

Kenya Barnes (11 August 2023)



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On Friday, August 11th, JOIN US to CELEBRATE a new generation of scientists at the Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences at the Icahn School of Medicine's [#SURP4US](#) Poster Session!

[Kenya Barnes](#), mentored by [Silvia De Rubeis](#), PhD, presents “Targeting corticoreticular neurons to assess the circuitry underlying DDX3X syndrome”.

Kenya Barnes is a rising senior studying neuroscience at the [University of Alabama at Birmingham](#) on a pre-MD/PhD track from Pensacola, FL.

Kenya first became interested in science and medicine after witnessing the various health disparities surrounding the city of Birmingham due to environmental racism plaguing the area. She began to get involved in research associated with minority health and had her research published in the Journal of Surgical Research and presented it at the Academic Surgical Congress.

As an undergraduate, Kenya continued to explore her interest in research by conducting research abroad at [KU Leuven](#) in Belgium in addition to research Dr. [Kirstie Cummings, PhD](#)'s lab at UAB where she studies the mechanisms associated with Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder and morphine administration in the medial prefrontal cortex.

Through her time in Dr. Cummings' lab in addition to her summer as a SURP student in the De Rubeis lab, Kenya has further developed a love for the intersectionality of science and medicine and hopes to pursue her MD/PhD so that she can further combine her passion for minority health, service, education, science, and medicine to better serve her community.

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