlying Sex Differences in Inflammatory Markers in Individuals with 22q11.2 Copy Number Variations. Society of Biological Psychiatry Annual Conference, 2022.
- m. Grigoryan, V., **Amir, C.**, O'Hara, K., Chiem, E., Irwin, M., Chiang, J., Bearden, CE. Psychiatric Symptoms and Inflammatory Markers in Individuals with 22q11.2 Copy Number Variations. Society of Biological Psychiatry Annual Conference, 2022.
- n. O'Hara, K, Chiem, E., **Amir, C.**, Grigoryan, V, Irwin, M., Chiang, J., Bearden, CE. The Relationship between sleep disturbance and inflammatory markers in individuals with 22q11.2 Copy Number Variations. Society of Biological Psychiatry Annual Conference, 2022.
- o. Chiem, E, O'Hara, K., **Amir, C.**, Grigoryan, V, Irwin, M., Chiang, J., Bearden, CE. Sleep Disturbance features differentially influence inflammatory markers in adolescents. Society of Biological Psychiatry Annual Conference, 2022.
- p. **Amir, C.**, Kushan, L., Zinberg, J., Cadenhead, K., Cornblatt, B., Keshavan,...Bearden, CE. Substance use in individuals at high genetic and clinical high risk of psychosis. *Trainee Professional Development Award* Recipient; Society for Neuroscience Annual Convention 2021.
- q. Schleifer, C, Lin, A, Kushan-Walls, L, O'Hara, K, **Amir, C.**, Bearden, CE. Striatal thalamic resting-state network dysconnectivity in youth with 22q11.2 deletion syndrome. Society of Biological Psychiatry, 2021.
- r. **Amir, C.**, Necka, E.A., & Atlas, L.Y. Perceptions of Healthcare Provider Competence Affect Pain Expectations. Presented at Association for Psychological Science Annual Convention 2019. *NIDCR Building Bridges Award Recipient*.
- s. **Amir, C.**, Necka, E.A., & Atlas, L.Y. Do Perceptions of Providers Affect Pain Expectations? Presented at The National Institutes of Health Postbaccalaureate Poster Day 2019.
- t. **Amir, C.**, Hong, F., Tarullo, A., Mercurio, A., Song, J., Lin, Y., Liu, S., Rapoport, S., & Malley-Morrison, K. Relationships Among Childhood Maltreatment, Eating Disorders, and Perceived and Physiological Stress in Young Adults. Presented at Association for Psychological Science Annual Convention 2018.

GRANTS, FELLOWSHIPS, AND AWARDS

2026-present	National Institutes of Health Kirschstein National Research Service Award (NRSA) T32 Fellowship in Neurodevelopment.
2022-2026	National Institutes of Health Kirschstein National Research Service Award (NRSA) F31 Fellowship. Prestigious national-level fellowship awarded by the National Institute on Drug Abuse to conduct PhD-level research for 3 years.
2026	Eva Kavan Prize for Excellence in Research on the Brain. Awarded to one UCLA brain sciences researcher per year for high impact neuroscientific research.
2026	American College of Neuropsychopharmacology Travel Award <i>supported 2027 attendance</i>
2025	College on Drug Dependence Annual Meeting Addiction NeuroBurst Travel Award
2025	Schleifer Professional Development Travel Award , Society of Biol. Psychiatry
2022-2023	American College of Neuropsychopharmacology Travel Award <i>supported 2026 attendance</i>
2022	Organization for Human Brain Mapping Fellowship.
2021	Journal of Sci. Pol. & Gov. x Sigma Xi STEM Policy Paper Award.
2018-2020	Society for Neuroscience Trainee Professional Development Award.
2021	National Institutes of Health Postbaccalaureate Intramural Training Award (IRTA). Prestigious 2-year NIH fellowship.
2019	National Institutes of Health NCCIH Diversity, Inclusion, and Outreach Award. For EDI leadership and community outreach contributions.
2018	National Institutes of Health Building Bridges Award. NIDCR award for outstanding poster presentation, Association for Psychological Science.
2017-2018	Boston University College of Arts and Sciences College Award. Panel-selected award to student with the greatest departmental impact.
2016	Undergraduate Research Opportunities Award. Three awards (\$14,250); selected from competitive college-level fellowship to support research.
2016	Yawkey Foundation Research Fellowship. Competitive college-level fellowship; supported work with Veterans and Shelter Legal Services.
2016	Brendan Gilbane Award. One distinguished student is selected by a panel of professors for this Boston University merit award and scholarship.
2016	Colin Kerr Award. Award and scholarship for the highest grade point average in Boston University's College of General Studies.

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

2020-September 2026 **PhD in Neuroscience**, University of California, Los Angeles.
Laboratory of Dr. Carrie Bearden.

Dissertation: "From Synapse to Syndrome: Substance Use, Psychosis, and the Neural Architecture of Risk"

For my dissertation, I employed an interdisciplinary approach, integrating neuroscience, clinical psychology, psychopharmacology, and machine learning to investigate neural and behavioral risk factors for substance use and psychosis. My research aimed to predict substance use and psychosis outcomes in youth and characterize neural, behavioral, and metabolic markers of substance use and psychosis outcomes. To achieve this, I utilized big-data, predictive frameworks, and characterization techniques such as Neuromaps. I utilized this framework to evaluate separate and combined risk for substance use and psychosis, employing techniques in resting state fMRI, task-based fMRI, structural neuroimaging, behavioral paradigms, and environmental factors. Additionally, I led a team of trainees, including post-graduate and undergraduate students, and developed analysis pipelines.

PhD Publications: Authored five first-author empirical papers and one first-authored review: three published (*Frontiers in Psychiatry*; *Psychoneuroendocrinology*; *Biol. Psychiatry*); one under revisions (*Nat. Rev. Neuro*); one under review (Nature partner journal *Mental Health*); and one in preparation. Contributed to eight co-authored publications, providing valuable support in bioinformatics and experimental design.

Mentorship: Supervised and mentored four undergraduate research students and one post-graduate student.

2018-2020 **Postbaccalaureate Fellow**, National Institutes on Drug Abuse/National Institute on Mental Health/National Center for Complementary and Integrative Health – National Institutes of Health
Laboratory of Dr. Lauren Atlas

Designed & programmed experiments on pain and patient/provider perceptions. Analyzed data and conducted imaging and behavioral testing for two fMRI studies on neural correlates of pain perception, expectation, and substance use. Programmed different cognitive tasks for each of 5 sub studies from beginning to end, asking questions about whether impressions of others can influence pain expectations and outcomes.

NIH Publications: Authored one first-author paper (*Journal of Pain*) and contributed to four co-authored publications.

2016-2018 **Research Assistant**, Visual Cognitive Neuroscience Laboratory. Boston University.

Conducted experiments for EEG and transcranial direct current stimulation studies. Designed and programmed cognitive tasks using Matlab Psychtoolbox. Completed senior honors thesis on local phase coherence of oscillatory rhythms elicited by feedback learning, discerning whether there is a functional divide between positive and negative feedback and whether this has the potential for modulation through transcranial direct current stimulation (tDCS). Developed and programmed the cognitive task for this experiment and co-designed graphical user interface to analyze these results.

2017-2018 **Undergraduate Research Opportunities Award Research Assistant**,
Boston Child Experience & Cortisol Laboratory, Boston University.

Conducted human subjects research and analyzed data for a large-scale cortisol study. Initiated sub-study exploring the factors that link childhood maltreatment and the development of eating disorders, specifically in the context of childhood experiences, leading to a co- authored publication. Presented results at conferences and prepared papers for publication.

Undergraduate Publications: Authored honors thesis “Relationships among frontal theta and beta rhythms and feedback-based learning”; contributed to one co-authored publication (based on sub-study I initiated.

FUNDING

2026-present	National Institutes of Health Kirschstein-NRSA T32 Fellowship (\$168,000)
2022-2026	National Institutes of Health Kirschstein-NRSA F31 Fellowship (\$259,296)
2018-2020	National Institutes of Health Postbaccalaureate Intramural Training Award (\$104,000)
2016-2018	Three Undergraduate Research Opportunities Awards (\$14,250)
2024	Society for Science STEM Action Grant (\$5,000)
2023	NSPN LUV Grant (\$2,500)

TEACHING

2025-2026	Lecturer; Teaching-Assistant, <i>Psychiatry 178: Cannabis and Cannabinoids: From Neuropharmacology to Public Policy</i> , UCLA Helped design and deliver undergraduate and graduate course covering the neuropharmacology of cannabinoids, clinical research, and sociopolitical implications of cannabis use; co-developed lectures, assignments, and assessments, and facilitated interdisciplinary discussions bridging neuroscience, psychiatry, and public policy.
2023-2024	Invited Lecturer: <i>UCLA Cannabis and Cannabinoids Grand Rounds</i> . Developed and taught modules on prenatal cannabis exposure.
2017	Instructor and Curriculum Developer: <i>Beyond Your Perception Critical Media Collective</i> . Co- led and co-designed with esteemed race theorist, Sherell McArthur, a course for middle school children on critical media literacy. Taught and assessed 5 th and 7 th graders on-site in Dorchester, MA.
2021-2024	Supervised and mentored post-graduate (1) and undergraduate (4) students, guiding their

research and professional development while supporting my thesis project. Provided leadership in experimental execution, data analysis, and critical thinking, contributing to their academic and career advancement.

OUTREACH / PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

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| 2021-Aug 2024 | Chief Executive Officer; Contributing Editor, <i>Knowing Neurons</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Spearheaded company operations for 501(c)(3) nonprofit neuroscience journalism and science communications and outreach organization <i>Knowing Neurons</i>.• Multiplied revenue by over 1900% through grant awards and sponsorships and expanded global readership exponentially through our website translation program. |
| 2020-May 2023 | Co-Founder; VP of External Affairs, Cultivating Early Laboratory Learning (CELL) Scholars |
| 2020 | Co-Founder, NIH NCCIH Inclusion, Diversity and Equity Advocacy (IDEA) Organization. |
| 2016-2017 | Yawkey Foundation Fellow, Veterans and Legal Services <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Assisted in casework for at-risk and low-income veterans• Received comprehensive Mental Disorder Training from Cambridge Multi-Service Center for the Homeless |
| 2017-2018 | President, Boston University Undergraduate Psychology Association. |

AD HOC REVIEWER

Journal of Neuroscience
American Journal of Psychiatry
Psychological Medicine
Addiction
Schizophrenia Research
Journal of Pain

SELECTED MEDIA COVERAGE

- By Bearden, C. (2025). *The Link between Cannabis and Psychosis in Teens is Real*. Scientific American. <https://www.scientificamerican.com/article/the-link-between-cannabis-and-psychosis-in-teens-is-real/>
- By Twohey, M., Ivory, D., and Kessler, C (2024). *As America's Marijuana Use Grows, So Do the Harms*. The New York Times. <https://www.nytimes.com/2024/10/04/us/cannabis-marijuana-risks-addiction.html>
- By LA County Media Relations Division (2024). *DA Gascón Announces Cannabis Youth Prevention Campaign*. <https://lacounty.gov/2024/10/31/da-gascon-announces-cannabis-youth-prevention-campaign/>
- CBS News LA County Campaign Aimed At Keeping Teens From Using Marijuana <https://www.cbsnews.com/losangeles/news/la-county-marijuana-teens/>

TECHNICAL AND TRANSFERABLE SKILLS

Technical Skills: Proficient in Python (including machine learning methods using Python's sci-kit-learn, deep learning using seaborn, tensorflow), R, Google Scripts, and Matlab (including Signal Processing Toolbox, FieldTrip Toolbox, Psychtoolbox). Experienced using Github for workflow and scripting pipelines.

Research Methodologies: fMRI/Physiology: collection & preprocessing of MRI data using FSL; physiological data analysis using Ledalab, Autonomate, Biopac, Acqknowledge; developed processing pipeline. Behavioral: collection and analysis of data using R, Excel, SQL Databases.

Transferable Skills: Leadership: Proven leadership record: Chief Executive Officer at *Knowing Neurons* (2023-August 2024), CELL Scholars VP of External Affairs and Co-Founder (2020-2023); NIH IDEA Group Co-founder (2020); President, Boston University Undergraduate Psychology Association (2017-2018).

Collaboration: Facilitated collaboration between multiple universities and departments resulting in 13 co-authored publications, 2 co-first-authorships, and 8 co-authored posters.

Writing: Contributing Editor at *Knowing Neurons* (2021-2024); published multiple science communication pieces including the site's #2 all-time most-read article, *How Weightlifting Gets the Brain in Shape*. Winner of Sigma Xi's STEM 2022 policy paper competition for *To strengthen the American workforce, empower workers*. Undergraduate literary piece *Noseless Heads and the Proxy-Dead: On Pain Structures and Construction in Tanizaki's Writings* chosen as the leading article for literary journal *The Alexandria's* inaugural issue (2018). Attended college with a journalism scholarship following wins at previous state and national-level journalism competitions and serving as Editor-in-Chief of *Expressions*.