

# SRNDNA Newsletter

## Collaboration Award Winners Make Connections

Sometimes you need mentors who are not at your home institution, mentors who offer extra advice, support, and insight. However, these relationships can be difficult to cultivate, which is why SRNDNA created the [Collaboration Award](#).

This year's winners are Dr. Colleen Hughes, working with Dr. Natalie Ebner, and Jessica Udry, working with Dr. Lisa K. Fazio.

Dr. Hughes learned of Dr. Ebner's work from her postdoc advisor, who connected them because of Dr. Hughes' expertise in multi-echo fMRI. They met over zoom, and Dr. Hughes knew there was a "rich opportunity" for collaborating with Dr. Ebner.

"Collaborators are a great way to engage with new theory and methods. A collaborator can also give you access to data that you may not be able to collect at your home institution," said Dr. Hughes. "A good collaboration outside of your home institution may thus change the trajectory of your work in ways you may not fathom initially."

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**Colleen Hughes (Montreal Neurological Institute)** is collaborating with Natalie Ebner (University of Florida) to examine how brain aging, as measured by functional

network analysis during rest and task states, relates to older adults' decision-making in actual and simulated deception contexts.



**Jessica Udry (Georgia State University)** is collaborating with Lisa K. Fazio (Vanderbilt) to examine differences between older and younger adults in the

effectiveness of misinformation interventions on reducing judgments of belief in online misinformation.

## Supporting Diversity in Neuroscience



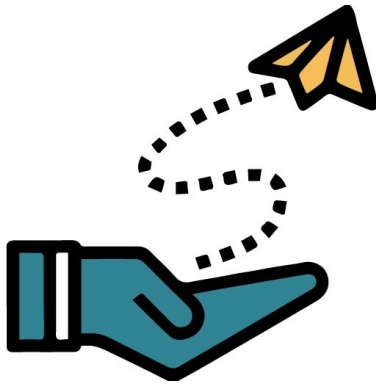
Seven [Diversity Summer Research Award](#) winners were announced on April 7. The awardees are undergrads from under-represented minority groups who will work on intensive, mentored research during the summer.

Pictured above, from left to right, the recipients are Teodora Anica (University of Florida), De'Jiah Edwards (UT Dallas), Natalya Franklyn (Stony Brook), Marina Kaplan (Temple), Natalie Laguer Torres (UT Dallas), Sarah

Shahrou (Toronto Metropolitan), and Tia Tropea (Temple).

"As a low-income student, it can be hard to get research experience," said Sarah Shahrou. "Research positions might not always be the most viable or accessible option. This award allows low-income students to do something they enjoy, and get valuable

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## PILOT GRANT APPLICATIONS OPEN AUGUST 1

What's so special about the Pilot Grant? What is required?  
How do I apply?

- Provides initial resources to support a larger grant application
- Priority given to graduate students, postdoc fellows, and junior faculty, especially those from under-represented groups
- Will also consider senior researchers new to the area
- Be at a U.S. institution
- Proposed grant budgets limited to \$24,000 in total costs
- Budget should be allocated to data collection, not salaries
- Email PDF with 3-page proposal, 1-page line-item budget, NIH biosketches

[See website for details.](#)

## Collaboration Award Winners

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With the award funds, Dr. Hughes visited Dr. Ebner's lab in Florida. The collaborative relationship introduced Dr. Hughes to members of Dr. Ebner's lab who shared their own unique perspectives and knowledge.

Udry's advisor also connected her with her collaboration mentor, feeling Dr. Fazio would offer valuable perspective on Udry's dissertation research, which falls outside the scope of her lab's usual research.

"This collaboration allowed me to obtain advice and suggestions from Dr. Lisa Fazio, who has expertise in conducting applied research on online

misinformation," said Udry. "Having this perspective from an expert in the field has greatly improved the quality of the project."

As for finding a mentor outside one's home institution, Udry suggests leaning on the connections of your current mentor. However, if the connection is with someone new, "I would recommend directly reaching out to them." She admits it sounds daunting but also noted that "most researchers are happy to hear you are interested in their research even if they do not currently have the capacity to work with you on [a] particular project."

### Open Data Applications Due June 1, 2023

Awards depend on size and nature of data.

[See website for details.](#)



## Diversity in Research Winners

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experience, while being supported."

This summer, Shahrour will continue working on a project investigating how arousal modulates the effects of salience on risky decision making and how that differs for older and younger adults.

For Natalya Franklyn, the funds will allow her to extend her time at the CAM Lab at Stony Brook, working on an ongoing project investigating

decision offloading.

"These funds will allow me to learn skills that will help prepare me for graduate-level research in cognitive science, including data collection with both young and older adults, data management skills, and gaining experience in neuropsychological testing with older adults," said Franklyn.

SRNDNA wishes all the recipients a summer full of exciting research.

# Celebrating Science!

## Memories from SRNDNA '23 Conference in Santa Barbara



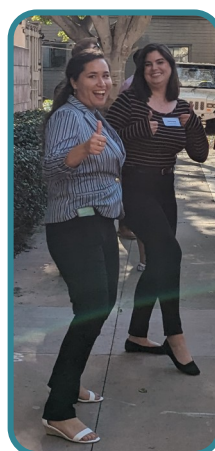
Co-Directors (left to right) Nichole Lighthall, Greg Samanez-Larkin, Kendra Seaman, Duke Han

Not only was this my first SRNDNA conference, but also my first in-person conference. . . I was particularly intrigued by the interdisciplinary applications of aging research. I am lucky to be part of this network with so many amazing researchers who are striving to advance the field and disseminate their findings to the community.

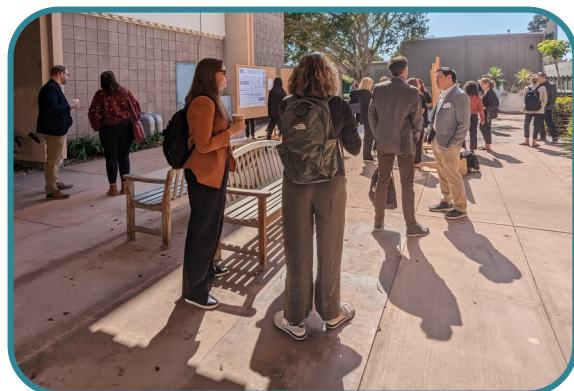
—Maggie Doheny  
University of Central Florida

I had a wonderful experience at SRNDNA; I learned a lot and had the chance to network with people who are doing amazing work. . . I hope to attend future events to learn about the leading research interests and questions in the field of aging.

—Sandry M. Garcia  
Boston College



(Left) Eliany Perez, left, and Marilyn Horta, both of University of Florida, excited for the poster presentation. (Right) Sharon Noh, UC Irvine, presenting her poster.



Attendees enjoying the beautiful Santa Barbara weather during the poster presentation.

I was pleased and honored to present at the SRNDNA meeting. Problems of decision-making in aging, particularly in cognitive disorders of aging, are among the most challenging problems we face in clinical practice and policy. It will require contributions from many different fields and perspectives to address this problem, so broad and interdisciplinary networks like this will be essential for fostering new ideas and research programs.

—Winston Chiong, MD, PhD  
UCSF Memory and Aging Center