

Over the past two years, there has been a significant increase in the number of underrepresented students - particularly women- participating in URI undergraduate research programs, including the INBRE Semester Undergraduate Research Experience (SURE), INBRE Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowship (SURF), and URI's Maximizing Access to Research Careers (MARC) Undergraduate Student Training in Academic Research (U*STAR) programs. Currently, 23 of the 24 SURE and MARC trainees are women! As more women pursue careers in the STEM field, it is important to acknowledge their accomplishments as well as those who have positively impacted and mentored them on their research journey.



Ashley Tai
URI MARC U*STAR

Dr. Jodi Camberg

"Being a woman in STEM has had its challenges; however, I am incredibly fortunate to have the MARC program and Dr. Camberg's support to back my undergraduate research career. I strive to push boundaries and believe

that diversity in the STEM field is key to an inclusive workforce. It can be difficult at times, especially when you feel as though you are alone, but it is important to remember that there are people rooting for my successes and looking to see what I accomplish."



Joceline Rodrigues Monteiro

RI-INBRE SURE

Dr. Jaime Ross

"The SURE program has provided me with such valuable experiences. I had no prior experience and yet the program still managed to make me feel extremely comforted and that has

encouraged me to continue growing. I loved the experience so much that I decided to apply for the SURF program and was fortunate to get a position and now have the opportunity to work at Brown exploring more research in my field of study, neuroscience."



Jewel Voyer
RI MARC U*STAR

Dr. Xinyuan Chen

"The research experiences that I have been able to be a part of due to my participation in the MARC program has further grown my knowledge of what it means to conduct research

as well as help me discover what field I am interested in."

Anya Sondhi
URI MARC U*STAR

Dr. Nasser Zawia

"I like the community of being a woman in STEM. The labs next to mine have a great group of women who are always willing to help and support me in the lab and out.

I think it is inspiring to see such a successful group of women every day in the lab and get to learn from them and see the amazing things they are working on too."



Kristen Harder
RI-INBRE SURE

Dr. Jaime Ross

"I have been really lucky to have a lot of great female mentors that uplifted and inspired me on my journey into science. Both my PI's at URI and at BU (Jaime Ross and Kim McCall) are such

powerful, intelligent, and passionate scientists that I really look up to and I am so grateful for their support, guidance, and belief in me. I also have been lucky to have many great female student mentors, some of whom are also mothers and showed me it's possible to both have a family and a very successful career."



Camila Cersosimo
RI-INBRE SURE

Dr. Samantha Meenach

"My goal is to work in biomaterial-related research with the hopes of improving and finding new avenues for drug delivery. After finishing my B.D., I plan to obtain a

Ph.D. in an area that combines these three disciplines. The SURE program has helped me define my goals for post-graduation. I've had the opportunity to talk about my research with other people, which is incredibly valuable since being able to communicate is a crucial aspect of being a good researcher."





Titiana Tambi
RI-INBRE SURE

Dr. Katharina Quinlan

“Unfortunately, the stigma that surrounds mental health/illness has prevented a lot of people from getting the help that they need to live a better quality of life. For those

who are in low-income communities, access to such care is scarce and I would love to do all I can to extend this care to all who need it, combining my knowledge in pharmaceutical sciences and data analytics. I hope to have my own business, providing alternative medications and other counseling services.”



Emma Lokey
RI-INBRE SURE

Dr. Kunal Mankodiya

“I want to go to graduate school so that I can learn more about engineering focused on rehabilitation and medical devices.”



Anna Cetera
RI-INBRE SURE

Dr. Reza Abiri

“What excites me the most about my research and training experiences is that they give me the opportunity to learn about the potential career paths that I could pursue in the future through asking questions, gaining

hands-on experience, and particular technical skills that are unable to be obtained within a classroom setting. In addition to being a female engineering student, I am also a first generation student. This has limited my opportunities in the past, but the SURE and SURF programs have enabled me to explore the possibility of graduate school by introducing me to research by providing the funds that allow me to pay for my current education.”

Kelsey Hunter
RI-INBRE SURE

Dr. Niall Howlett

“The SURF & SURE program has given me the opportunity to improve my research skills as well as provided me with professional development tools that have helped me move towards my career goals. These programs have fueled my passion for biology by providing me with resources to enhance my knowledge and allowed me to discover my interest in pursuing a Ph.D. in cell biology.”



Heather Magliari
RI-INBRE SURE

Dr. Reza Abiri

“Being able to empower women and watch them succeed in STEM is really rewarding. As President of URI Women in STEM I am able to help support my growth as a professional,

but also the growth of so many other women that want to develop as professionals through various workshops and events. I have always wanted to leave an impact on the world and I know no matter where I end up or what I do I will leave an impact.”



Anna Mascia
URI MARC U*STAR

Dr. Claudia Fallini

“As a member of the Fallini Lab I am grateful to be able to work alongside some very extraordinary women. I have high regards for our PI Dr. Claudia Fallini. She is an amazing scientist, professor,

mother, and exemplary role model. She has tremendously helped me in my growth as a researcher. I am also very fortunate to be mentored by three graduate students, Michelle Gregoire, Alicia Collins, and Emily Potts.”



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