



**UC DAVIS**

Center for Neuroscience

# Barbara Chapman Neuroscience Award

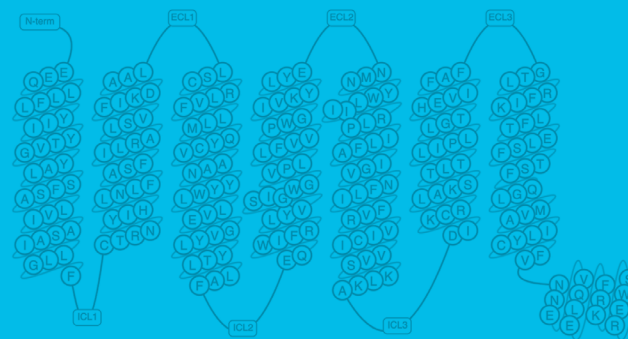


## Yihan (Jenny) Jin FY 2022-23 Award Recipient

Yihan (Jenny) Jin is a fourth-year neuroscience Ph.D. candidate in Dr. Lin Tian’s lab at UC Davis. She became interested in neuroscience during college when she first volunteered to work with adults with neurodevelopmental disability and had undergraduate internships in clinical and basic research. These experiences drive her interest to investigate neurodevelopment and to develop tools to probe neurochemical release. Jenny’s research focuses on developing and characterizing genetically encoded biosensors to detect synaptic glutamate and neuropeptides to advance the understanding of release dynamics under different stimulation paradigms from neuronal culture, electrical stimulation to animal behavior. By characterizing these tools, Jenny hopes to improve knowledge and bridge collaboration to help understand complex neurochemicals regulation underlying behavior and diseases.

### Impact of Philanthropy

*Jenny attended the GPCR Workshop in Kona, Hawaii, thanks to the Barbara Chapman Neuroscience Award. This workshop brings scientists from a diverse background and expertise together to discuss and address challenges related to drug development for G-protein coupled receptors (GPCRs). Jenny was able to learn about cutting-edge research, present her work and receive feedback and new ideas to further refine her research projects.*





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## Special thanks from Yihan (Jenny) Jin

Thank you so much for your generous support through the Barbara Chapman Neuroscience Award. This gift made it possible for me to attend the G Protein-coupled receptors (GPCR) Workshop in Hawaii. My first exposure to neuroscience research started through an internship as an undergraduate researcher in Dr. Hwai-Jong Cheng's lab in 2016 at the UC Davis Center for Neuroscience. From that time, I got to hear about Dr. Chapman and her impact on research and mentorship from different lab members and faculty. Research works done from her lab really opened my eyes to neuroplasticity and inspired me to pursue my study in neurodevelopment. I am now working to develop probes to detect circuit specific neurochemical release.

The GPCR workshop brought together many leading academic and industrial researchers who are dedicated to study the largest and most diverse receptor family in the human body, and how understanding their signaling mechanisms can be valuable guides to investigate animal physiology and develop better therapeutics. The workshop is organized with many lectures, short talks, and poster sessions that I got to attend. We also had interactive sessions where people can openly talk about challenging or unsolved questions which give opportunity for group discussion and suggestions. I really enjoyed how organizers provided an open space for scientists to openly talk about their unpublished work and areas that puzzle them. Through this workshop, I got to learn a lot about signaling receptors from many new perspectives, ranging from computational modeling for molecule binding, structural biology to signaling mechanism and current clinical trials.

I am thankful that I got to present my and other lab members' work in the format of poster and short talk. This opportunity was a great learning experience for me both in networking and public speaking which is critical for my graduate training. I also enjoyed meeting scientists at different career stages where I got to hear about their journey and received many valuable suggestions and encouragement. These conversations meant a lot to me as a fourth year graduate student in navigating academia to gain insight on what it takes to create a driven and inclusive environment despite challenges we are facing.

Thank you again for your support for me to attend this workshop.

Sincerely,

Yihan (Jenny) Jin