# NAKAYLA N. LAWSON

nakayla.nl@gmail.com | 667-415-2063

#### **EDUCATION AND DISTINCTIONS**

McDaniel College Westminster, MD

Bachelor of Arts in Molecular Biology and Spanish

June 2025

**Baltimore City College** 

Baltimore, MD

International Baccalaureate Program

GPA: 3.80 unweighted, 5.03 weighted; Top 10%

June 2021

### LAB & RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

### Dr. Cheng Huang - Molecular Cloning of Neuerexin3b with Zebrafish RNA

Westminster, MD

May 2024-July 2024

- Designed primers for Neurexin family of genes using a genetic database to support cloning process
- Executed laboratory techniques, including RT-PCR, PCR, ligation, transformation, nanodrop, and bioinformatics
- Mentored students in performing *in situ* hybridization and probe synthesis with zebrafish embryos

# Dr. P. Krishnamurthy – Understanding the Role of Neurotrophic Receptors in Immune Cells Birmingham, AL

June 2023-July 2023

- Gained skills handling laboratory animals and other molecular lab techniques such as western blotting, gel electrophoresis, live cell extraction, cell culturing, RNA isolation and quantification, protein sonication, and RTaPCR
- Mentored students in lab with molecular techniques and concepts

# Dr. Cheng Huang - The Minimal Length of an In Situ Hybridization Probe

Westminster, MD

*May 2022-July 2022* 

- Performed and analyzed In Situ hybridization to visualize gene expression in zebrafish embryos with Zeiss microscope
- Performed other lab techniques such as devolking embryos under a microscope and shadowed probe synthesis

### Dr. Randy Morrison - Tropical Marine Biology Lab

Great Exuma, Bahamas

Scuba Diver

**Tutor** 

January 2022

- Explored and identified ocean life of Great Exuma and San Salvador
- Toured San Salvador to learn history of Bahamas

# Summer Academic Research Experience – Johns Hopkins University

Baltimore, MD

June 2020- July 2020

- Analyzed and observed proteins and their functions using online simulation program
- Shadowed meeting with cancer researchers and principal investigators at Johns Hopkins about new cell research and their ability to sense, allowing them to transform from benign to malignant

#### JOB & INTERNSHIP EXPERIENCE

### **McDaniel College Writing Center**

Westminster, MD

August 2022-Present

- Teach and support students with writing material
- Plan events to involve the Writing Center with the community as Chair of Outreach Committee

### **McDaniel College Biology Department**

Westminster, MD

Peer Mentor

August 2023-December 2023

- Collaborated with professor and first year students to aid in "Scientific Thinking Strategies"
- Guided and supported first year students to acclimate to college environment

# **McDaniel College Chemistry Department**

Westminster, MD

Teaching Assistant

August 2023-December 2023

• Aided professor and students in a general chemistry lab

### "Art of Medicine" Internship

Baltimore, MD

Clinical Intern

June 2019-July 2019

Nakayla Lawson Page 1

- Shadowed healthcare providers for 5 weeks across Johns Hopkins Medicine campuses and other hospitals in Baltimore
- Completed rigorous clinical assignments and engaged in weekly discussions regarding medical techniques, clinical ethics, and health career paths

### **ACTIVITIES & LEADERSHIP**

### **University of Maryland Medical Center**

Baltimore, MD

Volunteer

January 2024-Present

- Assisted nurses in Shock Trauma Unit to prepare operation room for surgery and run blood samples
- Observed 75+ hours of surgery

### **MERIT Health Leadership Academy**

Baltimore, MD

MERIT Scholar

Month 2018-Present

- 1 of 30 students accepted into the 3-year longitudinal program for Baltimore City students interested in health care professions who come from populations underrepresented in medicine.
- Participated in weekly courses focused on health equity, leadership development, science literacy, research proficiency, and college/career preparedness

### **Preparation for Graduate and Medical Education**

Birmingham, AL

PARAdigm Scholar

June 2023-July 2023

- Shadowed University of Alabama medical professionals for 6 weeks across at Birmingham area hospitals in Emergency Department and Radiology reading rooms
- Prepared for MCAT with courses and practice tests with MSTP students

**Remote Area Medical Clinic** 

Baltimore, MD

Volunteer

September 2019

- Provided free vision medical services by administering an eye test, and determining results to help find glasses
- Helped with giving out healthy food options for people in need

# **Baltimore City College "Doctors of Tomorrow" Club**

Baltimore, MD

Co-Founder

April 2019-May 2020

- Aided Baltimore City high school students who are aspiring to be in the healthcare field
- Exposed students to different career opportunities and provided them with possible internships and tips

Esperanza Center Baltimore, MD

Volunteer November 2019

• Tutored, taught and translated English for Spanish-speaking students in Baltimore City

# PROJECTS & PRESENTATIONS

# Annual Biomedical Research Conference for Minoritized Scientists

Phoenix, AZ

Poster Presenter: "Understanding the Role of Neurotrophic Receptors in Immune Cells"

November 2023
Birmingham, AL

# **University of Alabama's 3-Minute Thesis**

*Oral Presenter: "The role of p75*<sup>NTR</sup> in Inflammation"

July 2023

# **University of Alabama Exposition**

Poster Presenter: "Understanding the Role of Neurotrophic Receptors in Immune Cells"

Birmingham, AL

July 2023

### McDaniel's Annual Academic Symposium

Oral Presenter: "The Minimal Length of an In Situ Hybridization probe"

Westminster, MD

May 2023

### McDaniel's Symbiosis-Ecology Joint Research Symposium

Poster Presenter: 'Bacteria Extraction from Sea Pork''

Westminster, MD
November 2022

### **Annual Biomedical Research Conference for Minoritized Scientists**

Project Contributor: "The Minimal Length of an In situ Hybridization Probe"

Anaheim, CA November 2022

### **MERIT's Annual Research Symposium**

Poster Presenter: "Breast cancer in African American women"

Baltimore, MD April 2019

### Johns Hopkins C.A.R.E.S. Symposium

Baltimore, MD

Nakayla Lawson Page 2

### **HONORS & AWARDS**

### **Beta Beta Biological Honor Society**

October 2024

Achieved superior academic records and indicated special aptitude and major interest in the life sciences

### The Gordon B. Shelton '68 Award for Excellence in the Life Sciences

November 2024

• Demonstrated academic distinction in the life sciences and service to the college community

### **Baltimore City College MYP Certificate**

May 2019

• Completed 75+ hours of service learning, IB Personal Project on PTSD in teens, and 50+ hours of tennis and track

#### **Recognition for Research Poster Excellence**

April 2019

• Awarded at MERIT's 9th Annual Research Symposium

#### **Award for Academic Excellence**

May 2019

• Earned 750+ points on Algebra I Parce, and English II Parce

### REFERENCES

### Stacy Kincaid, B.A in Political Science, M.A in Secondary Education

Baltimore City College High School, *Spanish Teacher* Sra.kincaid@baltimorecitycollege.us

### Prasanna Krishnamurthy, MVSc, PhD, FAHA

Professor & Director of Graduate Studies, *Principal Investigator* Prasanak@uab.edu, 205-934-6691

Nakayla Lawson Page 3