

ISSUE

17

Sept 2023



# ASPIRNAUT™



Editor: Rachel Baugh

Photo Credit: Susan Urmy

## Summer 2023 was PHENOMENAL!!!

We kicked off a fantastic summer with **19 high school Lu-Springer Research Scholars from eight states and 17 undergraduate research interns from eight states**. Aspironauts experienced full-time discovery science in biomedical research labs, professional skills development, and wellness training at Vanderbilt University Medical Center.

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## 2024 Application Opens in October.

**Please check our [website](#) for updates.**

**Application Deadline: January 17, 2024**

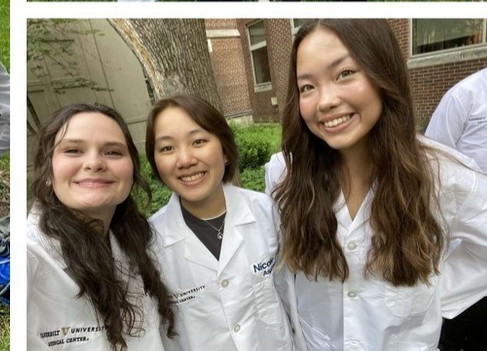
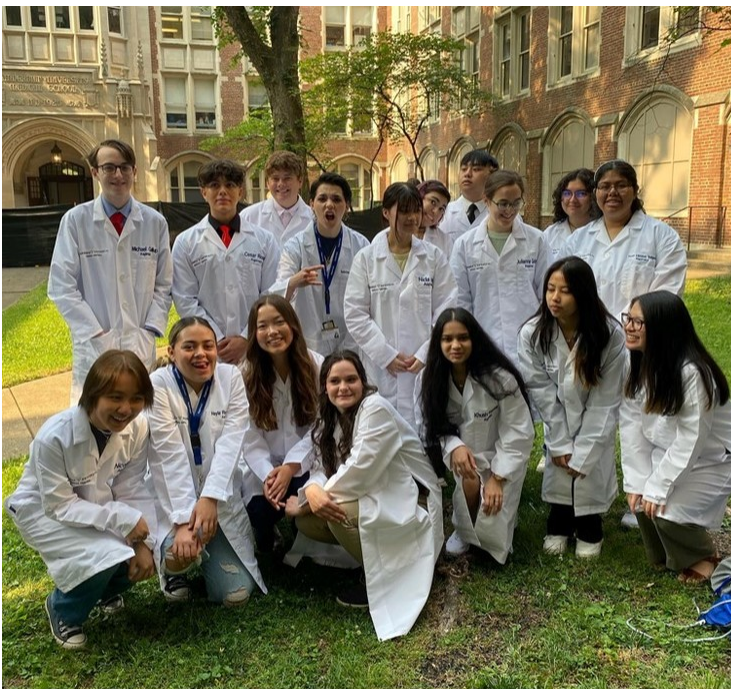
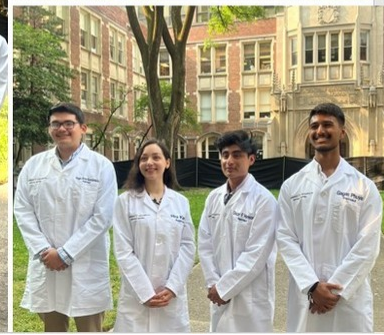
We will be accepting applications for high school and undergraduate Aspironaut™ Summer Research Internships starting in October. Recruitment is focused on individuals from rural and diverse backgrounds and underrepresented in STEM careers. We are looking for students who have achieved excellent grades and test scores in math and science and who have demonstrated a commitment to pursuing a career in a STEM field.

[DONATE NOW](#)

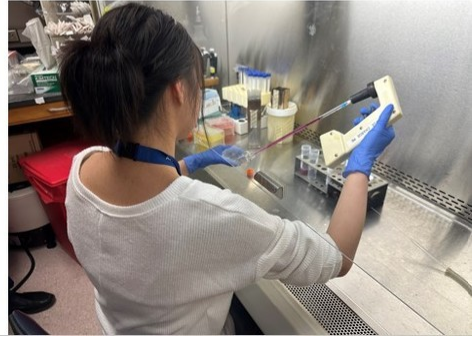
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## Summer Photo Gallery

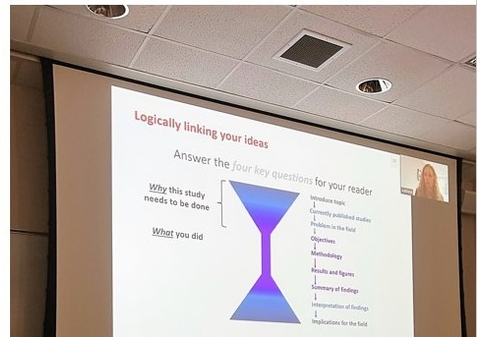
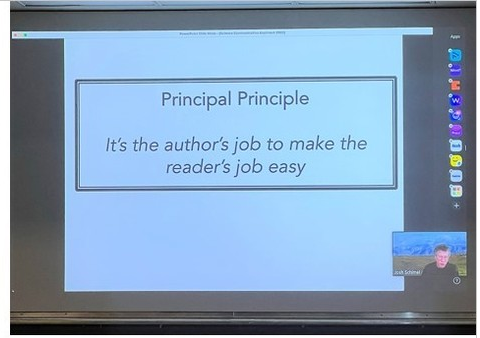
**White Coat Ceremony**



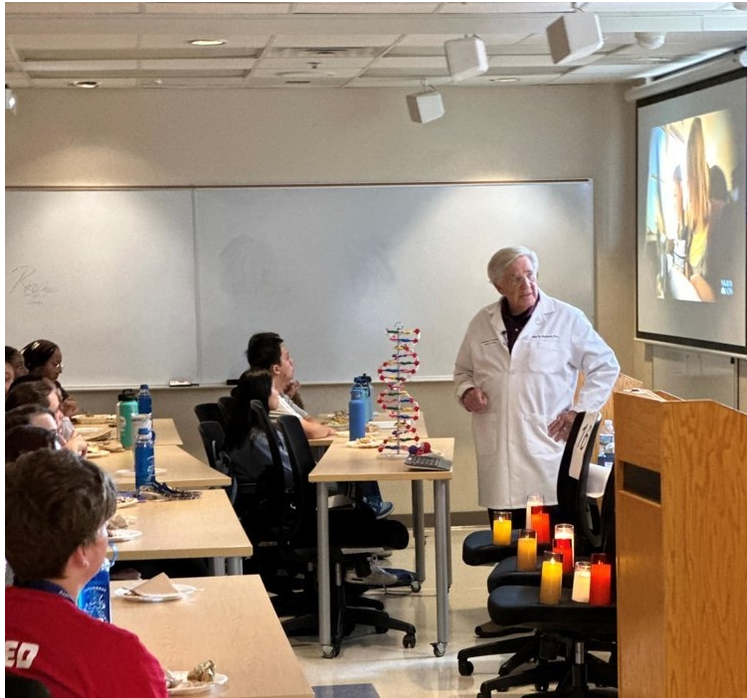
**Lab Skills Course (Tetyana Pedchenko, Ph.D., and Team)**



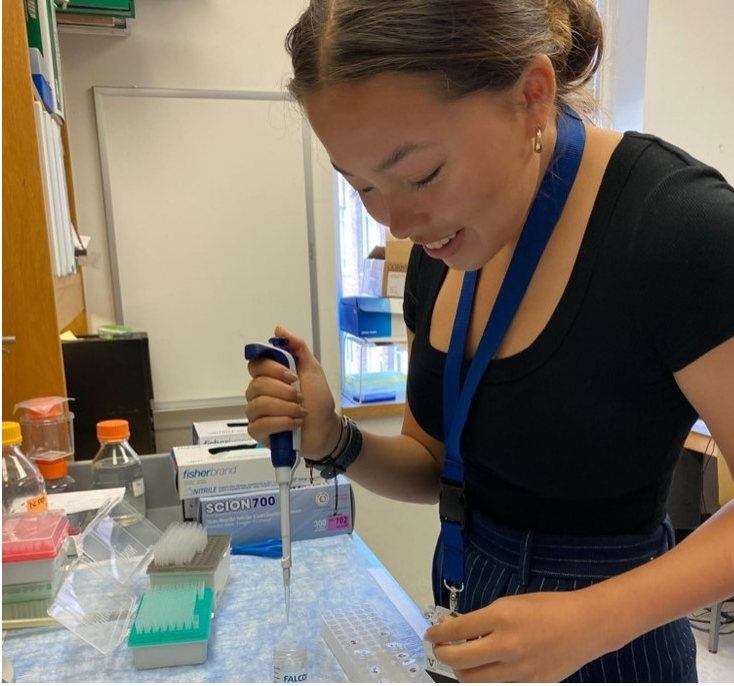
**Science Communication (Susan Allison, Ph.D., Joshua Schimel, Ph.D., Ximena Leon, and Kateryna Nabukhotna)**



## Distinguished Speaker Luncheon Series



## In The Lab (Associate Scientific Director, Elena Pokidysheva, Ph.D.)



**College Counseling (Cynthia Nash) & ACT/SAT Prep (Kyle Vallone) & General Chemistry Prep (Emaa Elrayah)**

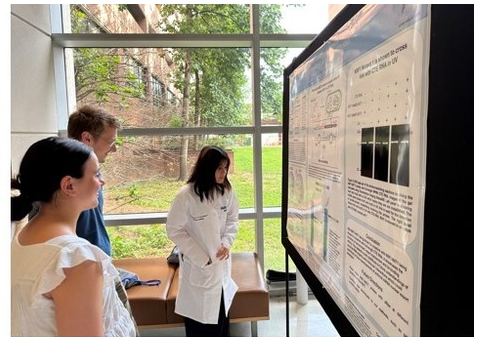
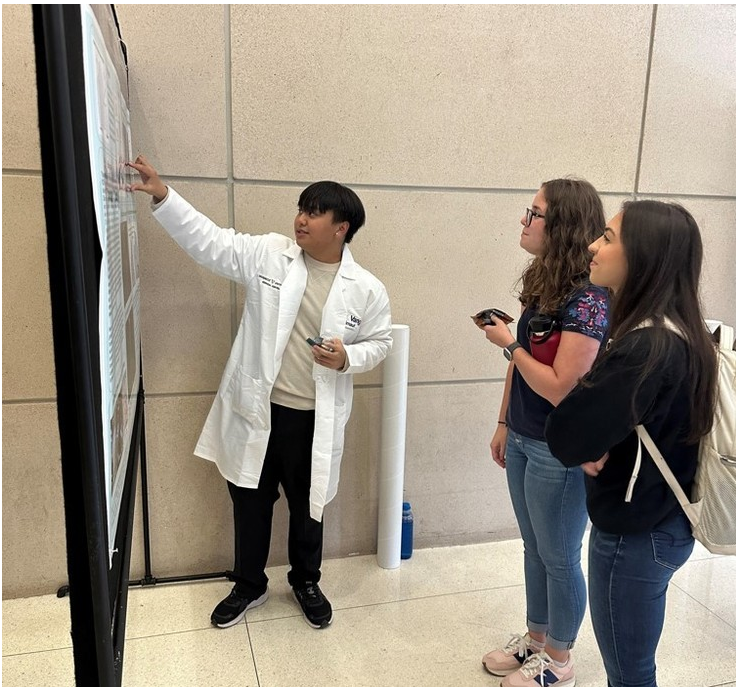


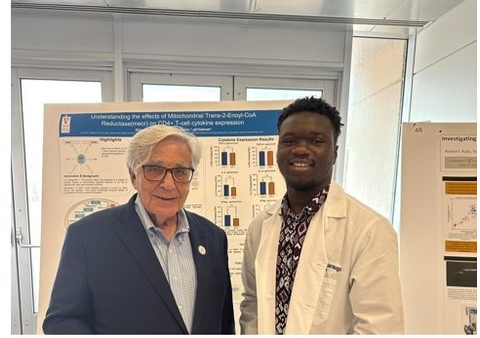
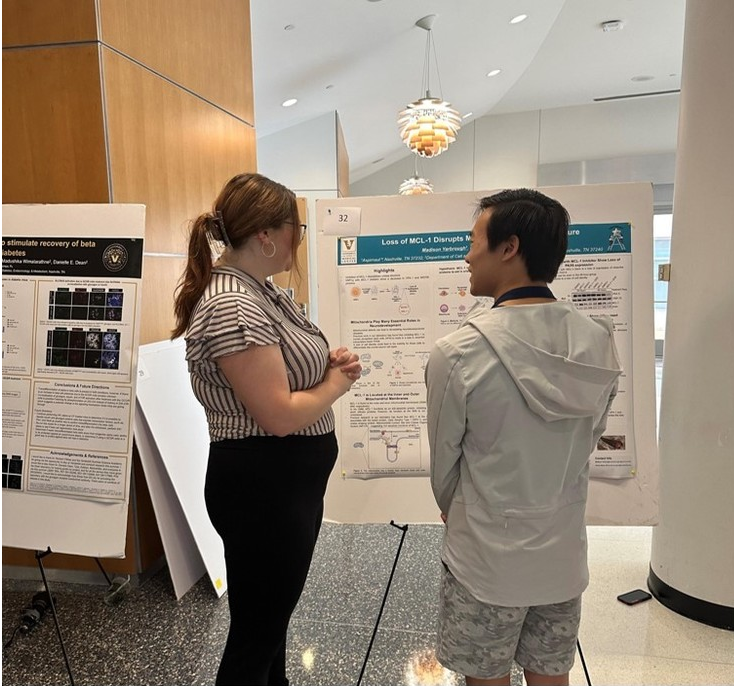
**Psychological Thriving (Richard Taran, Ph.D.) & Wellness Training (Rachel Baugh, M.S., OLY)**





## Poster Presentations





## Oral Presentations





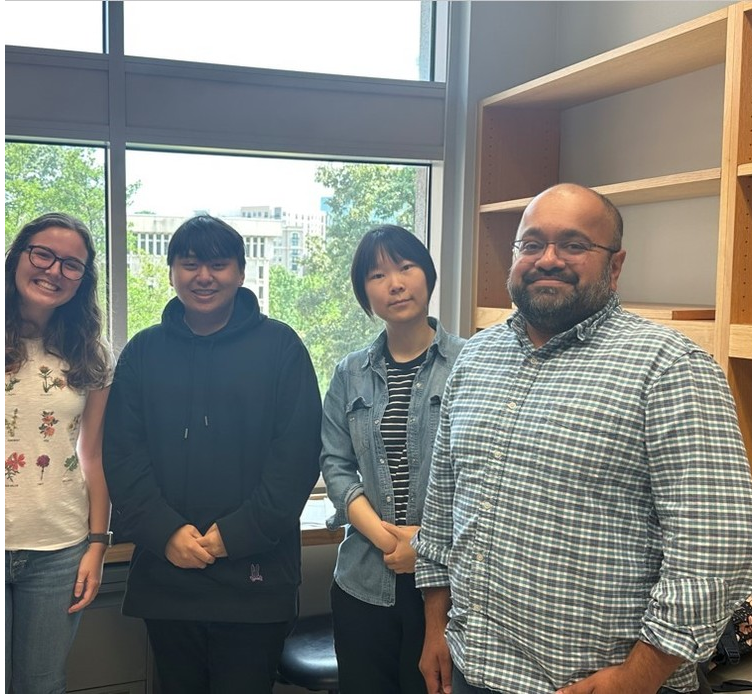
## 4th of July Picnic





## Amazing Mentors





**Celebration of Summer Success**





## Friends for Life



## Summer Program Impact: In Their Words...

- "The Aspirant™ program was a phenomenal experience! I left feeling so much happier overall and confident about pursuing a career in science."
- "The Aspirant™ program provides us opportunities and experiences far ahead of our peers. We are held to a higher standard of work ethic and adaptability to change. This fosters unimaginable growth."
- "I have come to consider Aspirant™ as a second home, where I am free to pursue my interests, develop myself in multiple aspects, and connect with like-minded individuals. The diversity of opportunities Aspirant™ provides has transformed my summer into a life-changing experience."
- "This internship was a great opportunity that cemented my plan to work in the medical research field in the future. Not only did I learn many valuable lab skills, but I also got a chance to foster friendships with other Aspirants and meet many brilliant scientists."

- "My participation in the Aspirnaut™ Summer Program has helped me professionally by letting me think critically to answer unanswered questions. It has helped me personally by allowing me to become more comfortable with public speaking."
- "I was able to discover what I truly loved and cement what I wanted to do with my life. This program gave me the tools needed to succeed even if my plan does not go exactly the way I want it to."
- "My time at Aspirnaut™ has made me a more well-rounded individual. I feel more sure of myself, more independent and confident, and better prepared to step into what the future holds for me. Professionally, my experience at Aspirnaut™ has confirmed that I am on the right career path and to keep working diligently towards my career goals."
- "Participating in the Aspirnaut™ Summer Research Internship has positively affected my personal and professional development. My approach and viewpoints have changed for the better regarding personal health. Profession-wise, I gained a better understanding of how to be professional and how to approach certain situations."

**DONATE NOW**

If you are interested in getting involved or sponsoring an Aspirnaut™ experience, please contact Rachel Baugh at [rachel.baugh@aspirnaut.org](mailto:rachel.baugh@aspirnaut.org).

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