



Matthew Alexander Abikenari

MD Student with Scholarly Concentration in Molecular Basis of Medicine / Immunology, expected graduation Spring 2028

Bio

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Matthew received his undergraduate degree Summa Cum Laude from UCLA, where he conducted full-time basic and clinical neuroscience research on molecular mechanisms underlying neuropsychiatric and neurodegenerative disease. He then pursued a graduate degree in Clinical Neuroscience at the University of Oxford as The Queen's College Herbruck Scholar, an award granted to only one American student per year, completing a thesis on paraneoplastic autoimmunity and the genotypic and phenotypic architecture of meningiomas, alongside RNA sequencing and spatial-genomic analyses of malignant CNS tumors. As a medical student at Stanford University, he joined Dr. Michael Lim's laboratory, gaining extensive experience in in vitro and in vivo immunology, stereotactic tumor implantations, and high-throughput transcriptomics to define mechanisms of immunosuppression in glioblastoma. His family's experience with brain cancer continues to ground his work and deepen his commitment to understanding, and ultimately improving, neurosurgical oncology.

HONORS AND AWARDS

- Stanford-MIT Pars Equality Center Moghadam Research Scholar (2024), Pars Moghadam Foundation (2024)
- National Finalist for the ASCI Investigation-Physician-Scientist Support Foundation Award, American Society of Clinical Investigation (2025)
- Awarded the National Conquer Cancer Grant by ASCO to study Clinical Progression in Glioblastoma, American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO) (2025)
- Highest Dept Distinction on Dissertation of Paraneoplastic Autoimmunity in Cancer, University of Oxford Nuffield Dept of Clinical Neurosciences (2023)
- Internationally awarded the Hebruck Scholar of the Queen's College, University of Oxford, United Kingdom (2022)
- Inductee of the UCLA Honors Collegium for completion of two independent honors contract thesis, University of California, Los Angeles (2020)
- Recipient of the Robert W. Clement and Joseph L. Klein Jr. Endowed Scholarship, University of California, Los Angeles (2019)
- Recipient of Roman Colbert Medical Research Scholarship, Undergraduate Research Proposal (2018)
- American Chemical Society Outstanding Chapter Award, American Chemical Society (2018)

MEMBERSHIP ORGANIZATIONS

- AMSA: American Medical Student Association
- The Queen's College, University of Oxford, lifetime member
- American Chemical Society, Student Member
- Neurosurgery Interest Group, Co-Lead and Instructor

Publications

PUBLICATIONS

- **Inflammatory Markers of Geriatric Depression Response to Tai Chi or Health Education Adjunct Interventions.** *The American journal of geriatric psychiatry : official journal of the American Association for Geriatric Psychiatry*
Siddarth, P., Abikenari, M., Grzenda, A., Cappelletti, M., Oughli, H., Liu, C., Millillo, M. M., Lavretsky, H.
2023; 31 (1): 22-32
- **Minimizing the COVID-19 spread in hospitals through optimization of ventilation systems.** *Physics of fluids (Woodbury, N.Y. : 1994)*
Arjmandi, H., Amini, R., Kashfi, M., Abikenari, M. A., Davani, A.
2022; 34 (3): 037103
- **The values work of restorative ventures: The role of founders' embodied embeddedness with at-risk social groups** *Journal of Business Venturing Insights*
Awad, M., Sanchez, M., Abikenari, M. A.
2022; 18 (e00337)