

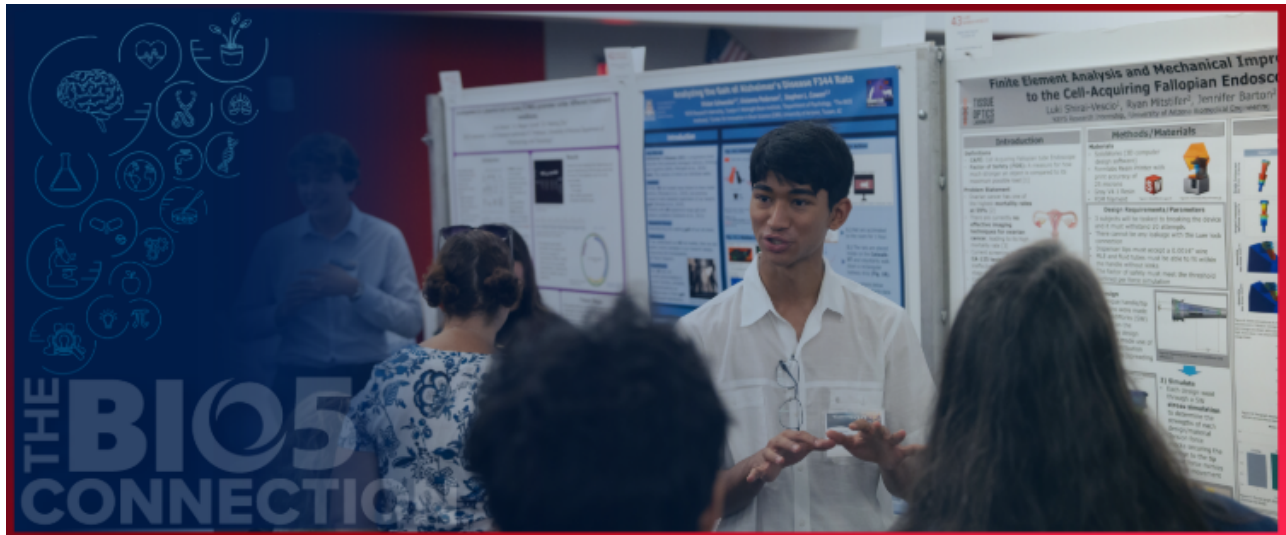
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THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA



Summer 2026

A milestone summer for the KEYS Research Internship



Hello Caroline,

Every summer we have the immense joy to host the high school students participating in the Keep Engaging Youth in Science Research Internship. Seeing those students participating in research, being mentored by U of A researchers, and growing as scientists is one of my favorite parts of the year. This year we also celebrated KEYS' 20th anniversary and its vital role at the heart of BIO5.

We've just wrapped our 2026 cohort, and this edition of the newsletter looks back on the accomplishments of this year's interns as well as of the 20 years of the program. You can learn about the powerful impact of [the projects of seven of this year's interns](#), catch up with a [KEYS alumna \(class of 2018\) who is now a mentor herself](#), see how [KEYS contributes to several BIO5 research teams](#), and relive (or experience for the first time) the [research showcase and closing ceremony](#).

I, and the entire BIO5 team, are so proud of these interns and alumni—they are

truly the future of the field. I hope you'll join me in congratulating this year's interns as they complete this journey and begin their next adventures.

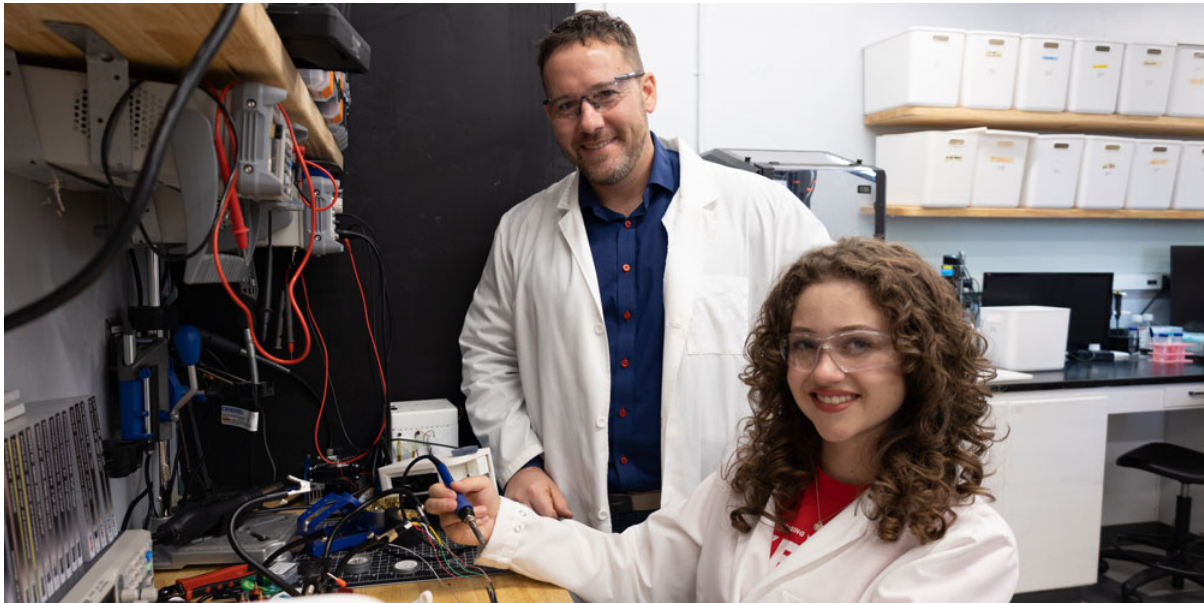
With gratitude,

Vignesh Subbian

Interim Director, BIO5 Institute

P.S. If you would like to help grow and nurture KEYS, please consider a [**donation to our KEYS to the future fund.**](#) This program is made possible in large part thanks to generous contributions from our community.

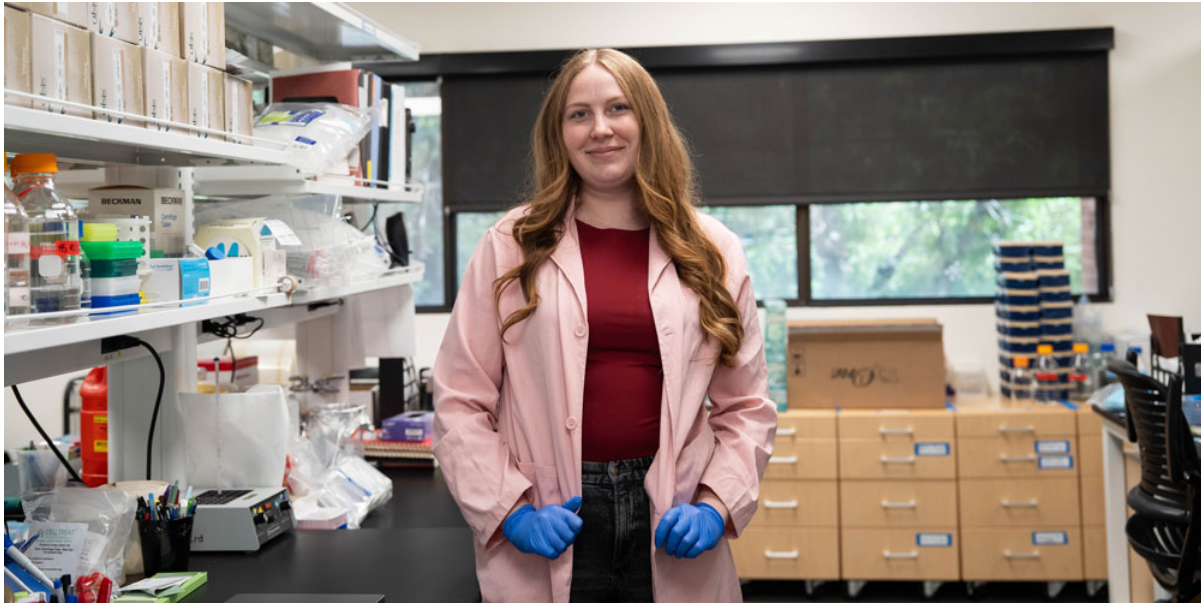
Featured Stories



Inside KEYS 2026: Building Arizona's next generation research workforce

Through the BIO5 Institute's KEYS Research Internship, high school students don't spend the summer observing science—they become part of it. Read seven of their stories.

[READ MORE](#)



Coming full circle

How one summer in the BIO5 Institute's KEYS Research Internship helped Alexis Cruickshank-Taylor find her place in science—and inspired her to help others find theirs.

[READ MORE](#)



What happens when you trust high school students with research?

For 20 years, faculty mentors in the BIO5 Institute's KEYS Research Internship have welcomed Arizona high school students into their laboratories, where they've found that students arrive ready to contribute from day one, ask thoughtful questions and strengthen their research teams.

[READ MORE](#)

Photo Gallery: 2026 KEYS Research Showcase

Hundreds gathered at the Health Sciences Innovation Building on July 17 to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the BIO5 Institute's Keep Engaging Youth in Science (KEYS) Research Internship and the achievements of 58 interns from across Arizona.

[READ MORE](#)

Upcoming



Research & Innovation Showcase 2026

October 13, 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](#)

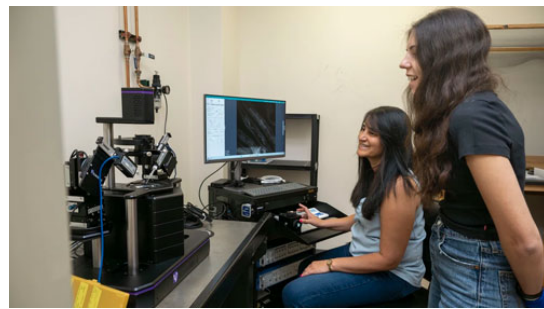
In The News



University of Arizona awards nearly \$1M to advance AI-driven health research

The University of Arizona awarded nearly \$1 million in seed funding to 12 transdisciplinary teams, including BIO5 member **Travis Wheeler**, to develop AI tools to improve diagnosis, treatment, patient care and medical training.

[Read in Research & Partnerships](#)



By wiretapping the conversation between gut and brain, U of A researcher hopes to change the discussion around healthy eating

Supported by a Pew Biomedical Scholar award, BIO5 member **Maya Kaelberer** is exploring how the gut communicates with the brain to influence food choices and healthy eating.

[Read in UA News](#)



U of A materials scientist wins \$1.88M to mimic red blood cells

BIO5 member **Minkyu Kim** received \$1.88 million to develop synthetic materials that mimic red blood cells, supporting new approaches for treating disease and improving human health.

[Read in UA News](#)



KEYS Research Program celebrates 20 years at University of Arizona

KEYS student Fatima Al Zubaidi is gaining hands-on bone cancer research experience at the University of Arizona, highlighting how the BIO5 Institute's program is preparing Arizona's next generation of scientists as it celebrates 20 years.

[Read in KOLD](#)

Behind-the-Scenes



Building a career in science

More than 75 students, researchers and community members joined the BIO5 Institute in person and online for the 2026 Inspiring Careers in Research event on July 1.

Formerly known as BIO5 Inspiring Women in STEM, the event has expanded to welcome anyone interested in science and research, bringing together researchers at different career stages to share their experiences and encourage the next generation.

This year's keynote speaker and panelists spoke candidly about overcoming setbacks, embracing uncertainty and building fulfilling careers in research.

Thank you to everyone who joined us—and to Bayer Marana Innovation Center for sponsoring this event and supporting the next generation of researchers. [See more photos.](#)

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