



## **MSTP LEADERSHIP IN DIVERSITY FELLOWSHIP 2024 – 2025 RECIPIENTS**

The University of Minnesota MSTP is pleased to announce the 2024 – 2025 Leadership in Diversity Fellowship recipients. This fellowship program recognizes MSTP students who have demonstrated an exceptional commitment to diversity, equity and inclusion through leadership in initiatives that foster the program's commitment to creating a diverse, inclusive, equitable and just climate. Congratulations to the recipients!

### **Anisha Adke**



Anisha is studying the basic mechanisms of substance use disorders, with a specific focus on how neuropeptides can be harnessed to reduce the severity and impact of opioid withdrawal. Anisha is committed to understanding systemic injustices, to perpetually learning more about systemic inequities, and to fostering inclusive environments. In the MSTP, Anisha has been a mentor in the pre-MSTP Mentorship Program and served as JEDI Co-Chair from 2023-2024. As the current JEDI Chair, Anisha is working to establish a framework for restructuring JEDI with the goal of increasing individual engagement by encouraging other students to lead pre-existing initiatives and to expand JEDI activities. Anisha has worked with other students to coordinate WISM events, pilot the MSTP's Antiracism Curriculum, and coordinate the Physician-Scientist Networking Event. The program-wide sessions that Anisha has facilitated have focused on action-oriented education to spark future engagement and changed perspectives.

### **Kate Dembny**



Kate is utilizing advanced computational methods to understand network dysfunction seen in neurological and psychiatric disease and develop novel and innovative neuromodulatory techniques for treating them. Kate has served as a mentor in the pre-MSTP Mentorship Program and worked with other leaders of the program to develop a program curriculum. This work has helped expand diversity and access to MD/PhD programs nationally. As Co-Chair and Chair of the MSTP Student Advisory Committee, Kate advocated for program coverage of student fees and launched the Houses program in order to enhance inclusion and build community. Kate has also been working on graduate student unionization efforts. As a disability advocate, Kate worked with other students to facilitate an MSTP monthly meeting on combating ableism, presented a JEDI moment on accessibility, and been involved with Parkinson's disease community outreach with the Udall Center.

She will be participating in the University of Minnesota Critical Disability Studies Collective book club and will be working on a project with the Wayside Recovery Center in the Interprofessional Health Internships program.

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### **Guldamla Kalender**



Guldamla is investigating the neural mechanisms underlying human cognition and neuropsychiatric disorders by optimizing neuromodulation treatments using a multimodal approach, with a focus on neurostimulation timed to endogenous brain rhythms. Guldamla has worked to assist trainees from diverse backgrounds in establishing themselves in medicine and science without sacrificing their personal well-being. In the MSTP, Guldamla has served as Vice Chair and Chair of the Women in Science and Medicine (WISM) Committee and organized events aimed at advancing women's success in science, medicine and beyond. She is mentoring students in the MSTP pre-MSTP Mentorship Program and the APSA Mentorship Program. In the Medical School, Guldamla founded the Widening Access and Valuing Equity in Surgery (WAVES) Mentoring Program for women and underrepresented medical students interested in surgical specialties. Over 200 surgical mentors have been matched with University of Minnesota medical students and WAVES has developed a two year curriculum to foster mentor-mentee relationships. At the national level, Guldamla serves as the Research and Resident Events Liaison for the Women in Neurosurgery (WINS) National Committee.

### **John Roy Lozada**



John is employing functional genomics approaches to understand the contributions of natural killer (NK) cells in anti-tumor immunity and develop novel therapeutic strategies for cancer. John has been strongly committed to advancing efforts that provide inclusive mentorship to students in science and medicine. In the MSTP, John serves as Co-Chair of the Pre-MSTP Mentorship Program, which aims to provide longitudinal mentorship to students from diverse backgrounds interested in pursuing MD/PhD training. John also contributes to efforts that support Filipinx trainees in science and medicine by serving as the Education Committee Co-Chair for the Association of Filipinx Scientists in America (AFSA) and the Council of Young Filipinx American in Medicine (CYFAM). In AFSA, education efforts have included monthly talks featuring prominent Filipinx scientists, the development of a mentorship program, and the development of a narrative discussing efforts to promote a sense of belonging for Filipinx scientists. In CYFAM, John has contributed to the development of an educational pipeline for Filipinx students pursuing paths in medicine. He also has developed and facilitated case discussions that educate the community about the unique health risks and health management behaviors of Filipinx in the context of type 2 diabetes and cancer.