



[NewsBytes]

Week of August 9-16, 2025

Announcements, Shoutouts, and Accolades

Blitz Talks are coming soon! Please check your email for the registration link and the webpage for presenter information, schedules, timings, etc.

Blitz Talks is ASDRP's online version of the In Person Expo & Research Symposium. Blitz Talks consist of short, ten minute, online oral research presentations (via zoom) given by ASDRP student researcher teams. We typically have over 60 presentations separated into 10 breakout rooms on zoom.

Date: Tuesday, August 19, 2025

Time: 7:00 - 9:00 PM

Location: Zoom

Student Registration:

How do I register my team and abstract? Click [here](#) to learn more.

Deadline to Register: Friday, August 15, 2026 @ 11:59 PM

Do I need to attend if I am not presenting? Yes, all students are required to attend. This is ASDRP's research conference for all students and family members of ASDRP.

Guests: Guests do not need to register in advance but must follow all online meeting guidelines in order to participate. More info will be sent to parents the week before the Blitz Talks.



ASDRP 2025 Summer Blitz Talks

Join us on Zoom Tuesday, August 19, 2025 @ 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM PDT

WHO | Students, faculty, staff, parents, friends, and community members are welcome! Invite your friends!

WHERE | Join us on ZOOM @ 7:00 PM PDT

WHAT | Hear students' presentations, end of year awards, and a celebration of research this year.

Join Zoom Meeting
[Click here for the Zoom Link!](#)

Presenter Registration Deadline: Friday, August 15, 2025 @ 11:59 PM PDT

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[\[Link to Public ASDRP Events Calendar\]](#)

Parent Volunteer Opportunities



Sept 13:

ASDRP Expo & Symposium

@ Mission College

8:30am - 1:30PM



Volunteer

Please complete this form if you would like to Volunteer for various events and opportunities with ASDRP.

We'd love to hear from you! Please fill out the form and we'll get back to you as soon as possible.

First Name*

Last Name*

Email*

example: david.innivers@asdrp.org

Volunteer*

We love our volunteers! Select all areas you are interested in volunteering.

- ☐ Expo and Symposium
- ☐ Blitz Talks
- ☐ Orientation
- ☐ Parent Specific Events
- ☐ Career Panel
- ☐ Guest Speaker
- ☐ Donation Connection
- ☐ Other

Submit

Parent Volunteers...sign up today! Parent Volunteer Form link - [click here](#).

In our 8/9 week of R101 and R201

Last week, both of our flagship research core courses launched officially for the summer semester. Research 101, which is our **“Introduction to Research”** Pre-Work course for first semester students, began with a blast at 9:30 AM with a packed room of our rising freshmen coming together for 101 and donuts. This summer, [Dr. Edward Njoo](#) and [Prof. Clinton Cunha](#) are our co-instructors for R101, and have spent much time redeveloping the course content with the aim of driving student engagement in connection to other aspects of ASDRP life.

[Research 101 Summary] This week, Dr. Njoo introduced Module 9, with the aim of describing to new researchers the importance of scientific research writing. The course started with an exercise on reviewing google scholars, how to cite, and interpreting scientific research papers. Check out the resources on the Journal for Emerging Investigators (JEI) Website. JEI <https://emerginginvestigators.org/> has a fantastic section on how to write scientifically. The class also went over several examples of publications in the public domain, including going into depth on how referencing is done rigorously in a joint paper in [Artificial Intelligence Chemistry \(2024\) published between Dr. McMahan, Dr. Akl. and Dr. Njoo last year](#).

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This summer, Research 201, which is mandatory for all second-semester students, launched earlier this month, this time with [Dr. Larry McMahan](#) and [Dr. Harrison Rahn](#) at the helm. The intention of 201 is to continue the development of hard-core research skills, such as rigorous referencing, literature reviews, and preparing high quality figures, for our second semester students who are now deep in the thicket of research.

[Research 201 Summary] *This week, we launched our third practical - Project Planning and De-risking research strategies. This week, the instructional team discussed the importance of pre-planning resource and task-management in research, related to both identification of necessary capital resources, skill sets, and or capabilities to effectively conduct one's research. The team also discussed the importance of "proof of concept" / or "Go / No Go" experiments to determine initial feasibility plans on executing research. The team also discussed how to make effective figures, and went through [Bourne, et al. PLOS Computational Biology, "Ten Simple Rules for Better Figures"](#).*

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2025 Donation Campaign - begins 8/1



Student Researchers

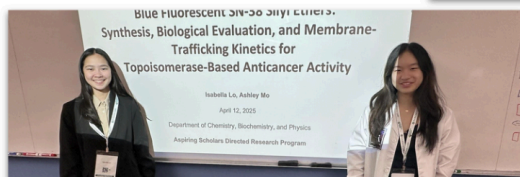
- Publications
- Conferences
- Travel Scholarships

Departmental Needs

- Cluster/GPU Upgrades
- Electron Microscope
- Green House
- Nuclear Magnetic Resonance

Infrastructure

- Campus Security
- Laboratory & Facilities



Our giving drive goal is \$250,000.

Donate today @ www.asdrp.org/donate

On the Horizon: Upcoming Events

Saturday, Aug 9

9:30 - 10:00 AM For our Summer 2025 Rising 9th Graders

Starting Fresh with Donuts at Dawn for Rising Freshmen. Be here to enjoy time learning about ASDRP, developing your confidence and skills, and becoming active members of the ASDRP community.

10:00 - 12:30 PM: Summer 2025 Research 101 week 10 (Led by Clinton Cunha) held via zoom.

This week the course will be discussing best practices in preparing a research poster. All new student researchers are

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required to attend.

11:00 AM - 1:00 PM: Summer 2025 Mini Course: “Protein Folding, Structure and Function” (Dr. Zane Chen).

The structure type determines the function of a protein. A protein's shape is determined by its primary structure (the amino acid sequence). The amino acid sequence within a protein is determined by the encoding sequence of nucleotides in the gene (DNA).

Sunday, Aug 10

6:00 - 7:30 PM: Summer 2025 Mini Course: “Statistics and Probability for Data Science” (Prof. Clinton Cunha).

This course provides a rigorous yet practical foundation in probability theory and statistical inference, tailored for data science applications. Students will explore key topics such as random variables, distributions, conditional probability, Bayes theorem, expectation, estimation, A/B testing, bootstrapping, cross validation, hypothesis testing, regression, data variability and much more.

Monday, Aug 11

7:00 PM - 9:00 PM: Software Training & License Distribution: Informatics with OpenEyes Informatics Package by Cadence *Software License distribution and training for Eyes Open Software by Cadence, open to all students interested in making use of the informatics package available through Cadence licensing. In person only.*

Tuesday, Aug 12

2:00 - 4:00 PM: Tier 1 [Theory] Electrophoresis Training (ASDRP Faculty)

Prerequisites: *None. Mandatory for all students who wish to independently operate DNA or protein electrophoresis systems. Core trainings are offered once per semester in a tiered system. In order to participate in the next tier, students must first complete the previous tier in a previous semester. Sign-ups are available for eligible students on the Laboratory Practicum Canvas Course.*

7:00 - 8:30 PM: Weekly Colloquia for all ASDRP Student Researchers via zoom. Visit the ASDRP [Colloquia Webpage](#) for details & zoom link.

- [Department of Computer Science & Engineering](#)
“AVY - Aerial surveillance of power lines for vegetation”
Nirupama Balaji, Lucas Su, **McMahan Lab**
- [Department of Computer Science & Engineering](#)
“Using QNetGAN to computationally create small molecules”
Leena Adwankar, Nitya Pisolkar, **McMahan Lab**
- [Department of Biological, Human and Life Sciences](#)
“Genome Variation Analysis between Different American Populations to Improve Precision Medicine”
Kanika Rawat, Nicki Yazdi, Richa Prasanna, Laasya Vavilapalli, **Cunha Lab**

Wednesday, Aug 13

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6:30 - 7:00 PM, via Zoom: Parent Fireside Chat via zoom

This week we will be discussing more about conference attendance and requirements, new guidelines for Drone projects, Expo/Blitz Talks requirements and participation, and getting ready for the school year/how to manage the demands of being in school and being successful at ASDRP.

7:00 PM - 7:30 PM, via Zoom: Mandatory Parents Meeting (Zoom) for students who are participating in SCCUR this year
Mandatory, Zoom for all parents of students who will be presenting at SCCUR (www.sccur.org) this November: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86088443622?pwd=mlwoEOGlvm1LPOKUaXa8X1nCbejBJ9.1>

Thursday, Aug 14

3:00 PM - 4:45 PM, Zoom: Research 201, Week 9, Module 3, Practical three.: (Dr. Larry McMahan / Dr. Harrison Rahn).

Final Submission of Research Synopsis is due

Final submission of research synopsis is due on August 7, 2025 @ 3:00PM

9:00 - 10:00 PM: Summer 2025 Mini-Course: "Hit Identification to Lead Optimization in Medicinal Chemistry" (Dr. Edward Njoo).

The success of synthetic chemistry in the identification and development of therapeutic leads is predicated on strategic design of target-driven small molecule programs in approaching molecular mechanisms of disease. In this series we will explore different strategies that have demonstrated clinical success.

Friday, Aug 15

11:00 AM - 12:30 PM: Conference and SCCUR Information Session, In Person Only.

Mandatory meeting for students who are interested in presenting research at SCCUR (Southern California Conferences for Undergraduate Research) happening in November this year, who have not previously attended a conference. Primarily for 2nd+ semester students. <https://www.sccur.org/>.

11:00 AM - 12:30 PM: Tier 1 [Theory] Solid Phase Peptide Synthesis Training.

Prerequisites: *None. Mandatory for all students who wish to independently operate solid phase peptide synthesis instruments, and to be eligible to attend hands on training next semester.*

Core trainings are offered once per semester in a tiered system. In order to participate in the next tier, students must first complete the previous tier in a previous semester. Sign-ups are available for eligible students on the Laboratory Practicum Canvas Course.

Saturday, Aug 9

9:30 - 10:00 AM For our Summer 2025 Rising 9th Graders (Final day!)

Starting Fresh with Donuts at Dawn for Rising Freshmen. Be here and enjoy time learning about ASDRP, developing your confidence and skills, and becoming active members of the ASDRP community.

10:00 - 12:30 PM: Summer 2025 Research 101 week 9 (Led by Clinton Cunha/Edward Njoo) (Final class)

This week's R101 is on developing a research poster, the important elements required, how to ensure your poster represents your research and highlights your research. This is a very important session that will kick off your understanding of putting your research into a common and tricky scientific format. Dr. Njoo will be leading this module on how to develop a poster.

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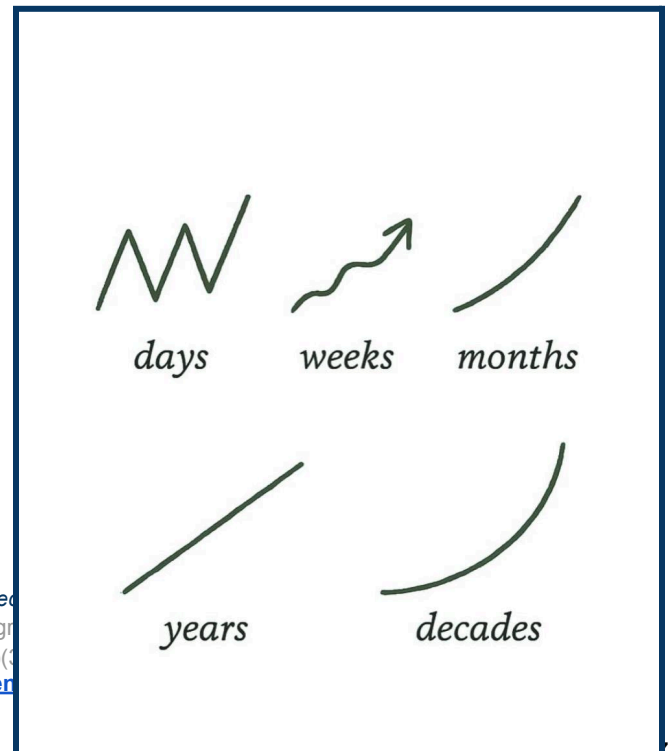
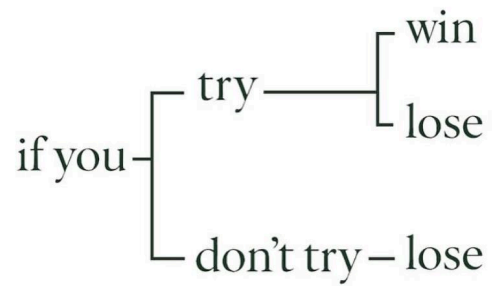
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End Note

Part 2: Growth is about your willingness to identify and push through obstacles and limitations in our own understanding.



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