



2025 BRITL Brain Research, Innovation & Translation Laboratory

The Brain Research, Innovation & Translation Laboratory (BRITL) Neuroscience research program is part of the University of Hawaii John Burns School of Medicine MD5 MED 599 Neuroscience Research Course. University Hawaii medical students may sign up for elective credit while working at BRITL in MD5 MED 599 Neuroscience research credit.



Hawaii BRITL

BRITL is part of [Hawaii Pacific Neuroscience's](#) robust clinical and academic research programs where we foster a culture of innovation and collaboration. Physicians and scientists work closely within and across centers, institutes, and schools to collaborate whether they are basic laboratory-based scientists, bio statisticians or clinicians to encourage cross disciplinary translation bench to bedside research. BRITL students work alongside and collaborate with at Hawaii Pacific Neuroscience [Clinical Research Center](#) whose ground breaking work is funded by NIH and other agencies and recognized nationally.

BRITL's mission is to support our local medical students to pursue their passion in neuroscience, research and develop leadership in this field to make an impact in the local community. It provides students the opportunity to work in a team setting working with seasoned investigators, junior investigators, residents, senior student leaders and junior students. BRITL is proud to recognize exceptional medical students as "neuroscience academic scholars" and project leaders who have demonstrated exemplary academic abilities in neuroscience, leadership qualities, passion, and commitment to the pursue of excellence in research and a commitment to make a difference in the local and global community. See their [Publications & International Presentations](#)



Core Neurology/Neuroscience Faculty

Kore Kai Liow, MD	Neurology, Memory Disorders & Alzheimer's Center
Enrique Carrazana, MD	Neurology, Research
Daren DuGas, MD	Neurology, Comprehensive Epilepsy Center , EEG, Video-EEG
Natalia Gonzalez, MD	Neurology, MS & Neuroimmunology , ALS & Neuromuscular Center , EMG
Eonjung Angeline Kim, MD	Neurology, Headache & Facial Pain Center
Janette Abramowitz, MD	Neurology, Psychiatry, Center for Psychiatric Neuroscience
Chris Larrinaga, APRN	Neurology, Sleep Medicine, Sleep and Insomnia Center
Nicole Evans, PA-C	Neurology, General Neurology, Headache & Facial Pain Center
Qi Zhi, DNP, MPH	Neurology, General Neurology, Memory Disorders & Alzheimer's Center
Nicholas Anderson, MD	Sleep Medicine, Sleep and Insomnia Center
Alex (Andra) Takeyasu, MD	Psychiatry, Center for Psychiatric Neuroscience
Russell Woo, MD	Associate Dean of Research, Chief Academic Officer
Chathura Siriwardhana, PhD	Biostatistics

Questions, contact BRITL Program Director Kore Kai Liow, MD, kliow@hawaii.edu
Info: [Brain Research, Innovation, Translation Labs](#). [Summer Internship Opportunities](#)



2024 2025 BRITL Scholars/Medical Students

D-Dré Wright, MS3, *Program Mentor*
Anita Cheung, MS3, *Program Mentor*
Ryan Nakamura, MS3, *Program Mentor*
Tyrone John Sumibcay, MS2, *Program Leader*
Matthew Kao, MS2, *Program Leader*
Janette Keola, MS2, *Program Leader*
Shay Nakahira, MS3
Kirra Borrello, MS3
Bradon Hong, MS3
Jonathan Carino, MS3
Matthew Kobylinski, MS3
Nina Krupa, MS3
Eli Snyder, MS3
Erin Kim, MS2
Kylie Yamauchi, MS2
Ryan Nishi, MS2
Jiwoo Kim, MS2
Erin Evangelista, MS2
Megan Kawamura, MS2

Nina Krupa, MS2
Michael Read, MS2
Nicole Hada, MS2
Jan Augustine Aurelio, MS1
Mitch Cadiz, MS1
Xavier Heidelberg, MS1
Albert Jiang, MS1
Matthew Ko, MS1
Kevin Nguyen, MS1
Cameron Nishida, MS1
Shashi Sharma, MS1
Jenna Tsuzaki, MS1
Yash Vyas, MS1
Kenji, Aoki, MS1
Kristal Xie, MS1
Haley Yamamoto, MS1

Jan 27th Mon 5PM

Check in with faculty RESEARCH mentors



Kore Liow, MD
Neuroscience Chair and BRITL Director
Clinical Professor Medicine (Neurology)
Clinical & Translational Research



Enrique Carrazana, MD
Publication Director, Neurology
Clinical Educator

2025 Feb – June

Connect with faculty EXPERTS mentors



Darren DuGas, M.D. Co-Director,
Comprehensive Epilepsy Ctr Director,
Video-EEG Epilepsy Monitoring Unit,
Clinical Assistant Professor of Medicine
(Neurology)

Natalia Gonzalez Caldito, M.D. Director –MS & Neuroimmunology Center, ALS and Neuromuscular EMG Center, IV Infusion Ctr Clinical Assistant Professor of Medicine (Neurology)

Eonjung Angeline Kim, M.D. Director,
Headache & Facial Pain Center, Clinical Assistant Professor of Medicine (Neurology)

June 14th Sat 9AM-4PM

Spring Finals & Summer Orientation

June 17, 25 Tues 5:00-6:30PM



Research Bio Statistics I and II
Chathura Siriwardhana, PhD,
Assistant Professor,
Biostatistics Core Facility,
Dept. Quantitative Health Services

July 12th Saturday 9AM-4PM MID TERM Oral Presentation

July 15 Tues 5:00-6:00PM



Writing up Your Abstract and Poster

Natalia Gonzalez Caldito, M.D.

Director –MS & Neuroimmunology Center, ALS and Neuromuscular EMG Center, IV Infusion Ctr Clinical Assistant

Professor of Medicine (Neurology) University of Hawaii John Burns School of Medicine

July 22, 29, Aug 5 - Tues 5:00-6:00PM



How to Get Your Posters Ready

How to Submit to National Meetings

How to Submit for Full length Publications

Tyrone John Sumibcay, MS2, Program Leader

Matthew Kao, MS2, Program Leader

Janette Keola, MS2, Program Leader

Aug 16th Sat 8AM-4PM

FINAL Poster Presentation

2025 Hawaii Neuroscience & Research Symposium and Poster Competition

Applying for a Residency-Be Successful and

Remain Sane



David Baskin, MD
Professor and Vice Chair,
Dept Neurosurgery
Residency Program Director,
Houston Methodist Hospital
Weill Cornell Medical College

Poster Competition Award Presentations



Sam Shomaker, MD
Dean, University of Hawaii John Burns School of Medicine



2025 Hawaii Neuroscience Symposium

“Golden Age” of Neuroscience Discovery

August 16th, 2025, Saturday 8:00 – 4:00PM

Honolulu, Hawaii

Exploring how new knowledge from genetics, technology, AI & other new tools are accelerating neuroscience discovery

[Register ONLINE now](#)



Highlights of Innovations & Medical Breakthroughs in Hawaii

Sam Shomaker, M.D.
Professor and Dean, University of Hawaii John Burns School of Medicine



Emerging Trends in Neuroscience – Are We Living in the Golden Age of Neuroscience?

David Baskin, M.D.
Presidential Distinguished Chair & Residency Program Director, Dept. Neurosurgery, Houston Methodist Hospital



How Hawaii is Leading Innovation In Neuroscience

[Kore Kai Liow, M.D.](#)
HPN Neuroscience Chair & Clinical Professor of Medicine (Neurology), Clinical & Translational Research, University of Hawaii John Burns School of Medicine



Sleep Apnea Innovations

[Nicholas Anderson, M.D.](#)
Clinical Lead & Director, [Sleep and Insomnia Center](#), Clinical Assistant Professor of Medicine (Neurology) U of Hawaii John Burns School of Medicine



Innovations in Rewiring Headache & Pain Pathways

[Eonjung Angeline Kim, M.D.](#)
Director, [Headache & Facial Pain Center](#),

Clinical Assistant Professor of Medicine (Neurology), University of Hawaii John Burns School of Medicine



Break Throughs in Neuroimmunology -MS and Neuromuscular Diseases

[Natalia Gonzalez Caldito, M.D.](#)
Director –[MS & Neuroimmunology Center](#),

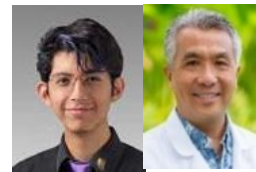
[ALS and Neuromuscular EMG Center](#), [IV Infusion Ctr](#) Clinical Assistant Professor of Medicine (Neurology) University of Hawaii John Burns School of Medicine



Epilepsy - Seizing the Opportunity

[Darren DuGas, M.D.](#)
Co-Director, [Comprehensive Epilepsy Ctr](#) Director, [Video-EEG Epilepsy Monitoring Unit](#),

Clinical Assistant Professor of Medicine (Neurology), University of Hawaii John Burns School of Medicine



Alzheimer’s & Parkinson’s Disease Innovations in 2025

Michael Sonson, M.D.
Behavioral Neurology Fellow, Cedar Sinai UCLA
[Kore Kai Liow, M.D.](#) Interim Director, [Memory Disorders Center](#), [Parkinson’s & Movt Dis Center](#)
Clinical Professor of Medicine (Neurology), U of Hawaii John Burns School of Medicine

Brain Research, Innovation & Translation Labs (BRITL)**2025 Summer Internship Program (SIP)****2230 Liliha Street #104, HONOLULU, HI 96817****June 14th-August 16th, 2025****(Deadline due March 28th, 2025)****Online Information**

The Summer Research Program at Hawaii Pacific Neuroscience is one of the most sought-after neuroscience internships in the country. It provides students the opportunity to spend an intensive 2 months working side-by-side with leading neuroscientists and researchers on groundbreaking studies in Alzheimer's disease, epilepsy, Parkinson's disease, multiple sclerosis, and other neurological diseases. This internship is a time-intensive commitment with mandatory lectures built into the program. The calendar does not include your time in the clinic and your time with your research group. Interns will need to be on-campus, in person for their data collection sessions (3 hours weekly time blocks) in addition to other in-person events. The program emphasizes collaborative teamwork in a supervised setting headed by faculty research mentors and experienced medical student leaders culminating in poster presentations competition for best research awards to be presented by Sam Shomaker, MD, Dean of John Burns School of Medicine, University of Hawaii. Most students followed up with submission to national meetings and PubMed papers.

[See 2024 Summer Program Students, Projects & Poster Competition](#)

When: (Do not apply if you are unable to attend events in person)

June 14th, 2025 – August 16th, 2025

Who can apply?

Applicants must be enrolled in an accredited college or university as an undergraduate or graduate student. A small cohort of individuals in their senior High School may be considered under "exceptional circumstances".

Are there any application fees?

There is a non-refundable application fee of \$49
Click [online](#) to pay non-refundable application fees

How to apply? [Apply online](#) (Deadline March 28th, 2025)**Questions? Britl@HawaiiNeuroscience.com**



Application instructions: [Apply online](#) (Deadline March 28th, 2025)

You will need the following to apply online to upload documents. Please have them handy when ready to apply.

- 1) Headshot (Picture of face and shoulder) see website for [2024 Cohorts](#) examples
- 2) Resume
- 3) Cover Letter- Limited to One page please
Must address the following questions:
 - i. Why do you want to participate in this specific program?
 - ii. How do your skills and experiences make you the perfect match for the program?
 - iii. What are your realistic expectations for this program?
 - iv. What are your long-term educational goals?
 - v. How will your summer schedule accommodate this internship?
- 4) GCP and HIPAA certificates
 - a. GCP & HIPAA links for students (FREE)
 - i. CITI GCP: <https://about.citiprogram.org/en/homepage/>
→ Must specify your university for free access.
→ Ex) University of Hawaii, you only need to complete GCP ICH.
 - ii. HIPAA: <https://info.proservice.com/hipaa-compliance-on-demand>
→ You will be asked to provide your full name, email address, and company. Please put “Hawaii Pacific Neuroscience” for the company. Please take the “HIPAA Compliance Online Exam” after reviewing the webinar (link found in the Summary section).
- 5) “Exceptional Student Consideration”
 - a. All incoming high school seniors must complete an additional cover letter
 - b. Must address the following questions:
 - i. What makes you stand out as an “Exceptional Student” and why should you be considered?
 - ii. What are your long-term goals and how will this internship help you achieve them?
- 6) Confirmation of application fee (screen shot of payment email will do), [pay online](#)
Application will not be considered without application fee confirmation.

Applicants will be notified of their selection via email.

Questions ? Britl@HawaiiNeuroscience.com



Summer Internship



Online Payment