



Rachel Elias was born and raised in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. She attended Indiana University of Pennsylvania for her undergraduate studies. While pursuing her degree in Biology Education, she spent her free time as a biology tutor and was a member of the Biology Honors Program. After graduation, Rachel accepted a full-time job offer to be a genetic counseling assistant at Magee Women's Hospital, where she worked in prenatal, cancer and adult genetics. In her spare time, Rachel enjoys going to concerts, playing adult kickball and spending time with friends.



Cassidy Gagne is originally from Barrington, New Hampshire. She graduated from the University of Maine in Orono, Maine, where she majored in Psychology and minored in Biology. Cassidy worked as a research assistant in the Health, Aging, and Lifestyle Lab establishing a database of cognitive, motor, sensory, emotional and activity levels among middle-aged adults and college-aged adults. After graduation, she moved to Maryland to work as a Genetic Counseling Assistant at GeneDX. While in Maryland, she volunteered as a call specialist at the Mental Health Association of Frederick County and as a camp counselor at the Muscular Dystrophy Association Summer Camp. Cassidy likes to watch Netflix and movies, kayak, play with her dog and read in her free time.



Brooke Henry grew up in Manhattan, Kansas with her parents and older brother. She graduated from the University of Arkansas in Fayetteville, Arkansas where she obtained her Bachelors of Science in Biology and a minor in Spanish. She was also active in the Honors College and graduated with honors distinction. She performed undergraduate research at the U of A and defended a thesis on mitochondrial disease. In her free time, Brooke likes to cook, watch TV shows and enjoy the outdoors with her friends.



Traci Higgins grew up in Flower Mound, Texas. She attended the University of Arkansas in Fayetteville to earn her bachelor's degree in biological sciences. While in Fayetteville, she volunteered at the Veteran's Hospital and worked as a dance teacher at the Art of Motion. During her semester off after graduation, she got engaged and moved to Lafayette, Louisiana where she continued to teach dance. In her spare time you can find her reading, practicing photography, and spending time outside.



Morgan Nutter grew up in Abilene, Kansas. She graduated from Fort Hays State University in Hays, KS where she majored in Biological Sciences and minored in Chemistry. While at FHSU, Morgan participated in two undergraduate research projects focused on genetics. She has also volunteered her time by hosting a DKMS (Delete Blood Cancer) Drive while serving as the President of the National Society of Leadership and Success at FHSU. Morgan currently volunteers weekly with the Crisis Text Line serving as a Crisis Counselor to help those in crisis. In Morgan's free time, she enjoys traveling, sight-seeing, and relaxing at home with her husband, family, and friends.



Raven Paige was born in Kansas City, Kansas but shortly moved to Joplin, Missouri where she was raised. She graduated from Missouri Southern State University in Joplin where she majored in Biology and minored in Psychology. During her time at MSSU, Raven took part in extracurriculars including intramural sports, PSI CHI, Caduceus club, and is a proud Founder of the Women in Science Club. While in school, Raven worked as a Volleyball Coach and a Medical Scribe in a local emergency department. Raven also was heavily involved in her community, and gained peer-counseling experience through her leadership at College Heights Christian Church. She also volunteered to be a Crisis Counselor through the Crisis Text Line. During her free time, she loves to hang out with friends, play video games, and find the best deals at physical and online thrift stores.



Carson Smith was raised in Little Rock, Arkansas, where she graduated from the University of Arkansas at Little Rock with a major in Biology and minor in Psychology. During her time at UALR, Carson was a founding officer of the Pre-Health Club, volunteered at the Women & Children First Shelter as a Peacekeeper, and presented at the Student Research and Creative Works Expo. When she is not working or babysitting, Carson loves to kayak, explore the city and read.



Alyssa Williams was born and raised in Sioux Falls, South Dakota. She graduated from South Dakota State University in Brookings, South Dakota with a Bachelor of Science degree in Human Biology. While at SDSU, she researched the process of lipid droplet degradation and its connection to autophagy in murine macrophages to determine potential therapeutics for atherosclerosis. She also spent two years as a peer mentor for freshman in the Department of Biology and Microbiology, volunteered as a crisis counselor for Crisis Text Line, and fundraised for Children's Miracle Network through SDSU's dance marathon. Alyssa is always up for new adventure and loves to read, do puzzles, and spend time with friends and family in her free time.