Research Education Component (REC) Scholars 2023-2024

The ADRC REC Scholar Program provides multidisciplinary, inter- and cross-institutional training for early-career investigators of Alzheimer’s disease and related dementias. REC Scholars participate in mentored research and receive Alzheimer’s disease research and professional development training.
**REC Scholars 2023-2024**

**Naomi Gaggi, PhD**  
She/Her/Hers  
REC Scholar 2023-2024  
Postdoctoral Research Fellow  
Department of Psychiatry, NYU Langone Health  
Mentors: Henry Rusinek, PhD, and Ricardo Osorio, MD  

Project: The effects of transcranial photobiomodulation on cerebral hemodynamics in early Alzheimer’s disease.

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**Alexis Merdjanoff, PhD**  
She/Her/Hers  
REC Scholar 2023-2024  
Assistant Professor  
Department of Social and Behavioral Sciences, NYU School of Global and Public Health  
Mentor: Yongzhao Shao, PhD  

Project: How disaster resilience mediates the relationship between disaster exposure and successful aging for older adults, and the design and piloting of an intervention to increase disaster resilience in older adults.

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**Brianna Morgan, PhD**  
She/Her/Hers  
REC Scholar 2023-2024  
Postdoctoral Fellow  
Department of Medicine, NYU Langone Health  
Mentors: Joshua Chodosh, MD, and Karyn Marsh, PhD  

Project: The relationship between positive psychosocial factors and health outcomes.

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**Komal Murali, PhD**  
She/Her/Hers  
REC Scholar 2023-2024  
Assistant Professor  
NYU Rory Myers College of Nursing  
Mentor: Omonigho Bubu, MD, MPH, PhD  

Project: Barriers to hospice care transitions for diverse persons living with dementia.
REC Affiliates & Junior Scholars 2023-2024

**Oliver Cesar**
He/Him/His
REC Affiliate 2023-2024
Program Coordinator
Department of Psychiatry, NYU Langone Health
Mentor: Mark Bernard, PhD

Project: How measures of sleep quality relate to Alzheimer’s disease biomarkers and pathology.

**Renee China**
She/Her/Hers
REC Affiliate 2023-2024
Research Intern
Massachusetts General Hospital
Mentor: Melissa Hernández-Frausto, PhD

Project: Understand how excitatory projections from the lateral entorhinal cortex to CA1 in the hippocampus are involved in contextual memory in healthy control mice.

**Ryn Flaherty**
He/Him/His
Junior REC Scholar 2023-2024
Graduate Research Assistant (PhD Candidate)
Department of Radiology, NYU Langone Health
Mentor: Arjun Masurkar, MD, PhD

Project: Diffusion MRI in the anterior and posterior hippocampus of people with subjective cognitive decline.

**Anthony Song, MA**
He/Him/His
Junior REC Scholar 2023-2024
Assistant Research Scientist
Department of Psychiatry, NYU Langone Health
Mentor: Ricardo Osorio, MD

Project: Examining differences in amyloid tracer uptake and cerebrovascular reactivity to carbon dioxide in cognitively normal older individuals with and without severe obstructive sleep apnea.
REC Scholars Program Alumni

2022

Ana Luisa Giusti Pedrosa  
Affiliate 2022-2023

Melissa Hernández-Frausto, PhD  
Scholar 2022-2023

Michael O'Dea  
Junior Scholar 2022-2023

Kendra Ray, PhD  
Scholar 2022-2023

Timothy (Cliff) Whetung  
Junior Scholar 2022-2023

Yue Xiao  
Affiliate 2022-2023
REC Scholars Program Alumni

2021

Janerra Allen
Affiliate 2021-2023

Hayley Belli, PhD
Scholar 2021-2023

Mark Bernard, PhD
Scholar 2021-2023

Anthony Briggs, PhD
Scholar 2021-2023

Anna Chen
Junior Scholar 2021-2023

Sachita Gupta
Affiliate 2021-2023

Mitchell Martá
Junior Scholar 2021-2023

Marcus Phan
Affiliate 2021-2022

Arelis Romero
Affiliate 2021-2023

Jianina Suazo
Affiliate 2021-2023

Amanda Zhao, MD
Junior Scholar 2021-2022
REC Scholars Program Alumni

2020

Olesia Bilash
Junior Scholar 2020-2022

Paul Frazel
Junior Scholar 2020-2022

Tim Gallagher, MD
Scholar 2020-2021

Lindsey Gurin, MD
Scholar 2020-2022

Katherine Kim, MD
Junior Scholar 2020-2021

Daniel Talmasov, MD
Scholar 2020-2022

Sujata Thawani, MD, PhD
Scholar 2020-2022

Shirley Wu, MD
Scholar 2020-2021