

BERKELEY STUDENTS FIGHTING CANCER

Student Technology Fund supports Drug Discovery summer Workshop at CEND

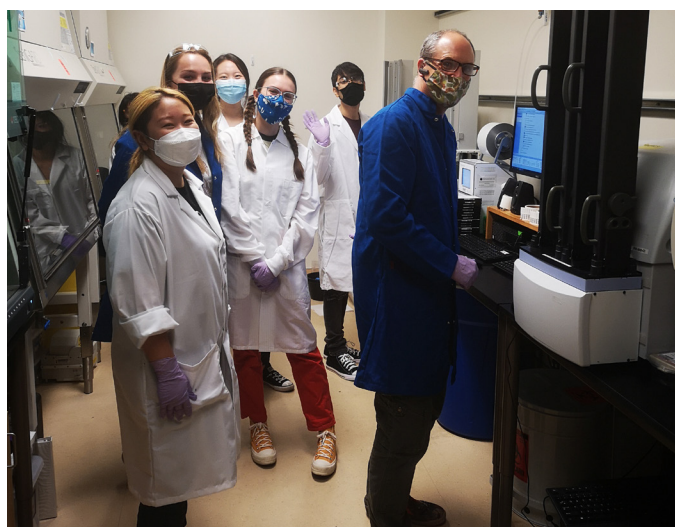
Program director Dr. Julia Schaletzky and Drug Discovery Workshop participants and their certificates of completion.

Thanks to funding by the [Student Technology Fund](#), the [UC Berkeley Drug Discovery Center](#) just hosted its first hands-on [Drug Discovery workshop](#), providing students experiential learning opportunities for drug discovery technologies, robotic instrumentation, methodologies, chemical library management, target validation, assay development, data analysis and data visualization. Students were very excited about the opportunity, and despite being an elective course in the last week of summer break, more than 60 applied. 13 undergraduate students participated, hailing from departments of chemistry, molecular and cell biology, applied mathematics and data science. Led by UCB Drug Discovery Center Director Eddie Wehri, Screening Scientist Sean Dixon and CEND Director Dr. Julia Schaletzky, students were able to try their hand at state-of-the-art drug discovery technologies, generating data for a highly relevant project. Together, they were executing a pilot screen for identification of “molecular glues” for cancer, a cutting-edge modality pioneered at UC Berkeley in the [Rape](#) and [Kuriyan](#) laboratories. “Practical training in complex technologies is critical to help students lose fear of leveraging robotics for their projects” Dr. Schaletzky says. “We believe in helping students try things and even if something breaks, we will fix it together – this empowers students, particularly those who do not think of themselves as engineers”. In just one jam-packed week, students gained skills important for job-readiness in the private sector, as well as critical insights about how to pursue new disease targets in Graduate school, postdoctoral projects, and potentially faculty careers. “I hoped to learn about where to start with Drug Discovery, career options and tech-

niques” said one of the participants, “I feel I did learn these things. It was a really interesting and enjoyable experience, very accessible”. “This program was probably the most fun I’ve had all year”, said another. With more than 90% of participants highly satisfied with the course, the Drug Discovery Center hopes to make the workshop an annual event and give students the skills to translate their basic research findings into new ways to treat disease.



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Drug Discovery Center Director Eddie Wehri and Drug Discovery Workshop participants.