

Exposé Interview

## Undergraduate Researcher Interview: Kendra Lam



**Please introduce yourself below – your name, your major and year of study, and whose research lab you’re in.**

My name is Kendra Lam, and I am a 3rd year Molecular and Cellular Biology Major. I am in the Jameson Immunology Lab here on campus.

**Please describe your scientific journey and your current research focus.**

I began my scientific journey in high school when I signed up for a research class in which students could make their own research projects. This process intrigued me and when I got to CSUSM, I made it a priority to join a research lab. I then stumbled upon the Jameson Lab and joined the Neuroimmunology team that studies

interactions between T cells and neurons in wounded and diabetic models. These interactions can be beneficial to solving diabetic neuropathy, a condition that causes diabetic patients to suffer from neuronal loss in the skin, which causes numbness and pain. It can also help with increasing the wound healing process in diabetic patients.

**What made you choose to research this topic or go into this field–what drew you in?**

I have always been interested in biomedical research, so the Jameson Lab really stood out to me since they were investigating skin in alopecia, diabetic, and wounded models. This research aims to help solve diseases and fasten wound healing, both processes that can help those who are suffering from such problems.

**How would you explain to the general audience what the most rewarding/exciting thing about what you study today is?**

The most exciting part of what I study is when I take immunofluorescent images and get to see neurons after a long day of dissecting and working with skin.

**How would you explain to the general audience what has been the most challenging for you so far and how you have overcome it?**

The most challenging part of my research so far was inheriting a project and having to be able to navigate and lead it efficiently in a short amount of time.

**What do you enjoy most about research, and why?**

I enjoy solving complex problems about my research and having to find a solution.

**What are your passions outside of school & research?**

I like playing videogames and badminton. I also do Kung Fu.

**Do you have any advice for others just starting out or hope to work in your field?**

Always be dedicated and passionate about what you do. Never feel like you’re being forced into doing anything.