

# Kelvin Chen

---

## CONTACT INFORMATION

University of Virginia  
College of Arts & Sciences  
Charlottesville, VA 22904

Phone: (929) 377-0923  
Email: [ddw4hp@virginia.edu](mailto:ddw4hp@virginia.edu)  
URL: <https://k9chen.github.io>

## RESEARCH INTERESTS

Translational neuroscience, computational and experimental disease modeling, neuropathological and cerebrovascular mechanisms of nervous system disorders, omics-based clinical discovery

---

## EDUCATION

**University of Virginia** Charlottesville, VA  
*B.A., Neuroscience & B.A., Chemistry; Minor, Bioethics* Aug 2022 – May 2026 (*Expected*)  
• GPA: –

**New Horizons Governor's School for Science & Technology** Hampton, VA  
*Dual Enrollment with VPCC, Biological Sciences & Mathematics* Sept 2020 – Jun 2022  
• GPA: 5.00/5.00

**Woodside High School** Newport News, VA  
*Advanced Studies Diploma* Sept 2018 – Jun 2022  
• GPA: 4.61/4.00 (Weighted), Rank: 1/381

---

## RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

**UVA School of Medicine, Center for Brain Immunology and Glia** Charlottesville, VA  
*Undergraduate Researcher, Department of Neurosurgery & Neuroscience* Jan 2024 – Present  
*Advisor: [Petr Tvrdek, Ph.D.](#)*  
• Mapped cortical myeloid cell dynamics in situ in focal cerebral ischemia models of stroke in Iba1-Dre and/or LysM-Cre transgenic mouse models with the intersectional *RC::RLTG* dual-recombinase reporter system.

*Undergraduate Researcher, Department of Neuroscience* Aug 2023 – Jan 2024  
*Advisor: [Lulu Jiang, M.D., Ph.D.](#)*  
• Investigated the cellular mechanism underlying nuclear membrane disruption and nucleocytoplasmic translocation of RNA-binding proteins and transcripts triggered by tau pathology in Alzheimer's disease using mouse and iPSC-derived human organoid models.

*Undergraduate Researcher, Department of Pharmacology* Sep 2022 – May 2023  
*Advisor: [Julius Zhu, Ph.D.](#)*  
• Optimized a genetically encoded sensor-based image visualization and analysis algorithm to probe neuromodulatory synaptic activities and characterize neurotransmitter properties at the nanoscopic scale.

**Barrow Neurological Institute, Neuroimaging Innovation Center** Phoenix, AZ  
*Research Intern, Department of Translational Neuroscience* May 2024 – Aug 2024  
*Advisor: [Richard Dortch, Ph.D.](#)*  
• Performed numerical diffusion signal simulations in silico to optimize and validate peripheral nerve-specific computational models using the spherical mean technique and tested the impact of varying imaging parameters on the precision and accuracy of derived estimates (*tentative*).

*Research Intern, Department of Translational Neuroscience* May 2023 – Aug 2023  
*Advisor: [Richard Dortch, Ph.D.](#)*  
• Modeled multi-compartmental diffusion MRI signals in pre-clinical rat models of peripheral nerve trauma based on segmented histological images to derive diffusion tensor imaging- and spherical mean technique-based metrics for monitoring axonal re/degeneration.

**Hampton University**  
*Research Intern, Department of Chemistry & Biochemistry*  
Advisor: [Peter Njoki, Ph.D.](#)

Hampton, VA  
Sept 2021 – Mar 2022

- Probed the kinetic behavior of gold nanoparticles in COVID-19 diagnosis and its mediating effect with antiviral drugs in the targeting of the SARS-CoV-2 RdRp via biochemical and mathematical modeling.

---

## PUBLICATIONS

### Editorials

- [E.6] **Chen, K.**, *A Neuroethical Discourse on the Application of Optogenetics for Memory Modification*. Grounds: The Virginia Journal of Bioethics, 2023 [[URL](#)]
- [E.5] **Chen, K.**, *Therapeutic Nihilism in Disorders of Consciousness Care and the Right to Live*. Grounds: The Virginia Journal of Bioethics, 2023 [[URL](#)]
- [E.4] **Chen, K.**, *On the Psychological Disembodiment of Autonomy and Agency in Patients with Brain-Computer Interface Implants*. Grounds: The Virginia Journal of Bioethics, 2023 [[URL](#)]
- [E.3] **Chen, K.**, *Moral Status in Cerebral Organoids, Gastruloids, and Chimeras*. Grounds: The Virginia Journal of Bioethics, 2023 [[URL](#)]
- [E.2] **Chen, K.**, *The Inadvertent Consequences of Scanning the Human Brain*. Grounds: The Virginia Journal of Bioethics, 2023 [[URL](#)]
- [E.1] **Chen, K.**, *Towards a Brave New World: The Huxleyan Reality of Using Pharmacological Neuroenhancement*. Grounds: The Virginia Journal of Bioethics, 2023 [[URL](#)]

---

## PRESENTATIONS

### Posters

- [P.3] **Chen, K.**, Sharifi, K. A., Tvrdik, P. *Phenotypic Plasticity in Recombinase-Mediated Myeloid Cell Subtypes Following Focal Cerebral Ischemia (in preparation)*.
- [P.2] **Chen, K.**, Ketsiri, T., Dortch, R. D. *Microstructural Analysis of Nervous Tissues by Imaging to Simulate Diffusion MRI Signals for Applications in Peripheral Neuropathy*. BNI Undergraduate Research Symposium, Phoenix, AZ, Aug 9, 2024 (*in preparation*)
- [P.1] **Chen, K.**, Sadrabadi, M. S., Dortch, R. D. *Geometry-Informed Multi-Compartmental Diffusion MRI Modeling of Injured Peripheral Nerves*. BNI Undergraduate Research Symposium, Phoenix, AZ, Aug 11, 2023 [[PDF](#)]

---

## HONORS & AWARDS

**Echols Scholarship, UVA** Aug 2023  
*Awarded to 5% of undergraduates in the College of Arts & Sciences for academic excellence and intellectual leadership*

**Distinguished Research Mentorship Award, NHGSST** Jun 2022  
*Awarded to three seniors for excellence in research based on their research project*

**University Achievement Award Scholarship, UVA** Mar 2022  
*Awarded to 50 in-state students from disadvantaged backgrounds on the basis of academic merit, leadership, public service, citizenship, diversity, and character; covers full-tuition for four years*

TEACHING EXPERIENCE	<b>UVA Department of Chemistry</b>	Charlottesville, VA
	<i>Undergraduate Teaching Assistant</i>	
	• CHEM 2311 Organic Chemistry Laboratory I (for Non-Chemistry Majors)	Fall 2024
	• CHEM 1810 Principles of Chemical Structure (Accelerated)	Fall 2024
	• CHEM 2321 Organic Chemistry Laboratory II (for Non-Chemistry Majors)	Spring 2024
	• CHEM 2311 Organic Chemistry Laboratory I (for Non-Chemistry Majors)	Fall 2023
	• CHEM 1811 Principles of Chemical Structure Laboratory (Accelerated)	Fall 2023
	<b>UVA Department of Psychology</b>	Charlottesville, VA
	<i>Undergraduate Teaching Assistant</i>	
	• PSYC 3210 Research Methods: Psychobiology Laboratory	Spring 2024
PROFESSIONAL SERVICES	<b>UVA Office of Citizen Scholar Development</b>	Charlottesville, VA
	<i>Symposium Volunteer</i>	Apr 2023 – Present
	• Undergraduate Research Symposium	
	<i>Editorial Board Staff</i>	Sept 2022 – Present
	• The Oculus: The Virginia Journal of Undergraduate Research	
	<b>W. M. Keck Center for Cellular Imaging</b>	Charlottesville, VA
	<i>Microscopy Workshop Volunteer</i>	Mar 2024
	• 21st Annual FRET, FLIM, & FLIRR Microscopy Workshop	
ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES	• <b>Editor</b> , Grounds: The Virginia Journal of Bioethics	Jun 2023 – Present
	• <b>Senior Mandarin Translator</b> , The Cavalier Daily	Feb 2023 – Present
	• <b>Investigator</b> , University Judiciary Committee	Sept 2022 – Present
	• <b>Senior Associate</b> , The Blosson Together Association	Sept 2022 – Present
	• <b>Surgical Supply Volunteer</b> , UVA Health University Hospital	Sept 2022 – May 2023
TECHNICAL SKILLS	• <b>Programming</b> : MATLAB, Python, R, Julia, C/C++, SQL, HTML, JavaScript	
	• <b>Softwares</b> : L <sup>A</sup> T <sub>E</sub> X, Microsoft Offices, ImageJ, ZEN, GraphPad Prism	
	• <b>Operating Systems</b> : Windows, Linux, MacOS	
AFFILIATIONS	• <b>American Neurological Association</b> , Member	Jun 2024 – Present

## REFERENCES

### **Petr Tvrdik, Ph.D.**

Assistant Professor  
Department of Neurosurgery & Neuroscience  
UVA School of Medicine  
[pt8bm@virginia.edu](mailto:pt8bm@virginia.edu)

### **Ammas Periasamy, Ph.D.**

Professor  
Department of Biology & Biomedical Engineering  
University of Virginia  
[ap3t@virginia.edu](mailto:ap3t@virginia.edu)

### **Richard Dortch, Ph.D.**

Associate Professor  
Department of Translational Neuroscience  
Barrow Neurological Institute  
[richard.dortch@barrowneuro.org](mailto:richard.dortch@barrowneuro.org)

### **Jason Chroma, Ph.D.**

Assistant Professor  
Department of Chemistry  
University of Virginia  
[jjc5p@virginia.edu](mailto:jjc5p@virginia.edu)