

University of Louisville Pharmacology and Toxicology MS Incoming Class of 2024



Rachel Ferrill
BA in Biology; Transylvania University
Pharmacology and Toxicology MS

Hometown: Louisville, KY

Why did you choose to study Pharmacology & Toxicology/come to UofL?

I'm currently a research tech in the department and love the research we're doing so I wanted to further my education

Research interests: Cancer biology and drug development

Hobbies outside of school/work: I like hiking, reading, cooking, and catching a Racing Louisville game

UNIVERSITY OF
LOUISVILLE[®]

University of Louisville Pharmacology and Toxicology MS Incoming Class of 2024



Riley Freudenberger
BS in Neuroscience; UofL
Pharmacology and Toxicology MS

Hometown: Taylorsville, KY

Why did you choose to study Pharmacology & Toxicology/come to UofL?

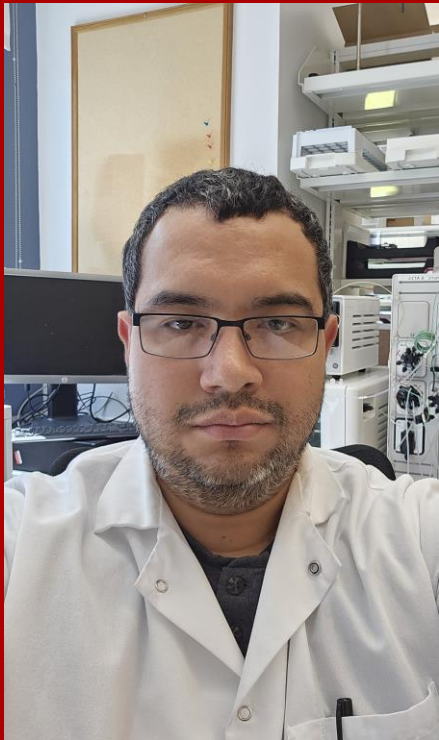
I loved my time at UofL while getting my BS in neuroscience, and I wanted to stick around to round out my understanding of the brain and behavior with a pharmacological perspective.

Research interests: Understanding how psychedelic substances impact neuroplasticity, behavior, and mental disorders

Hobbies outside of school/work: I like to paint in my free time!

UNIVERSITY OF
LOUISVILLE[®]

University of Louisville Pharmacology and Toxicology PhD Incoming Class of 2024



Ian Santisteban
BS in Biology; Indiana University Southeast
Pharmacology and Toxicology MS/PhD

Hometown: Sellersburg, IN/Lima, Peru

Why did you choose to study Pharmacology & Toxicology/come to UofL? As a staff member for the last 5 years, I have seen the level and quality of students coming out of the program since I worked alongside them. I also believe this program will give me all the necessary tools for a career in drug development, manufacturing and clinical trials.

Research interests: Drug development, manufacturing, and their transition to clinical trials

Hobbies outside of school/work: Traveling, hiking with family, playing guitar, and leisure programming

Anything else you would want included in an introduction about you?

I have many years as a UofL staff, and I know a lot about the location of equipment and who to talk to if anyone ever needs some expertise. We are all in this together so ask away if you ever need help of any sort.

UNIVERSITY OF
LOUISVILLE[®]

University of Louisville Pharmacology and Toxicology PhD Incoming Class of 2024



Jack Easley

**BS in Integrative Biology; University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign
Pharmacology and Toxicology MS/PhD**

Hometown: Champaign, IL

Why did you choose to study Pharmacology & Toxicology/come to UofL?

I believe toxicology is a great foundation to begin addressing issues facing our environment. One day, I hope my research will support improvements to the health of both human communities and marine ecosystems through building a better understanding of how toxicants present in the environment affect us all. I was intrigued by the research that the faculty here conduct.

Research interests: Marine mammal toxicology, microplastics, oceanic organic pollutants

Hobbies outside of school/work: I like hiking, drawing, swimming, spending time with friends, playing video games

UNIVERSITY OF
LOUISVILLE[®]

University of Louisville Pharmacology and Toxicology PhD Incoming Class of 2024



Luke Schroeder
BS in Biology (Genetics/Subcellular Biology) ; UofL
Pharmacology and Toxicology MD/PhD

Hometown: Louisville, KY

Why did you choose to study Pharmacology & Toxicology/come to UofL?

My first experience with the program came during undergrad while working in an exosome lab over the summer. I kept coming back and was fortunate enough to have time to explore with my mentor and design experiments on my own. The idea of continuing to search for treatments to diseases like cancer and better understand how the body functions gets me out of bed in the morning excited to learn more.

Research interests: Exosomes, EMT, 3D cell culturing, Cancer Crosstalk, allergies

Hobbies outside of school/work: I like to run at Waterfront Park, rock climb, and read fiction books

UNIVERSITY OF
LOUISVILLE[®]

University of Louisville Pharmacology and Toxicology PhD Incoming Class of 2024



Kasey Kropp
BS in Biology; Iowa State University
Pharmacology and Toxicology MS/PhD

Hometown: Inver Grove Heights, MN

Why did you choose to study Pharmacology & Toxicology/come to UofL?

I chose to study Pharmacology and Toxicology because I am fascinated with the human body and its mechanisms. Specifically, I am drawn to a career in medicinal research and drug development, and I believe this area of study will help me to achieve that long-term goal. I chose to come to the University of Louisville because I was enticed by the incorporation of both pharmacology and toxicology in the program. In addition to this, when I came to visit for a weekend in March, I felt it was the perfect place to continue my academic journey between the beautiful scenery, research opportunities, and the people that I met.

Research interests: As stated above, my long-term goal is to go into medicinal research and drug development. The area that I am most interested in is cancer and the mechanisms and molecular basis behind the disease. Going further, I am fascinated by the role of kinases in protein phosphorylation and their impact on cellular functions, as well as how their mutation to a constitutively active state promotes cancer. With a better understanding of the disease, I hope to develop effective targeted treatments to improve diagnoses and outcomes for patients in the future.

Hobbies outside of school/work: Spend time with friends, reading, binge-watching shows or movies, and staying active.

UNIVERSITY OF
LOUISVILLE[®]

University of Louisville Pharmacology and Toxicology PhD Incoming Class of 2024



Leighton Avera
Bsin Forensic Science; Eastern Kentucky University
Pharmacology and Toxicology MS/PhD

Hometown: London, KY

Why did you choose to study Pharmacology & Toxicology/come to UofL?

I originally wanted to do pharmacy and but I fell in love with research and this was the best way to combine my two academic interests and I would love to be able to contribute to a better future.

Research interests: I have done research on development of quicker and more efficient drug detection in samples and have also done research on how mixtures of carcinogens change the process of insulin resistance. I aim now to do drug development research.

Hobbies outside of school/work: Bowling, video games, music, hanging out with friends/family

UNIVERSITY OF
LOUISVILLE[®]

University of Louisville Pharmacology and Toxicology PhD Incoming Class of 2024

Hometown: Richmond, VA

Why did you choose to study Pharmacology & Toxicology/come to UofL?

I chose UofL because I completed my BS here and feel like I truly belong. My curiosity about the endocannabinoid system led me to discover PHTX. I like U of L's program because current research I've been doing, which explores the therapeutic relationship of CBD in helping conditions like alcoholic liver disease and anxiety.

Research interests: So far I've been interested in the many therapeutic effects of phytocannabinoids, particularly CBD.

Hobbies outside of school/work: I enjoy traveling, being in nature, spending time in & near water, arts and crafts, and reading



Ashly Bailey
BS in Neuroscience; UofL
Pharmacology and Toxicology MS/PhD

UNIVERSITY OF
LOUISVILLE[®]

University of Louisville Pharmacology and Toxicology PhD Incoming Class of 2024



Nicolli Butzke de Souza

**BS in Biomedicine; Univali - Universidade do Vale do Itajai
Pharmacology and Toxicology MS/PhD**

Hometown: Itajaí, Brazil

Why did you choose to study Pharmacology & Toxicology/come to UofL?

I am a science enthusiast and I have a especial interest for toxicology, I chose this program in the UofL because its a established and well-know program among the scientific community, has great courses and networking opportunities in a university that cares about my well-being and development with a balanced work-life basis.

Research interests: Cancer, and its mechanisms and repair pathways

Hobbies outside of school/work: Cooking, hiking, and playing pickleball

UNIVERSITY OF
LOUISVILLE[®]

University of Louisville Pharmacology and Toxicology PhD Incoming Class of 2024



Genell Jasper

**MS in in Forensic Toxicology and Analytical Genetics; University of Kentucky
Pharmacology and Toxicology MS/PhD**

Hometown: Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

Why did you choose to study Pharmacology & Toxicology/come to UofL?

After discovering my love for toxicology outside of forensics, I was able to meet some wonderful faculty members who showed the unique aspects of the program at UofL. I feel this is a perfect fit!

Research interests: Environmental/military toxin effect on the body, particularly cardiopulmonary effects.

Hobbies outside of school/work: I love to read, sing and play music, and snuggle my dog.

Anything else you would want included in an introduction about you? I
am a HUGE Disney nerd!

UNIVERSITY OF
LOUISVILLE[®]

University of Louisville Pharmacology and Toxicology PhD Incoming Class of 2024

Hometown: China

Why did you choose to study Pharmacology & Toxicology/come to UofL? When I applied for the PhD program, I visited UofL's website, and I learned about the courses in Pharmacology and Toxicology. I was interested in the courses they had designed and thought that the department would provide me with a comprehensive education with a mix of theoretical knowledge and practical skills. In addition, UofL has excellent research facilities and opportunities to work on cutting-edge projects, allowing me to contribute to the advancement of the field I'm interested in.

Research interests: My research interests are in organismal metabolism, and my current topic is atherosclerosis. I studied this area as a graduate student in China, and the overall metabolic changes in the body are amazing, so I hope to continue exploring this in-depth!

Hobbies outside of school/work: I enjoy various activities outside of work that help me relax and stay engaged. Some of these include: taking a walk in nature, listening to music, and traveling with my friends.



Nancy(Yu) Tian
MS Chinese Medicine;
Beijing University
Pharmacology & Toxicology MS/PhD

UNIVERSITY OF
LOUISVILLE[®]