

Nicolas Lee

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Education

University of Oregon, Eugene, OR
BS in Biology
Minors in Chemistry, Economics
GPA: 3.88/4.0
Cum Laude

**September 2020 –
June 2024**

Research Experience

Research Technician (Postbaccalaureate)

June 2024 – Present

Basic Sciences Division, Fred Hutch Cancer Center

- Project: “Engineering centromere expansion to test meiotic drive in *Drosophila*”
- Faculty Advisor: Dr. Harmit S. Malik, PhD
- Investigating how the rapid evolution of centromeres and centromeric histones in *Drosophila* contributes to meiotic drive by testing the effects of artificially expanding centromeres with fly genetics, molecular genetics, and microscopy.

Undergraduate Researcher

September 2022 –

June 2024

Institute of Molecular Biology, University of Oregon

- Project: “Characterization of mutations that affect sex-specific thermotolerance of the synaptonemal complex in *C. elegans* germ cells”
- Faculty Advisor: Dr. Diana E. Libuda, PhD
- Studied how DNA is accurately repaired during germ cell development and characterized sexually dimorphic mutants based on heat-shock factors using *C. elegans* genetics and fluorescence microscope imaging.

Awards and Honors

Academic

- Phi Beta Kappa **2024**
- UO Summit Scholarship **2020-2024**
- UO Diversity Excellence Scholarship (academic achievement, contributes unique cultural perspective) **2023-2024**
- UO General University Scholarship (scholastic achievement) **2023**
- Paul and Helen Weiser Memorial Scholarship (academic excellence) **2023**
- Rod Capaldi Biology Scholarship (academic achievement) **2023**
- Clarence and Lucille Dunbar Scholarship (recognizes high achieving undergraduate in biology) **2023**
- Dean’s List **2020-2023**

Research Fellowship

- UROP Mini-grant (funding research under the mentorship of a University of Oregon faculty member) **2024**
- Hui Undergraduate Research Scholars Program (funding for undergraduates to engage in research and professional development) **2023-2024**
- Know, Understand, Experience: Islam, Middle East and Global Science (KUE, fully-funded scientific and cross-cultural program at King Abdullah University of Science and Technology) **2023**

Travel Awards

- Center for Undergraduate Research and Engagement Conference Travel Award **2023**
- Genetics Society of America Undergraduate Travel Award **2023**

Science Honors

- Genetics Society of America Poster Award Honorable Mention (The Allied Genetics Conference)

2024

Publications

Cahoon CK, Coleman K, Feingold C, Lee ND, Libuda DE. "Elevated temperatures cause a sex-specific regulation of the synaptonemal complex in *C. elegans* and *D. rerio*" (manuscript in prep 2025).

Presentations

Oral Presentations

"Teaching a Centromere to Drive." Research in Progress Seminars, Fred Hutch Cancer Center, September 2025.

"Teaching a Centromere to Drive." Research in Progress Seminars, Fred Hutch Cancer Center, April 2025.

"Characterization of mutations that affect sex-specific thermotolerance of the synaptonemal complex." Undergraduate Research Symposium, University of Oregon, May 2024.

Poster Presentations

"Teaching a Centromere to Drive." Basic Sciences Retreat, Fred Hutch Cancer Center, September 2025.

"Teaching a Centromere to Drive." Postbaccalaureate Scholar Symposium, Fred Hutch Cancer Center, June 2025.

"Teaching a Centromere to Drive." EVO-WIBO 2025, Blaine, WA, April 2025.

"Teaching a Centromere to Drive." 66th Annual Drosophila Research Conference, San Diego, CA, March 2025.

"Characterization of mutations that affect sex-specific thermotolerance of the synaptonemal complex." The Allied Genetics Conference (TAGC), Metro Washington, DC, March 2024.

Language Fluency

- English
- Spanish
- Korean

References

Dr. Harmit S. Malik, PhD (Current PI)
Howard Hughes Medical Institute Investigator
Professor and Associate Director of Basic Sciences Division
Fred Hutch Cancer Center (A2-201)
hsmalik@fredhutch.org

Dr. Diana E. Libuda, PhD (Undergraduate PI)
Associate Professor of Biology
Member, Institute of Molecular Biology
University of Oregon (Streisinger 375)
dlibuda@uoregon.edu

Dr. Cori K. Cahoon, PhD (Undergraduate Mentor)
Assistant Professor
Colorado State University
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