



CASE WESTERN RESERVE UNIVERSITY

Undergraduate Research Office

10900 Euclid Avenue; Cleveland, Ohio. 44122 – 7057

Building Location: Sears 247

Phone: 216-368-8508

<https://case.edu/studentlife/ugresearch/>

April 25, 2025

Zhiyao Zhang
Case Western Reserve University

Dear Zhiyao,

I am pleased to inform you that you have been selected as an Undergraduate Research Office (URO) SOURCE - STEM 2025 Summer Research Scholar. You will receive \$4,000 through the URO provided by the Office of the Provost. Your project, '*Unsupervised Identification of Cortical Activity Patterns in Mouse Brain for Understanding Neurodisorder*,' is mentored by Professor Murat Yildirim. Congratulations on your selection.

If your project plans have changed from what you proposed, including your intended time commitment, please contact me. The URO has several educational opportunities to enhance your summer research experience. By accepting to be part of the URO SOURCE program, you are agreeing to:

- Participate in the proposed project. (Students who do not complete the program may be required to reimburse the university for the funding.)
- Undergraduate researchers are responsible to obtain any training required by regulation to conduct research and to have your name added to a faculty member's research protocol. Please read the information on the following pages and discuss the training requirements (e.g. IRB, lab safety, etc.) with your project mentor.
- Plan to attend the required Educational Training Sessions noted on the following page.
- Participate in the Summer 2025, Fall (December) 2025, or Spring (April) 2026 Intersections Undergraduate Research Poster Session.
- If your study involves international travel, you are required to register with the Study Abroad Office.
- Prepare and submit a written report by August 31, 2025.
- By accepting the award, you also are confirming that you read and understand the information found on the following pages.

The Undergraduate Research Office is grateful to have the support of the Office of the Provost for making it possible for us to support your work. Please confirm your participation in this research opportunity by Friday, May 1. An email response to me (Sheila.pedigo@case.edu) is sufficient for your confirmation.

Congratulations again, and please take a few minutes to read the detailed information on the following page.

Sincerely,

Sheila Pedigo, Ph.D.
Undergraduate Research Director

cc: Professor Murat Yildirim, Mentor

**Additional Information - AHSS, STEM
(Please read before accepting the award)**

Funding Distribution

For most undergraduate researchers, the Undergraduate Research Office (URO) distributes the SOURCE awards three times: End of May/Early June, End of June/Early July, and after the final paper is submitted.

Travel Plans

If your project includes travel, please email ugresearch@case.edu after April 24 to ask for assistance with your travel arrangements.

Undergraduate Researchers requesting funding support for project supplies:

Awardees who requested funding for supplies on the application form will receive an email from the URO in early June about how to receive the funding. Remember: supply funding is part of the total award and not in addition to it. For AHSS awardees who may need supplies ordered earlier, please email ugresearch@case.edu after April 24 for assistance.

Research Compliance IRB, Safety Training, etc. –

Undergraduate researchers are responsible to obtain any training required by regulation to do the research and to have their names added to a faculty member's research protocol, if applicable. Undergraduate researchers must discuss training requirements with their mentors to understand what is necessary before beginning research.

Lab Safety Training

Undergraduate Researchers must be current on their lab safety training. Summer research awardees may NOT begin work in a lab until they have completed all required training. Please consult with your project mentor to determine all required training. The URO recommends that summer awardees review the [Environmental Health and Safety Website](#) (EHS) where researchers can use the "Check Your Training," tool (located on the right margin) to verify if their training is current. Undergraduate researchers who have previously completed training through the EHS may utilize Canvas to perform retraining.

Complete Required EHS Training Before Summer Program Begins

Undergraduate Researchers who have never completed training through EHS will need to do so. **Please plan to complete the training prior to the start of the summer research program on Tuesday, May 27.** Most likely, undergraduate researchers need both the General Laboratory Safety Training **and** the Biological Safety Training. (Again, confirm with your project mentors.)

[Registering and Information for EHS Training](#)

EHS schedules sessions up to 2 weeks in advance. The regularly scheduled sessions are:

- Lab Safety - every Tuesday 1pm-315pm; 2nd Friday of every month 9am-11:15am
- Biosafety - every Tuesday 330pm-5pm; 2nd Friday of every month 1130am-1pm

When registering for the EHS training sessions, please respond to the following questions accordingly:

- Classification? Respond with "Lab Worker (if you work in a lab in ANY capacity)."
- Position? Respond with "Undergraduate Student."

If EHS Early Training is Not Possible

For undergraduate researchers whose schedules do not allow them to complete the required training prior to beginning the summer program on Tuesday, May 27, please register [here](#) for training (date, time, and location TBD).

Undergraduate Researchers at University Hospitals or Cleveland Clinic

Training at UH or Cleveland Clinic is likely required for researchers working at those locations. However again, please consult with your mentor about this.

Summer Program Weekly Educational Training Requirements

- URO Summer Research Welcome and Orientation, Tuesday, May 27, 12:00 p.m. – 1:30 p.m., Thwing Ballroom.
- *Ethics for Undergraduate Researchers* session on Tuesday, June 10, 12:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m. Location TBD.
- Six (additional) Tuesday, Wednesday, or Thursday Sessions of your choosing.

Several of these sessions are expected to be hybrid. The “Six (additional) Tuesday, Wednesday, or Thursday Sessions,” will be adjusted proportionally for awardees with part-time commitments to their project and/or whose projects are outside the Cleveland area.

Final Paper Information

The URO will **not** release the final award payment (approximately \$300) until the final paper is submitted on or by **August 31, 2025**. Information regarding the paper will be emailed during the week of June 23. important: with very few exceptions, the URO does not accept late papers.

An Unfortunate Fact

The URO wants awardees to be aware that they will unlikely receive funding a second time.

Acknowledging the URO in future presentations and publications

In future presentations and publications, please acknowledge the URO in the following way:

This work was supported by a summer research award provided by CWRU Undergraduate Research Office.

For awardees who have additional funders, please word as follows: *This work was supported by a summer research award provided by CWRU Undergraduate Research Office and XXX (the Case Alumni Association, the Mather Center etc.)*

Finally, and again, congratulations! The Undergraduate Research Office wishes you well with your project. We look forward to hearing from you, learning more about your work, and working with you this summer.