I am so excited about all the accomplishments of our students during the first year of the LSU MARC program despite the COVID pandemic. This past year was challenging, but with the support of our mentors and sponsors, MARC students continued to develop their research skills and advance their career goals. As we start to return to normal, we look forward to expanding our conference travel and in-person activities. Geaux Tigers!

Graça Vicente, Ph.D.
Director, Maximizing Access to Research Careers (MARC) Program
Charles H. Barré Distinguished Professor of Chemistry
Iyana Charles, Senior
Major: Kinesiology, Minor: Entrepreneurship
Faculty Mentor: Dr. Mandi Lopez, Professor and Director Laboratory for Equine and Comparative Orthopedic Research, LSU School of Veterinary Medicine
Research Topic: Quantification of the motion of the equine hoof capsule with special shoes designed to treat damaged hoof tissue

Macallister Davis, Junior
Major: Chemistry
Faculty Mentor: Dr. Victor Garcia-Lopez, Assistant Professor, LSU Department of Chemistry
Research Topic: Artificial molecular machines to interrogate and modulate cell function

Sarah Delhaye, Junior
Major: Biological Engineering
Faculty Mentor: Dr. Dorin Bolder, Professor, LSU Department of Biological and Agricultural Engineering
Research Topic: Lignin separation from biomass using alternative technologies and green solvents

Alexa Gonzales, Junior
Major: Microbiology
Faculty Mentor: Dr. Jeremy Brown, Professor, LSU Department of Biological Sciences
Research Topic: Evolution and biodiversity of SARS-CoV-2 genomes

Mia Goodson, Senior
Major: Psychology, Minor: Leadership
Faculty Mentor: Dr. Paul Soto, Assistant Professor, LSU Department of Psychology, Pennington Biomedical Research Center
Research Topic: Effects of antipsychotic medications on weight gain in mice

Alejandra Ham, Senior
Major: Biological Engineering
Faculty Mentor: Dr. Elizabeth Martin, Assistant Professor, LSU Department of Biological and Agricultural Engineering
Research Topic: Effects of fiber orientation and porosity on progression of breast cancer

Sarah Jimenez, Junior
Major: Biological Engineering
Faculty Mentor: Dr. Philip Jung, LSU Department of Biological and Agricultural Engineering
Research Topic: Engineering biomaterials for tissue regeneration

Aaryana Jones, Senior
Major: Biological Sciences
Faculty Mentors: Dr. Alexandra Noel, Assistant Professor, Comparative Biomedical Sciences, LSU School of Veterinary Medicine
Research Topic: Chemical biology of anti-cancer agents; Respiratory effects caused by emerging inhaled environmental pollutants

Calli Nguyen, Senior
Major: Biological Sciences, Minor: Spanish
Faculty Mentor: Dr. Craig Hart, Professor, LSU Department of Biological Sciences
Research Topic: Identification of compounds against glucocorticoid resistant leukemia cell models

Oluwatobi Ojemakinde, Junior
Major: Biological Sciences
Faculty Mentor: Dr. Fatima Rivas, Assistant Professor, LSU Department of Chemistry
Research Topic: Investigating Drosophila BEAF insulator protein roles in transcription: promoter activation and mediation of long-range enhancer-promoter communication

Zoe Patton, Junior
Major: Chemistry
Faculty Mentor: Dr. Isiah Warner, Boyd Professor, LSU Department of Chemistry
Research Topic: Evaluation of healing properties of magnetic ionic liquids

Chelbye Turner, Junior
Major: Chemistry
Faculty Mentor: Dr. Isiah Warner, Boyd Professor, LSU Department of Chemistry
Research Topic: Synthesis of organic salts

Kiara Warren, Senior
Major: Psychology
Faculty Mentor: Dr. Alex Cohen, Associate Professor, LSU Department of Psychology
Research Topic: Language analysis of populations with severe mental disorders
Summer Research Experiences

This past summer, the first cohort of MARC scholars conducted research at an extramural site to further develop their research skills and foster personal and career development. The SRE 2 experience formally connects MARC scholars with mentors, research projects, and potential graduate programs at other institutions.

Iyana Charles  
Dr. Rodolphe J. Gentili, School of Public Health, University of Maryland

Aayana Jones  
Dr. Girish Melkani, NIH PARAdiGM Summer Program, The University of Alabama at Birmingham

Mia Goodson  
Dr. Leanne Redman, Women's and Children's Health Lab at LSU Pennington Biomedical Research Center

Calli Nguyen  
Dr. Bolin Liu, Stanley S. Scott Cancer Center, LSU Health Science Center, New Orleans

Alejandra Ham  
Dr. William Stanley Anderson, Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine

Kiara Warren  
Dr. Kyle Minor, Indiana University–Purdue University Indianapolis

College can be an overwhelming experience when you're wrapping up your time in university, because you could be faced with deadlines from conferences, classes, publications, etc. MARC provides a great community that lends the support of peers and mentors that can help you navigate the workload effectively.” - Kiara Warren, LSU MARC Senior

Scholar Publication

Alejandra Ham
https://doi.org/10.1007/s12094-021-02677-8

Presentation Awards

LSU MARC Scholar **Iyana Charles** received 1st place for the College of Human Sciences and Education Monetary Award at the 2021 LSU Discover Day Symposium.

LSU MARC Scholar **Aaryana Jones** received a poster award at the 2020 Annual Biomedical Research Conference for Minority Students (ABRCMS) and 3rd place in the undergraduate poster competition at the South Central Chapter - Society of Toxicology 2021 Conference.
Conference Presentations

Iyana Charles
LSU Discover 2020

Macallister Davis
ABRCMS 2021

Mia Goodson
LSU Discover 2020

Alejandra Ham
LSU Discover 2020

Sarah Jimenez
GCURS- Rice University, 2021

Aaryana Jones
ABRCMS 2020
LSU Discover 2020
Society of Toxicology -South Central Chapter 2021

Calli Nguyen
SACNAS 2020
LSU Discover 2020

Zoe Patton
LSU Discover 2020
ABRCMS 2021

Oluwatobi Ojemakinde
ABRCMS 2021

Chelbye Turner
LS-PAC Model Conference

Kiara Warren
LSU Discover 2020
2021 Society for Affective Science
2021 Society for Research in Psychopathology

MARC has given me the opportunity to explore and develop myself in the world of research. It is a great program with many caring and supportive people. My advice for future researchers: Find a topic you’re passionate about and run with it!”

- Macallister Davis, LSU MARC Junior

Upcoming Events/Conferences

Emerging Researchers National Conference in STEM - Washington, D.C. | February 3-5, 2022
National Conferences on Undergraduate Research- virtual | April 4-8, 2022
LSU Discover Day - Student Union | Friday, April 22, 2022