

UPDATE

Welcome to 2025! Time flies when so many great things are happening at ARCS. In December, we completed our Scholar “Meet and Greets” with UC Merced on December 12. What a treat to meet the incredible 2024-2025 scholars. See below a couple of excerpts from our scholars’ letters describing how their awards are enhancing their work and studies *Nancy Bush, Diana Moore, Co-Presidents*



“I am honored to be supported by such an incredible organization and people who believe in my potential ...and are willing to support me and give me the flexibility to find out what specific direction interests me while building my career.”

LEAH RAGOSTA
Department of Chemistry
and Chemical Biology
UC San Francisco



“ARCS funding has completely enabled my ability to attend in-person conferences and workshops. Engaging with large interdisciplinary groups has been a highlight of my graduate career and I look forward to doing more within the ARCS scholar network.”

EMILY NAZARIO
Department of Ecology
and Evolutionary Biology
UC Santa Cruz

HIGHLIGHTS FROM OUR DECEMBER MEETING: FEATURED SCHOLAR PRESENTATION



Christine Boutros with VP of Scholar Relations Susan Acquistapace at the December meeting

At our December 3rd general meeting, we enjoyed a fabulous presentation from UCSF scholar CHRISTINE BOUTROS, who talked about her research into San Joaquin Valley Fever, a disease that in a rare 1% of cases disseminates to the nervous system causing lifelong impacts.

Christine, a California native, attended Northeastern University in Boston and graduated in 2017 with a BS in Behavioral Neuroscience. During her time in Boston, Christine worked at Boston Children’s Hospital studying the neuroscience of motivation and later studied novel therapeutics for HIV treatment at Massachusetts General Hospital. Christine is now an MD-PhD candidate in UCSF’s Medical Scientist Training Program (MSTP). She is combining her interests in neuroscience and infectious diseases by

studying coccidioidomycosis (aka “Valley Fever”) to better understand the factors that influence dissemination to the central nervous system as a means to improve patient outcomes and clinical care. Christine is looking at why some people develop this form of the disease versus others and is hoping that her research will reveal antigens that might lead to the development of therapies to treat the disease.

ALSO AT THE DECEMBER MEETING:

ARCS Member **Jane Gardner** talked about prepping an ARCS elevator pitch. Next time a friend asks what you are up to, try using it to share with others the great work of which you are a part!

ARCS Sparks! A big thank you to our ARCS Sparks members, **Judy Webster** and **Heidi Huchberger**, for all their work planning the incredible fall scholar “meet and greets.” Your hard work and effort are much appreciated.

Finally, we enjoyed festive holiday music by *Elixir* with our very own **Barbee Callander**. Thank you to **Julie Smolin, Barbee Callander** and **Wynne Bamberg** for their rousing musical serenade.

INVITE NEW MEMBERS TO UPCOMING EVENTS...

ARCS thrives when we bring in new members and add new talents, skills, energy and friends!

Our members are the greatest source of introductions, so please think of women you've met or know who would be great additions to ARCS, and invite them to meetings and events.

Guests are welcome to attend all events except University Site Visits. Contact **Gabrielle Kivitz**, Membership Selection committee chair, at gkivitz@yahoo.com with any questions.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS! There are many wonderful ways to engage with ARCS in the coming months. We look forward to seeing you at one or more of the following events. Watch for more information or contact Deborah Greenwood (dsg.arcsncc@gmail.com).

SITE VISITS:

UC DAVIS January 30, 2025 **UC SAN FRANCISCO** March 10, 2025

FIELD TRIP: January 16, 2025, **UCSF/Berkeley Bioengineering Program**

Tour & Talk: A visit to the Mission Bay Campus of the UCSF-Berkeley Joint Bioengineering program, including a talk by former ARCS scholar/current program director Duan Xu and a tour of the facility including the Hyperpolarized MRI Machine.

FRONTIERS OF SCIENCE: February 4, 2025, 6pm, Metropolitan Club **Psychedelics:** "Psychedelic drugs have come a long way. They once belonged to the counterculture. Now they are finding a home in the C-suite." - *NYT Dec. 2024*
A lively panel discussion on the medical, therapeutic, and financial implications of shifting perspectives on the potential of psychedelics.

MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS:

February 19, 2025 Meeting and social gathering at the home of Elizabeth Callander
May 14, 2025 Annual Meeting + lunch at Presidio Golf and Concordia Club

SUPERNOVA 2025 UPDATE: April 21, 2025, City Club, 155 Sansome, 6-9pm

This year's exciting roundtable topics:

Science and Public Policy: The Role of Scientists in Public Policy/
Preparing Scientists for Policy Engagement

The Art of Pivoting: Adapting Your Research When Results are Unexpected



At SUPERNOVA 2025, we invite you to participate in our all-new **TALK TO A SCHOLAR RAFFLE!** When you speak with scholars at their posters, ask for a raffle ticket. There will be 2 prize drawings during the evening for an APPLE watch!

THE MORE SCHOLARS YOU ENGAGE WITH... THE MORE CHANCES TO WIN!



The **ARCS Northern California Annual Report** for the fiscal year that ended June 30, 2024 is now posted on our website. View the pdf for information on chapter history, leadership, and membership, Galileo Circle members, donors to the Scholar Award Fund and sponsors for the 2024 Supernova event, and our independent accountant's financial compilation report for the year. Also included are photos and brief bios of this academic year's ARCS NCC Scholars, whose awards were funded by donations made in the 2023-2024 year.