

Progress Report



The SNUCMAA-NA Scholarship has meaningfully strengthened my academic development during a pivotal stage of my undergraduate education. As a senior at the University of California, Berkeley, pursuing degrees in Bioengineering and Chemical Biology with a minor in Data Science, I am currently preparing for graduate study and a career at the intersection of biotechnology, computational biology, and translational medicine. This scholarship has allowed me to devote focused attention to research, advanced coursework, and professional preparation without the additional financial pressures that often accompany senior year and graduate school planning.

The scholarship funds were primarily used to support research-related expenses and academic development. During this period, I have been conducting stem cell and biomaterials research at Bakar Labs QB3, where I work on polymer-based cell encapsulation systems and bioreactor-scale process optimization. The financial support enabled me to reduce part-time work commitments and dedicate additional hours to experimental design, data analysis, and manuscript preparation. This work integrates wet-lab experimentation with computational modeling, strengthening both my experimental rigor and quantitative skills.

In addition, the scholarship supported conference preparation and graduate school application costs. As I prepare to pursue a Master of Science in Quantitative Biology and Bioengineering, I have focused on deepening my training in computational genomics, machine learning applications in biology, and systems-level modeling. The scholarship alleviated financial constraints and allowed me to apply broadly and strategically to programs that align with my long-term goal of contributing to translational biomedical research and public health innovation.

Beyond direct academic expenses, the scholarship has provided psychological and professional encouragement. Knowing that members of the SNUCMAA-NA community believe in my potential has reinforced my responsibility to pursue excellence not only for personal

advancement, but also for collective impact. The investment made in my education motivates me to approach my research with greater discipline and long-term purpose.

Looking ahead, I envision using my training to contribute to biomedical innovation in areas such as regenerative medicine, computational drug design, and biosecurity applications. My long-term goal is to bridge engineering principles with biological systems to develop scalable, accessible therapeutic technologies. However, technical achievement alone is not sufficient. I hope to mentor first-generation and international students navigating STEM fields, particularly those who, like me, had to adapt to new educational systems and environments during formative years.

In the future, I plan to support scholarship programs similar to SNUCMAA-NA, both financially and through mentorship. I believe that sustainable academic communities are built when recipients become contributors. By investing in students who demonstrate resilience, intellectual curiosity, and commitment to service, we create generational cycles of opportunity.

I am deeply grateful for the continued support of the SNUCMAA-NA Scholarship. The funding has directly enhanced my scholarly development and strengthened my preparation for advanced study and leadership in biotechnology. I look forward to honoring this investment through meaningful research, ethical professional conduct, and a lifelong commitment to serving others in need.