

NEWSLETTER

JAN 2026



TSGP NEWS

As we welcome you back from what we hope was a peaceful and restful break, we look forward to the new year and our commitment to great Science.

Our recruiting efforts for 2026/2027 are well-underway, and students can look forward to a number of seminars, modules, talks and more this semester! Keep an eye out for these updates.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Thursday Feb 19th

Student Dinner with Applicants

Friday Feb 20th

*Friday Feb 20th 2026
TSGP Admissions
and Recruiting Event*

March 30th & April 2nd

3rd Year Talks

AN UPDATE TO RECRUITING

CONTINUED ON PAGE 05



Co-DGS, Dr. Sean Lawler welcoming our applicants to Brown for the 2025 recruiting event.

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT:

DR. YUSUKE SUITA BRINGS HIS THERAPEUTIC PLATFORM TO INVENT@SC PROGRAM

Dr. Yusuke Suita is a cancer biologist advancing a novel local immunotherapy for pediatric brain tumors that combines protein-based immunotherapy, hydrogel delivery, and computational design. His work is conducted within the Invent@Seattle Children's Scholars Program under the mentorship of Drs. Jim Olson and Cole DeForest, with the goal of translating innovative science into meaningful clinical impact.

Dr. Suita's research trajectory is deeply informed by personal experience. A pivotal moment occurred when an experimental treatment dramatically extended his grandfather's life well beyond an initial one-month prognosis. Witnessing the effect of innovation on patient outcomes—and his grandmother's profound gratitude—solidified Dr. Suita's commitment to developing therapies for cancers that remain difficult to treat. His long-term vision is to help create a future in which childhood cancer is no longer feared, but effectively managed.

As part of Invent@SC, Dr. Suita aims to bring his therapeutic platform from concept to clinic, with plans to present both his scientific vision and treatment prototype to investors, supported by his clinical and biotech mentors. His canine clinical trials of local immunotherapy are supported by a \$1.5 million Andy Hill CARE Fund grant awarded to his mentor, Dr. Jim Olson. In collaboration with the Janean Fidel Lab at Washington State University,



Seattle Children's Hospital Campus, Exterior. Photo taken with permission from Invent@SC

Dr. Suita recently launched a canine trial and received the Best Poster Paper Award at the Biomaterials International Conference (July 2025).

Dr. Suita earned his PhD in Molecular Pharmacology and Physiology at Brown University, where he developed innovative cellular cancer traps for glioblastoma and machine-learning models to predict gene expression using epigenetic markers. He was also selected for the New England Medical Innovation Center MedTech Program, where his research pitch received recognition from potential investors.

We invite you to join us in celebrating the accomplishments of Brown alumnus Dr. Suita.



TSGP IS NOW ON LINKEDIN

[HTTPS://WWW.LINKEDIN.COM/COMPANY/THERAPEUTIC-SCIENCES-GRADUATE-PROGRAM](https://www.linkedin.com/company/therapeutic-sciences-graduate-program)

TSGP is now on LinkedIn. Follow our LinkedIn page to get even more updates on the program and to connect with our network.

Anything else you want to add for future issues of our Newsletter? Any photos to post to our LinkedIn page? Email Program Coordinator, Gregg Casazza for more information.

Gregg_Casazza@Brown.edu



Dr. Yusuke Suita. Photo taken with permission researcher page from Invent@SC



JOIN US ON LINKEDIN

DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITY**TRAINING
AVAILABLE****INVENT AT SEATTLE
CHILDREN'S POSTDOCTORAL
SCHOLARS PROGRAM**

We invite our students to explore the Invent at Seattle Children's Postdoctoral Scholars Program, an exciting opportunity for early-career scientists who are passionate about developing novel therapeutics for children and young adults. Invent@Seattle Children's (Invent@SC) is a major investment in training the next generation of translational scientists, combining rigorous research, mentorship, and real-world exposure to therapeutic development

Invent scholars work to create new "discovered-here" cellular, gene, or protein-based therapies with the potential to advance toward clinical trials, while preparing for impactful careers in biotechnology or academia. The program emphasizes milestone-driven, team-based research informed by clinical need and biotech best practices

Scholars receive a competitive salary for three years (with potential support in years four and five), full employment benefits, \$10,000 in professional development funds, and up to \$10,000 in relocation support.

Each scholar is mentored by a team that includes lab principal investigators, biotech leaders, and clinicians, with opportunities to collaborate across partner sites such as Seattle Children's, the University of Washington, Fred Hutchinson Cancer Center, and Benaroya Research Institute

Eligibility includes applicants up to six months before their PhD thesis defense or within three years of earning their PhD, who have not held a faculty position. Learn more at seattlechildrens.org/invent



Photo taken with permission from Invent@SC

LOOKING AHEAD

2026 TSGP ADMISSIONS AND RECRUITING EVENT

Each year, TSGP reviews an extraordinary pool of applicants—rising scientists whose ideas and ambitions represent the future of the field. Selecting the 2026–2027 TSGP Cohort is a deliberate, multifaceted process, guided by both excellence and careful consideration. We received over 140 applications this year. From this pool, our TSGP faculty and researchers and Admissions Committee conducted a series of short virtual interviews.

Throughout the week our applicants met

to discuss their research, candidacy, and what set them apart from other applicants. Based on these interviews, the Admission Committee was able to move forward with a selection of 14 applicants who will be invited to campus on February 20th. The list of these applicants will be shared with our students in order to make a student host match yet again. We thank you in advance for your support. The excitement, participation, and mentorship offered by our current students is just one of the many things that fosters our unique and collaborative TSGP Community.

We welcome you all to participate in our 2026 TSGP Admissions and Recruiting event on February 20th, 2026, and have tried to take your feedback from prior years into consideration when planning this event. Please be on the lookout for communications regarding this event as planning is heavily underway.



Following our 2025 Recruiting Event our students and applicants and faculty met together at The Red Stripe for an end of day celebration!

UNIVERSITY MEMORIAL SERVICE

**SATURDAY,
FEBRUARY 7, 2026
4 P.M.**

As announced in President Paxson's January 20 letter, Brown University is organizing a campus-wide University Memorial Service to honor the lives of students Ella Cook and Mukhammad Aziz Umurzokov and to provide the community with a shared moment of healing and reflection.

Inspired by the creativity of students, faculty, and staff organizers, the University is inviting the entire community to participate in an inclusive memorial experience. The service will combine a speaking program broadcast from Sayles Hall with gatherings at various cross-campus locations, where students, faculty, and staff can come together to view the service via live webcast. Attendance at Sayles Hall will be limited and granted on a first-come, first-served basis. Most participants are expected to engage in the ceremonial aspects at designated campus sites, which will be equipped to broadcast the program live.

Community members are asked to complete the Participation Form so that the University can arrange as many gathering locations as possible and ensure shared experiences of collective reflection. An invitation with additional details, including the list of gathering sites, will be shared after participation information has been collected.



BROWN

NAVIGATING YOUR QUALIFYING EXAM

Join the Office of Graduate Studies on February 11th for “Navigating your Qualifying Exam”. This student panel will be led by current BioMed PhD students from various graduate programs who recently completed their Qualifying Exam. The discussion will offer the opportunity for 1st and 2nd year PhD students to learn from their peers and help to prepare them for their Quals.

Registration Link:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdmlXdgwNS1eprEdGUGS0jwjxSy2ortMcvr0ifV3E0BcJl85g/viewform>



Office of Graduate Studies

“Navigating your Qualifying Exams” student panel

February 11 from 2pm-3pm

The graphic features a red line graph, a wooden pyramid with the word 'LEADERS' spelled out in wooden blocks, and a red banner with the event title.

[Registration is required to attend!](#)

FOLLOW US ON INSTAGRAM

WWW.INSTAGRAM.COM/TSGP_BROWN/

Anything else you want to add for future issues of our Newsletter? Any photos to post to our Instagram page? Email Program Coordinator, Gregg Casazza for more information.

Gregg_Casazza@Brown.edu





SAVE THE DATES

FOR THE TSGP TWO-PART
3RD YEAR SHOWCASES

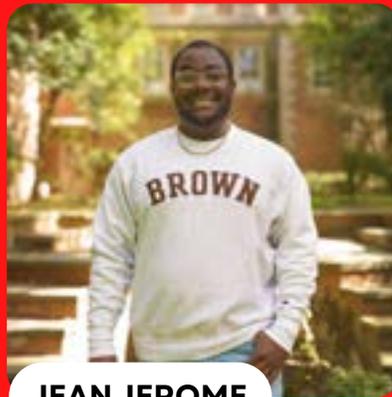
3RD YEAR STUDENT SHOWCASE

MONDAY, MARCH 30, 2026
3:00 PM - 5:00 PM
70 SHIP STREET | LMM-107
MORE INFO TO COME



ESRA TANER

Larschan Lab



JEAN JEROME

Desai Lab



LAURA WU

Taylor Lab

3RD YEAR STUDENT SHOWCASE

THURSDAY, APRIL, 02, 2026
3:00 PM - 5:00 PM
70 SHIP STREET | LMM-107
MORE INFO TO COME



ANGELICA SALAVERRIA

James Lab



MICHELLE SHUB

Lawler Lab



ISABEL VARGHESE

Lisi Lab &
Rubenstein Lab