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THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA



June 2025

Record-breaking KEYS Research Internship class with a Phoenix cohort



Hello Caroline,

The 2025 KEYS Research Internship is in full swing! We've welcomed our largest cohort yet, with 65 high school students now engaged in hands-on research alongside University of Arizona mentors. This year also marks the launch of our **inaugural Phoenix cohort**, where six interns are working with BIO5 members at the U of A College of Medicine – Phoenix.

We're also looking forward to two special events in July: **BIO5 Inspiring Women in STEM on July 12**, celebrating the impact of women in science, and the **KEYS Research Internship Showcase on July 18**, where our interns will present their summer research projects. Both events are free and open to the public—we'd love for you to join us.

In this issue, we're spotlighting the BIO5 members selected for the 2025 Big Idea Challenge, exploring how AI and sensor technology are shaping the future of preventative health care, and sharing some exciting accomplishments from our KEYS alumni.

Featured Stories



2025 KEYS Research Internship kicks off with record-breaking cohort

Sixty-five Arizona high school students begin a summer of intensive research across Tucson, Phoenix and online.

[READ MORE](#)



KEYS Internship welcomes first Phoenix cohort

The KEYS Research Internship reaches Arizona's largest city, connecting six local students with hands-on research and dedicated University of Arizona College of Medicine – Phoenix faculty mentors.

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Upcoming



Women in STEM 2025

July 12, 11:30 p.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Thomas W. Keating Building Room 103 & Zoom

Come listen to a panel of inspiring researchers from cross-disciplinary STEM fields share their unique journeys. All are welcome!

[Registration & Information](#)



KEYS Internship Showcase 2025

July 18, 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Health Sciences Innovation Building

Join us in celebrating the 2025 KEYS interns from across Arizona, including the inaugural Phoenix cohort, and exploring the research projects they've conducted alongside top scientists in University of Arizona labs.

[More Information](#)



Research & Innovation Showcase 2025

October 14, 2:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Thomas W. Keating Building Lobby & Room 103

We welcome all University of Arizona faculty, students, and staff to present their research to promote interdisciplinary research collaboration across the university.

[More Information](#)

In The News



Six teams selected as awardees of the inaugural University of Arizona Big Idea Challenge

BIO5 members **Solange Duhamel**, **Amelia Gallitano-Mendel**, **Nirav Merchant**, **Cristian Roman Palacios**, **Vignesh Subbian**, and **Shu-Fen Wung** are part of three



Smart sensors and smarter health: How AI and wearables are reimagining preventive health care

BIO5 members **Elise Erickson** and **Esther Sternberg** are helping turn everyday wearables into powerful tools for proactive health. From smart rings to predicting when labor

teams selected for the 2025 Big Idea Challenge, leading bold projects in health and space science.

[Read in Office Research & Partnerships](#)



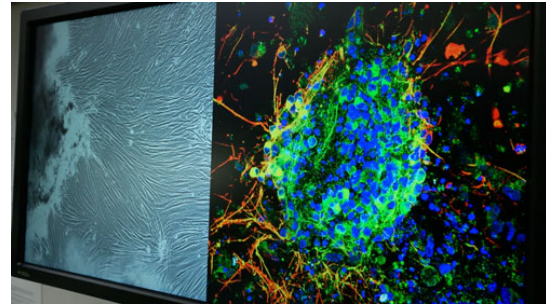
CoVHORT research study on COVID hits 5-year anniversary milestone

More than 9,000 Arizonans have signed up for the study that now helps guide research on Long COVID symptoms and treatments, thanks to BIO5 members **Kristen Pogreba-Brown, Leslie Farland,** and their team.

[Read in Zuckerman College of Public Health](#)

and measuring stress levels in nature, their work combines AI and sensors to better understand the body, before symptoms appear.

[Read in U of A Health Sciences](#)



Good Neural News

Parkinson's disease is the second-most common neurodegenerative disease in the United States, and BIO5 member **Lalitha Madhavan** is one of several University of Arizona researchers addressing some of the most understudied and least understood aspects of the disease.

[Read in Arizona Alumni](#)

Behind-the-Scenes



Two KEYS alumni among 2025 Flinn Scholars

We're thrilled to share that **Adam Bedeir** (KEYS '23) and **Jishnu Nayak** (KEYS '24) have been named Flinn Scholars—one of Arizona's highest academic honors for high school students! Both will be joining the University of Arizona in fall 2025.

This year marks a standout moment for KEYS, with four alumni named Flinn finalists: Adam, Jishnu, Katherine Lam (KEYS '23), and Avery-Shalom Valencia (KEYS '23).

Adam and Jishnu are among 10 Flinn Scholars statewide who chose U of A, where they'll be part of the W.A. Franke Honors College. Both credit their KEYS research experience as an important stepping stone on their path to this achievement.

We're so proud of all our KEYS alumni. Congrats to these outstanding students! 🎉 🎓

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Land Acknowledgment

We respectfully acknowledge the University of Arizona is on the land and territories of Indigenous peoples. Today, Arizona is home to 22 federally recognized tribes, with Tucson being home to the O'odham and the Yaqui. The university strives to build sustainable relationships with sovereign Native Nations and Indigenous communities through education offerings, partnerships, and community service.