



ACS SCHOLARS PROGRAM

AMERICAN CHEMICAL SOCIETY

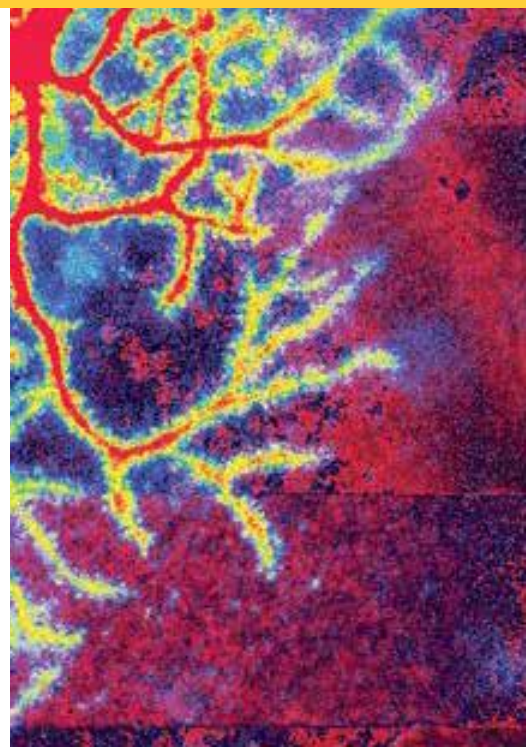
2022 Report to Donors

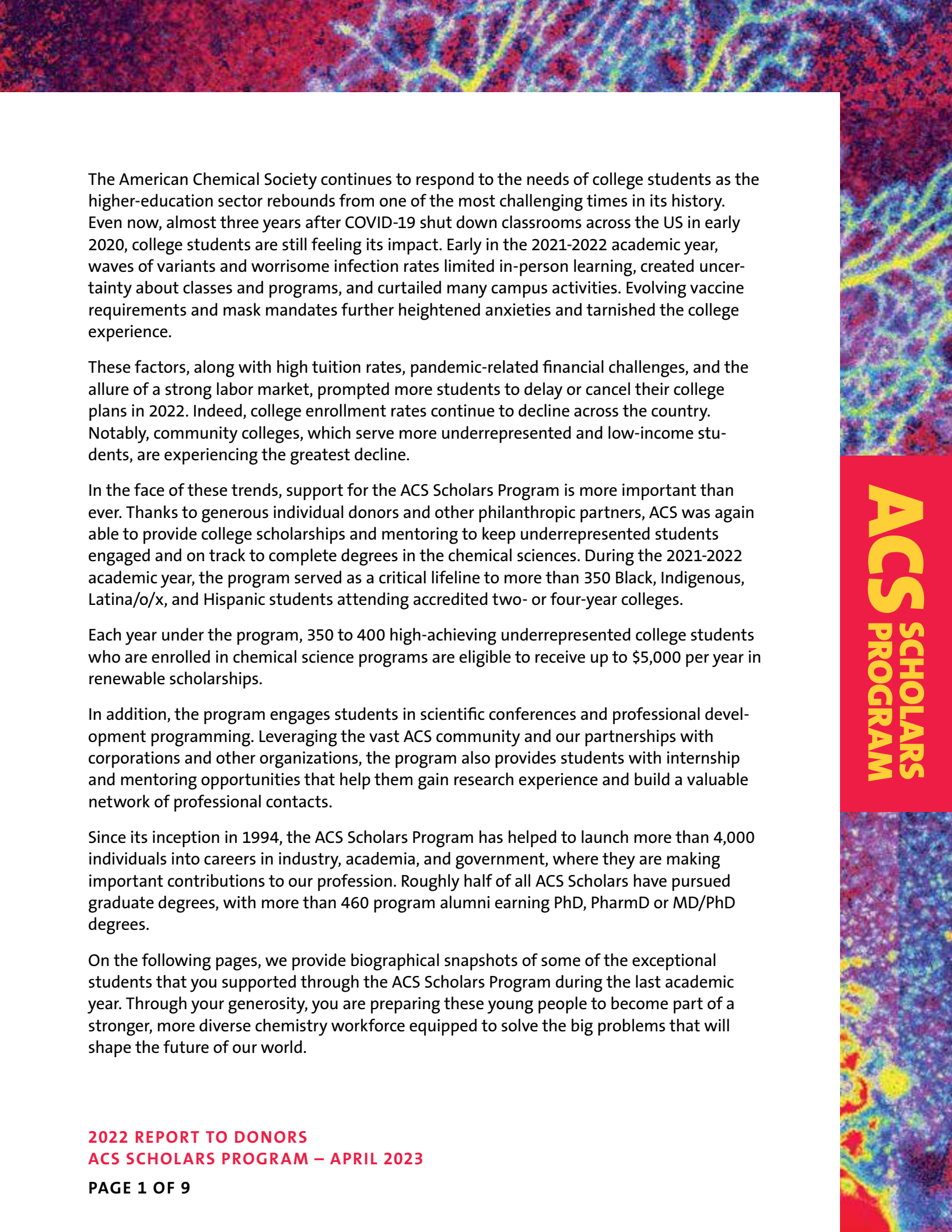
April 2023



ACS

Chemistry for Life®





The American Chemical Society continues to respond to the needs of college students as the higher-education sector rebounds from one of the most challenging times in its history. Even now, almost three years after COVID-19 shut down classrooms across the US in early 2020, college students are still feeling its impact. Early in the 2021-2022 academic year, waves of variants and worrisome infection rates limited in-person learning, created uncertainty about classes and programs, and curtailed many campus activities. Evolving vaccine requirements and mask mandates further heightened anxieties and tarnished the college experience.

These factors, along with high tuition rates, pandemic-related financial challenges, and the allure of a strong labor market, prompted more students to delay or cancel their college plans in 2022. Indeed, college enrollment rates continue to decline across the country. Notably, community colleges, which serve more underrepresented and low-income students, are experiencing the greatest decline.

In the face of these trends, support for the ACS Scholars Program is more important than ever. Thanks to generous individual donors and other philanthropic partners, ACS was again able to provide college scholarships and mentoring to keep underrepresented students engaged and on track to complete degrees in the chemical sciences. During the 2021-2022 academic year, the program served as a critical lifeline to more than 350 Black, Indigenous, Latina/o/x, and Hispanic students attending accredited two- or four-year colleges.

Each year under the program, 350 to 400 high-achieving underrepresented college students who are enrolled in chemical science programs are eligible to receive up to \$5,000 per year in renewable scholarships.

In addition, the program engages students in scientific conferences and professional development programming. Leveraging the vast ACS community and our partnerships with corporations and other organizations, the program also provides students with internship and mentoring opportunities that help them gain research experience and build a valuable network of professional contacts.

Since its inception in 1994, the ACS Scholars Program has helped to launch more than 4,000 individuals into careers in industry, academia, and government, where they are making important contributions to our profession. Roughly half of all ACS Scholars have pursued graduate degrees, with more than 460 program alumni earning PhD, PharmD or MD/PhD degrees.

On the following pages, we provide biographical snapshots of some of the exceptional students that you supported through the ACS Scholars Program during the last academic year. Through your generosity, you are preparing these young people to become part of a stronger, more diverse chemistry workforce equipped to solve the big problems that will shape the future of our world.



Jonathan Elisabeth
Pomona College
ACS Scholar 2020–2023

Jonathan Elisabeth is pursuing a bachelor's degree in chemistry and physics at Pomona College in Claremont, California.

Over the summer, he worked as a research intern at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, developing a robotics platform and web-based data processing pipeline to perform spatial navigation tasks for computational neuroscience research. During summer 2021, he was a research assistant at Tufts University, working with quantum information researchers.

On campus, Jonathan works as a teaching assistant for analytical chemistry. Previously, he was a research assistant, developing electrochemical syntheses and molecular descriptors for sulfur (VI) fluorides based on a predictive computational model. He coauthored a paper on that work in the journal ACS Catalysis.

Jonathan has been named a Goldwater Scholar, a Tufts VERSE Scholar, a Linares Scholar, and a Tufts Provost Leadership Fellow. In 2019, he earned an associate's degree with honors at Miami Dade College, where he earned its Annual Academic Excellence Award in General Chemistry.

After graduating in May 2023, Jonathan plans to conduct research in drug development and biomaterials.

“Over the past academic year, my corporate mentor helped me develop professional development skills and taught me about early career options for chemistry undergrads. This has broadened my perspective and given me clarity about a path after graduation.”



Joshua Bradford
University of Pennsylvania
ACS Scholar 2020–2022

Joshua Bradford is a senior at the University of Pennsylvania completing a bachelor's degree in chemical and biomolecular engineering with a minor in sustainability and environmental management.

During summer 2022, Joshua worked as a consulting intern in Houston, Texas at Wood Mackenzie, a research and consulting firm serving the global energy, chemicals, metals, and mining industries.

On campus, Joshua is a Robeson Cooper Scholar, an honor that goes to students demonstrating interdisciplinary social justice excellence in and out of the classroom. He is also a member of the National Society of Black Engineers, Wharton Undergraduate Energy Group, the Theta Tau Professional Engineering Fraternity, Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, and the Sphinx Senior Society, an exclusive honor society.

Joshua aspires to establish a career at the intersection of energy and business, helping to develop cleaner energy, while improving environmental and energy equity.

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Kimmia Saunders-Butler
Georgia Institute of Technology
ACS Scholar 2020–2024

Kimmia Saunders-Butler is pursuing a bachelor's degree in chemical and biomolecular engineering at Georgia Institute of Technology. She will graduate in 2024.

Over the summer, Kimmia worked as a process engineering intern for World Energy, a renewable energy semiconductor manufacturer in Boston. During summer 2021, under the SCI America Scholars Program, she worked as an R&D intern for chemical manufacturer Hexion in Stafford, Texas.

On campus, she is a chemistry teaching assistant and is active in National Society of Black Engineers and the Nu Beta Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Incorporated.

In the future, she plans to work in research and development for a company that prioritizes sustainability. She also aspires to become an entrepreneur developing a haircare brand.

“The ACS Scholars Program has been essential to my personal and professional development. My mentor assisted me with developing a four-year plan, applying for internships, crafting my résumé and cover letters, and exploring different career paths for chemical engineers. I am so thankful for donor support of the program, which provides endless resources for students to help them succeed.”



Nicolas Gutierrez
New Jersey Institute of Technology
ACS Scholar 2020–2022

Nicolas Gutierrez earned a bachelor's degree in chemical engineering from the New Jersey Institute of Technology (NJIT) in May 2022. Last summer, he worked in Kalispell, Montana as a process engineering intern at Applied Materials, a company that provides materials for production of new chips and advanced displays.

From June 2021 through April 2022, Nicolas was a data analyst intern at EMD Electronics in Branchburg, New Jersey. On campus, he was a research assistant at the NJIT Instructive Biomaterials and Additive Manufacturing Laboratory.

Nicolas is now pursuing his MS in engineering management at NJIT.

“I would like to thank donors for supporting me in the ACS Scholars Program, which helped me get my foot in the door for internship interviews. And the scholarship funds that were provided to me through the program allowed me to focus on my academics and excel in my studies.”



Stephanie Reyes Munoz
Pennsylvania State University
ACS Scholar 2019–2022

Stephanie Reyes Munoz earned a bachelor's degree in chemistry at Pennsylvania State University in May 2022.

Prior to enrolling at Penn State in the fall of 2020, she attended Susquehanna University in Selinsgrove, Pennsylvania. During summer 2020, she participated in University of Washington's Clean Energy Bridge to Research Program.

Stephanie is now working at MilliporeSigma as a quality control chemist.

“I want to thank donors for supporting me in the ACS Scholars Program, which helped me fund my education, set goals, and stay on track to pursue a career in the chemistry field. Thanks to the program, I was able to develop a passion for pharmaceuticals and analytical chemistry!”



Tiffany Kalu
Harvard University
ACS Scholar 2020–2024

Tiffany Kalu is a junior at Harvard University, majoring in environmental science and engineering. She will graduate in May 2024.

During summer 2022, Tiffany participated in a ten-week research experience as part of the Columbia-Amazon SURE program. Working in Columbia’s Department of Earth & Environmental Engineering under the guidance of Professor Thanos Bourtsalas, she investigated how municipal solid waste incineration ash could be used in making clay-fired bricks.

Since August 2021, Tiffany has been an intern in the Harvard Office for Sustainability. She was valedictorian of her 2020 graduating class at DeSoto High School in Texas.

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Victor Schiller
New Mexico Institute of Mining & Technology
ACS Scholar 2020–2024

Victor Schiller is pursuing a bachelor's degree in chemistry at New Mexico Institute of Mining & Technology.

On campus, he works in Dr. Gayan Rubasinghe's environmental chemistry research group. Recently, he helped to collect data on the atmospheric digestion of coal fly ash and the fertilization of diatoms.

Victor plans to earn a master's degree at New Mexico Tech before pursuing a research career in industry. Eventually, he hopes to establish a teaching career in academia.

“I would like to thank donors for their investment in me through the ACS Scholars Program, which has given me the financial freedom to pursue more research during my busy school year.”



Victoria Diaz
California State University, Long Beach
ACS Scholar 2020–2022

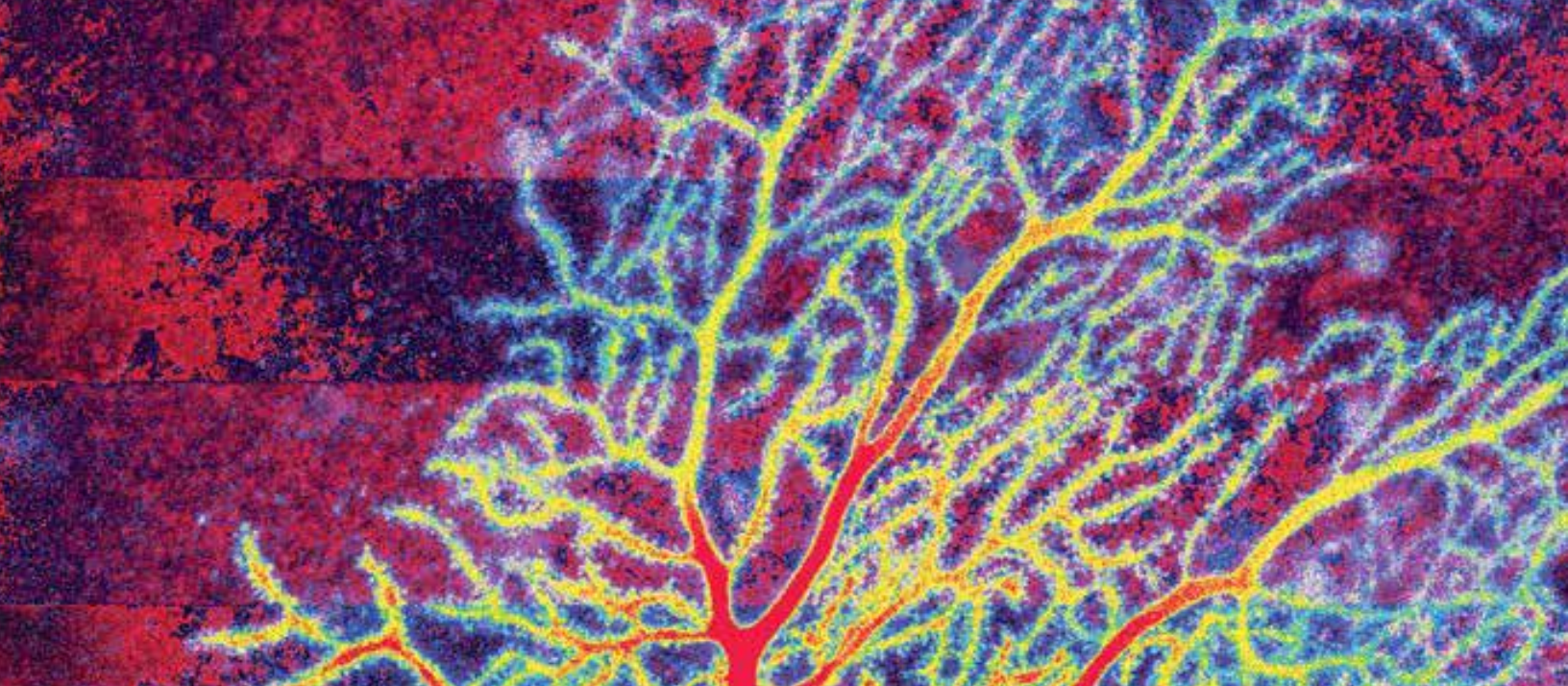
Victoria Diaz earned a bachelor's degree in chemical engineering from California State University, Long Beach in May 2022. Previously, she earned an associate's degree in natural sciences and mathematics from Santa Rosa Junior College in 2020.

Victoria was a National Science Foundation undergraduate researcher for two summers, first studying localized temperature in gold nanostructures at the University of Washington in 2018, and later studying the recovery of rare Earth elements at Georgia Institute of Technology in 2019.

She is a Great Minds in STEM Chevron Scholar and was accepted into Cal State's Ronald E. McNair Post-Baccalaureate Achievement Program, and its Sally Casanova Pre-Doctoral Program.

Victoria is now pursuing a PhD in chemical engineering at the University of California, Santa Barbara. She will receive full funding for her graduate education from the university's Racial Justice Fellowship.

“The ACS Scholars Program played a tremendous role in my academic journey because it validated my belonging in a higher education setting. Although the scholarship provided much-appreciated funding, being part of the ACS Scholars Program meant a great deal more to me than money. I am proud to be acknowledged as a leader within my community and a female chemistry role model for future generations because of this program. So, I want to thank donors a million times over for sponsoring me. I am incredibly excited for this next chapter in my life as I pursue my PhD and I hope to prove that donors made a solid investment in me through the ACS Scholars Program!”



FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT:

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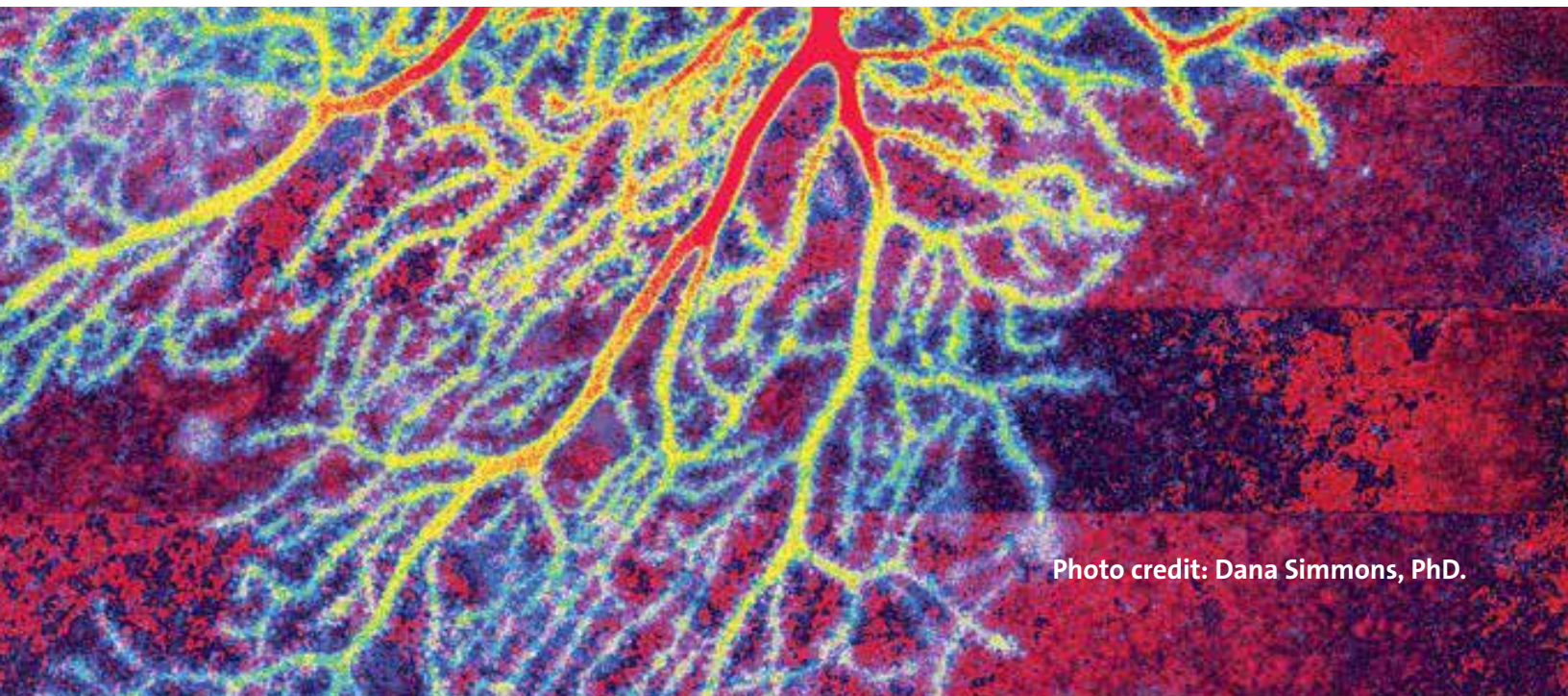


Photo credit: Dana Simmons, PhD.