



**Weill Cornell Medicine**  
Physiology, Biophysics  
& Systems Biology

The Graduate Program in Physiology, Biophysics and Systems Biology (PBSB)  
The Weill Cornell Graduate School of Medical Sciences (WCGS)  
1300 York Avenue  
New York, NY 10065  
<http://pbsb.med.cornell.edu/>

**WCGS - PBSB 2025 Matriculated Students**

**Name / Photo**

**Research Interests**



**Joyce Chen**  
[joc4031@med.cornell.edu](mailto:joc4031@med.cornell.edu)

B.S. in Biochemistry  
Stony Brook University

My broad research interests are mainly focused on the relationship between protein structure, function, and human disease. I am fascinated by how minor structural perturbations can impair cellular function and contribute to disease. I hope to explore research that uncovers disease mechanisms and informs treatment development.



**C. Cole Honeycutt**  
*MD-PhD Student*  
[cch4009@med.cornell.edu](mailto:cch4009@med.cornell.edu)

B.S. in Biochemistry  
Duke University

I am interested in studying the function of proteins in the human virome. By integrating structural bioinformatics, functional genomics, and protein biochemistry, I hope to begin to peer into the vast space of viral proteins and uncover their interactions, both beneficial and deleterious, with human physiology.



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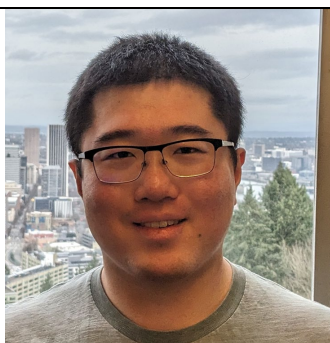
**Research Interests**



**Carolyn (Carli) Kaleta**  
[cka4004@med.cornell.edu](mailto:cka4004@med.cornell.edu)

B.S. in Quantitative Biology  
University of Southern California

I am interested in computational approaches to the many facets of cancer research. I am particularly excited by machine learning approaches to clinical decision support and precision medicine, as well as liquid biopsy for early detection. I'm also fascinated by the underlying biology of cancer, including carcinogenesis and cancer cell metabolism.



**Haoyuan (Tommy) Shi**  
[has4035@med.cornell.edu](mailto:has4035@med.cornell.edu)

B.A. in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology  
Reed College

My research interests are centered on how protein function is modulated by structural and conformational dynamics. I am particularly interested in membrane-bound receptors where small conformational shifts drive large-scale functional changes. Additionally, I aim to understand how external factors, such as membrane composition and protein-protein interactions, alter these dynamic landscapes. Ultimately, I hope to apply a structural and biophysical methods to clarify the roles of membrane proteins in physiological processes.



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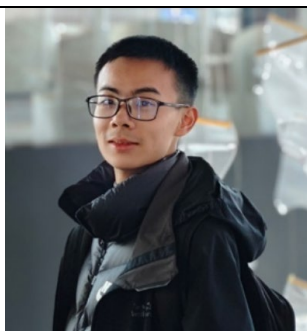
#### Research Interests



**Stella Whittaker**  
[saw4024@med.cornell.edu](mailto:saw4024@med.cornell.edu)

B.A. in Physics  
Cornell University

Broady, my research interests are in cellular organization and regulation of macromolecular structure. I am interested in how proteins come together to form larger structures, including polymers, and how that structure informs function and feedback in the cell by creating, regulating and organizing structural elements for tasks including trafficking, transport, and cellular motility. I additionally am interested in using my physics background to apply optical techniques to ask and answer biological questions.



**Runqi Xian**  
[rux4002@med.cornell.edu](mailto:rux4002@med.cornell.edu)

B.S. in Chemistry  
Sichuan University

M.S. in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology  
Institute of Biophysics, Chinese Academy of Sciences

My research interests are mainly in membrane protein physiology. I hope to study membrane proteins from a structural perspective, using cryo-EM to study their structure and reveal how they perform physiological functions like signal transduction and substrate transportation. Additionally, I'm also interested in developing drugs for those membrane proteins.



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**Thomas (Tommy) Yoon**  
[thy4001@med.cornell.edu](mailto:thy4001@med.cornell.edu)

B.A. in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology  
Reed College

My research background is primarily in microbial genomics. My broader research interests include functional genomics, multi omics, and immunology.

#### **PBSB-Houston:**



**Cheyenne Bright**  
[Cjb4003@med.cornell.edu](mailto:Cjb4003@med.cornell.edu)

B.S. in Biochemistry  
The University of Texas at Austin

M.S. in Diagnostic Genetics and Genomics  
The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center

My research interests are studying antimicrobial resistance in Enterococci, with an emphasis on the genomic mechanisms underlying ampicillin resistance. My work aims to develop diagnostic tools and predictive genomic classifiers that can be used in clinical settings to improve the detection and treatment of resistant infections. I am also interested in applying rule-based and machine learning approaches to translate genomic insights into better outcomes for patients.



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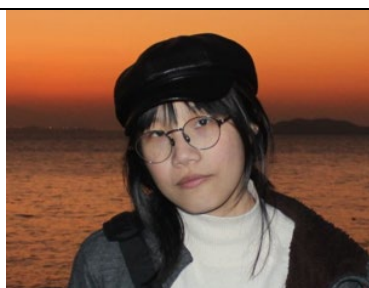


**Zixuan Li**  
[zil4007@med.cornell.edu](mailto:zil4007@med.cornell.edu)

B.S. in Biology, Double Major  
B.S. in Mathematics (concentrating in Statistics),  
Double Major  
Georgia State University

B.S.E. in Bioengineering  
Southwest Jiaotong University (SWJTU), Sichuan,  
China

My research interest is mathematical modeling in systems biology, to uncover molecular mechanisms through quantitative frameworks. I am specifically interested in modeling the growth of biofilms or tumors to investigate how microenvironmental factors influence their development and progression.



**Qixin "Amy" Zhou**  
[giz4010@med.cornell.edu](mailto:giz4010@med.cornell.edu)

B.S. in Biotechnology  
SUNY Cobleskill  
Jinling Institute of Technology  
(joint program)

M.S. in Quantitative Biology and Bioinformatics  
Carnegie Mellon University

My research interests include integrating bioinformation from and developing new methods of novel biomedical data, transferring emerging findings in machine learning to biological questions, and improving modeling methods of living systems.