

Amanda Rocker



Research Project(s):

- "The potential link between a connexin41.8 gene mutation and peripheral neuropathy"
- "The migration of sensory neurons follows chemical-genetic β -cell ablation"

Research Mentor(s):

- Dr. Jessica Clark

Publication(s):

- In preparation, "The effects of a chemical-genetic β -cell ablation model on the peripheral nervous system in *Danio rerio*"

Conference(s):

- Northeast Regional Honors Conference – "The potential link between a connexin41.8 gene mutation and peripheral neuropathy"
- Salisbury University Student Research Conference – "The potential link between a connexin41.8 gene mutation and peripheral neuropathy"
- Guerrieri Undergraduate Research Summer Program Presentation - "The migration of sensory neurons follows chemical-genetic β -cell ablation"

Grant(s):

- Henson Undergraduate Research Grant \$350

Award(s):

- University Student Academic Research Award \$319
- Guerrieri Undergraduate Research Summer Program Award \$3,500 stipend and \$1,000 research grant

Major(s): Biology

Minor(s): Chemistry and Psychology

Career Goals: I aspire to become a neuroscientist studying traumatic injury and regeneration of the central nervous system (brain and spinal cord) with the aim of understanding the progression of these events and developing treatments for those afflicted. I am most interested in a position as a researcher at an organization such as the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke of the NIH.

How has engaging in undergraduate research impacted your academic success?

Conducting research from the beginning of my undergraduate career has allowed me to develop lab skills and knowledge that I have been able to carry into my courses across different disciplines, ranging from biology to statistics. Most importantly, from this opportunity I have found a love and passion for the field, which has allowed me to solidify my decision to pursue a career in neuroscience research.

How has Salisbury University helped you to achieve your academic and professional goals?

I believe Salisbury University is a school of great opportunity and experiences, thanks to the support from different facets of the University. As a student in the Thomas E. Bellavance Honors College, I was encouraged to join a research lab as an undergraduate, and was able to attend the Northeast Region Honors Conference with the aid and support that came through the college. I was also able to experience my first study abroad trip, as well as my first time in a plane, to Iceland through a Norse Literature Honors course. My research mentor, Dr. Jessica Clark, welcomed me into her lab as a first day freshman, and has been a strong supporter of my passion for research, teaching me to become a successful scientist. Additionally, I completed my Honors thesis project through the summer research program, funded by the Guerrieri foundation, which I will also submit for publication.