RVK "Kenny" Cardona

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EDUCATION

University of California, Riverside   **SEPT 2024 - JUN 2025**
M.S. Biomedical Science - GPA: 3.94   *Riverside, CA*

University of California, Riverside   **SEPT 2019 - JUN 2023**
B.S. Neuroscience, Minor in Psychology   *Riverside, CA*

College of the Canyons   **AUG 2017 - JUN 2019**
AA Liberal Arts & Sciences - Social Sciences Emphasis   *Santa Clarita, CA*
*Concurrent with High School Diploma at Academy of the Canyons

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Graduate Student Researcher (Zagha Lab)   **SEPT 2024 - PRESENT**
UCR School of Medicine Division of Biomedical Sciences   *Riverside, CA*

- Conducted computational neuroscience research on predictive processing and sensory filtering in mice, using MATLAB and machine learning techniques like PCA and linear discriminant analysis (LDA) for neural data analysis.
- Performed stereotaxic surgeries for headpost implantation, trained mice in behavioral tasks, and utilized calcium imaging to investigate neural activity underlying sensory processing and predictive coding.
- Determined appropriate statistical methods (e.g., ANOVA, multivariate regression, mixed-effects models) to analyze experimental data and extract meaningful insights.
- Designed and implemented MATLAB workflows to preprocess data and create detailed visualizations for research publications and presentations

Clinic Technician   **NOV 2023 - SEPT 2024**
Fastest Labs   *Santa Clarita, CA*

- Manage and oversee daily operations of the clinic facility, including client interactions and specimen collections, inventory management, handling inbound calls, and ensuring compliance with health and safety regulations.
- Conducted certified specimen collections (urine, alcohol, saliva, etc.) and maintained accurate documentation as per regulatory requirements.
- Coordinated the setup and launch of a new clinic location (Santa Clarita), and managed logistics such as equipment procurement, staff training, and facility preparation.

PROJECTS, SKILLS, & INTERESTS

Sequence Learning and Cortical Modulation in a Mouse Model of Fragile X Syndrome   **SPRING 2025**
Zagha Lab   *UC Riverside*

- Wrote custom MATLAB scripts to preprocess calcium imaging data from sensory and frontal cortices, applying PCA and ANOVA to analyze cortical dynamics.
- Designed data visualizations for stimulus-aligned activity, highlighting altered learning strategies in FMR1 KO mice.
- https://github.com/kwakkle/MCSB-poster

Technical skills: Data Visualization: MATLAB, R, Python, Statistical and Computational Methods: ANOVA, Correlation, PCA reduction, Machine Learning.
Interests: Mental Health Advocacy; Computational Neuroscience; Functional MRI Analysis; Machine Learning
Languages: Tagalog and English