



Dr. Afzal, Dr. Cheng, Dr. Velmeshev, Dr. Claudia Alberico, Ms. Lakeesha Bridges and students.



Dr. Zainab with her students Jaahnav Malluri and Kaavya Thillaivanan.

»» SCIENCE AND RESEARCH SUMMER PROGRAM

During June and July 2024, RCMI investigators Dr. Zainab Afzal, Dr. Qing Cheng, Dr. Nicole Velmeshev, Dr. Suresh Niture, and Dr. Somnath Mukhopadhyay provided an invaluable opportunity for local high school students by hosting them in their labs as part of North Carolina Central University's (NCCU) Science and Research Summer Program (SRSP). This program allowed students to immerse themselves in hands-on research across various fields, including development, neuroscience, and cancer research, significantly enhancing their interest in medical research.

This four-week SRSP experience meant students were able to rotate through labs at BBRI. They acquired essential lab skills and engaged in diverse mini-projects, working with model systems like zebrafish and mice and exploring various cancer cell lines.

Each week concluded with a joint meeting where students presented their work, discussing their backgrounds, motivations for pursuing science, troubleshooting their experiments, and outlining their individual project objectives. These collaborative sessions provided constructive feedback, boosted their presentation skills, and fostered a sense of community.

»» BACKPACK GIVEAWAY AND HEALTH FAIR

On Monday, August 5th, Henderson's Rural Community Resiliency Center hosted a successful Backpack Giveaway event from 1 PM to 4 PM, providing students with essential school supplies and focusing on their mental and physical well-being.

Students received free backpacks filled with stress balls, deodorant, journals, sunscreen, hand sanitizers, crayons, coloring books, and a list of local counseling clinics, generously donated by RCMI. These supplies aimed to prepare students for a successful school year both mentally and academically.

In addition to the backpack giveaway, RCMI provided free health assessments, including cholesterol, glucose, and blood pressure screenings. Informative handouts and engaging activities on children's health were available, covering topics such as the importance of sleep, physical activity, and healthy stress management.

Our continued partnership in community outreach events like this one significantly benefits the health and welfare of our community. Thank you to everyone who participated and contributed to the success of this event!



COMING SOON

- 08/08 - RCMI Retreat - Chapel Hill, NC.
- 08/09 - RCMI Retreat - Chapel Hill, NC.
- 08/14 - CARES Seminar - Research Triangle Park, NC.
- 08/28 - RCMI External Advisory Committee Meeting - Durham, NC.
- 09/07 - Back to School supply giveaway - Halifax, NC.
- 09/20 - NC Med Assist (Mobile Pharmacy event) - Scotland Neck, NC.
- 09/28 - Tillery Community Center - Tillery, NC.



For further information regarding event specifics such as location and hours, please refer to our virtual calendar.

We invite you to connect with us and share your updates, ideas, faculty publications and ongoing research endeavors. Your insights are invaluable to us as we strive to keep our community informed and engaged. Reach out to us today and let's collaborate!



[rcmi@nccu.edu](mailto:rcmi@nccu.edu)



[www.nccu.edu/rcmi](http://www.nccu.edu/rcmi)

Editor: Dayane Friedkin (RCMI Program Coordinator)



Dr. Claudia Alberico  
RCMI Program Manager



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Julius L. Chambers  
Biomedical/Biotechnology  
Research Institute