

CLASS OF 2034

Upstate MD/PhD Program

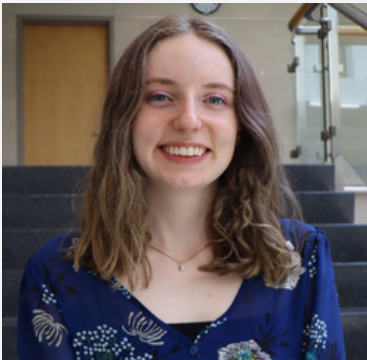
May 2026

Hi, I can't wait to meet everyone! I grew up in Baldwinsville, NY, right outside Syracuse and went to Siena College in Albany, NY. My research interests are primarily in cancer biology, specifically the side and long-term effects of cancer treatment such as chemotherapy on patients and survivors. Outside of the lab I love spending time in nature, hiking, kayaking, and swimming. I love playing instruments, listening to music and baking. I also love spending my free time with my friends and family doing game or movie nights. I'm so excited to start this journey alongside all of you and can't wait to learn more about everyone!

GRACE



CLAIRE



I am very excited to become part of the SUNY Upstate MD-PhD community! I grew up across Long Island, Texas, and Queens. I double majored in biology and psychology at Stony Brook University, where I continued to do neurogenesis research for 2 years after graduating. Throughout that time, I also worked as a caregiver for autistic individuals. My broader research interests lie in investigating the biology behind neuropsychiatric disorders. Outside of lab I enjoy swimming, sailing, reading, and hiking. I am excited to explore the nature in Syracuse, and I can't wait to meet y'all!

(NEW STUDENTS) CLASS OF 2033

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I am originally from Moravia, New York, and matriculated into the Norton College of Medicine as an MD student in 2025. I earned my Bachelor of Science in Biology from SUNY Cortland, where I completed a thesis in the invasive species ecology lab of Dr. Andrea Dávalos while working full-time as an Advanced EMT across Cayuga, Cortland, and Onondaga counties. My experience providing prehospital critical care during the COVID-19 pandemic, along with training in statistical modeling, sparked my interest in medicine and public health. I went on to complete a Master of Public Health in Epidemiology at Columbia University. Clinically, I am interested in Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine. In research, I am staying open-minded as I carve out my niche. I am broadly interested in studying how communicable and non-communicable diseases interact with, evade, and dysregulate the immune system. I am thrilled to be joining the MD/PhD program. Everyone has been so kind and supportive, and I look forward to new and continued friendships. This summer I will be working in Dr. Adam Waickman's lab investigating whether autoantibodies against type I interferons confer increased risk of severe illness among patients with dengue virus. I live in Auburn with my partner Jenna and our elderly dog, Larry.

KALEB



WOLU

Hailing from Port Harcourt, Nigeria, I traveled some 8000 miles across the Atlantic (and many more in between) to earn my B.Sc. in cell biology and computational sciences at Minerva University in San Francisco, CA. My passion for cancer biology and resolve to take continuous strides towards a better understanding of the disease, and eventual cure, inspired my work as a Computational Biologist in the Beroukhim lab at the Broad Institute of MIT and Harvard where I focused on investigating copy number alterations and structural variant signatures in cancers. Outside of the lab, I enjoy crocheting, cooking, and hiking and I am venturing into the world of sewing!



I'm super excited to join y'all! Although I'm originally from Vadnais Heights in Minnesota, I've called Chantilly, Virginia, home for the past decade or so. I received my B.S. in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology from SUNY Albany in 2024 as part of the Upstate Accelerated Scholars program. In Albany, my research interests centered on Neuroscience from both behavioral and circuit perspectives. Before medical school, I grew my skills in these two areas with internships at Harvard Medical School in the lab of Dr. Bernardo Sabatini, and a Neuroinformatics company called MindSpec. My current research interest lies at the intersection of neurodegenerative illness and metabolic disease. Outside of the lab, I am a student of Carnatic music (South Indian vocal music) and enjoy singing/composing music. I also enjoy tinkering and have built a few 3d printers. At home, you can usually find me napping with my dog Angadh or crocheting. I feel very fortunate to be joining y'all on this journey, and I'm looking forward to getting to know everyone better

TEJA

