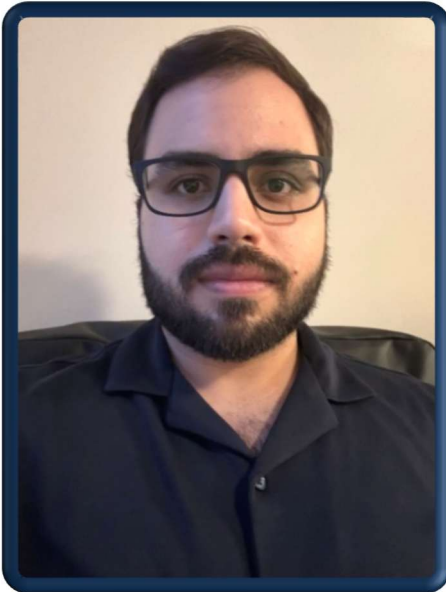


1,000 IQCB Scholarly Research Award Presented to Ismat F. Almandani and Norah Hill

EEG and MEG for Epileptic Source Localization: Comparative Analysis

Supervisors: Estate Sokhadze PhD, Olivia Cook, Ian Mutchnick, Cemal Karakas, Ayman El-Baz



Ismat Almadani

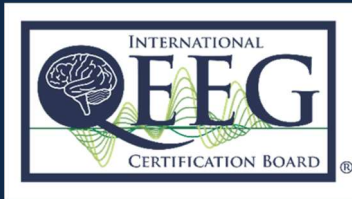
Ismat Almadani, MSc., is a PhD student in translational bioengineering at the University of Louisville in Louisville, Kentucky, USA. He holds both a master's and a bachelor's degree in biomedical engineering. His research primarily focuses on scalp EEG and stereo-EEG (SEEG) analysis in epilepsy. His research interests include neural signal analysis, functional brain connectivity, seizure dynamics, and the application of bioengineering approaches to better understand epileptic brain networks.



Norah Hill

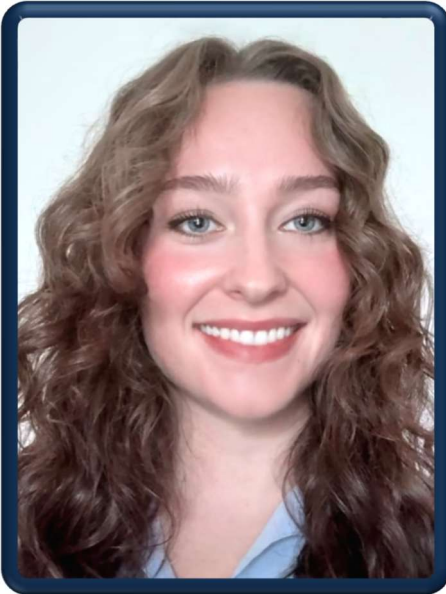
Norah Hill is a senior at the University of Louisville pursuing a double major in Neuroscience and Biology with a minor in Philosophy. Her research spans functional disorders, neurotrauma, cerebrovascular disease, and translational neuroscience, with experience in both preclinical and clinical research. She recently completed the Howard Hughes Medical Institute (HHMI) Cech Fellowship program at the University of Pennsylvania. Beyond the laboratory, Norah authored a Neurosurgery Coloring Book that has been used in both educational and clinical environments. Norah is involved in Mission:BRAIN Foundation, where she works to advance global

neurosurgical education, outreach, and health equity. She is also involved in neuroscience education through Future Healers and medical ethics initiatives on campus. Following graduation, Norah plans to pursue a career in medicine, combining research, clinical care, and global health advocacy to improve outcomes for patients affected by neurological injury and disease.



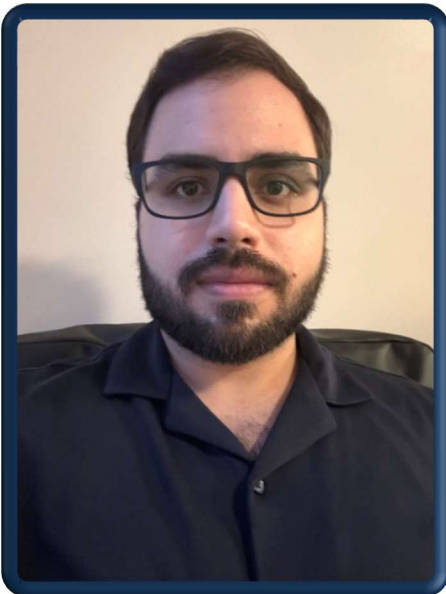
1,000 IQCB Scholarly Research Award
Presented to Sophia Fogle and Ismat F. Almandani
*Development of a Specialized Database for Analytical
Quantitative Tools Application in Stereo-EEG Analysis in Drug-
Resistant Pediatric Epilepsy*

Supervisors: Estate (Tato) Sokhadze, PhD, Ian Mutchnick, MD, Cemal Karakas



Sophia Fogle

Sophia Fogle is an undergraduate bioengineering student at the University of Louisville's J.B. Speed School of Engineering and an undergraduate researcher in the UofL Bioengineering/ Norton Neuroscience Institute Pediatric Neurosurgery Lab. Her research focuses on stereo-EEG analysis in drug-resistant pediatric epilepsy and intraoperative EMG analysis during selective dorsal rhizotomy in children with cerebral palsy. Her research interests include quantitative neurophysiology, biomedical signal analysis, functional brain connectivity, and the standardization of clinical electrophysiological data for reproducible analysis. She uses Python and MATLAB for data-pipeline automation, statistical analysis, and visualization. After earning her B.S. in Bioengineering in December 2026, Sophia plans to pursue a master's degree in bioengineering to continue her research in computational clinical neurophysiology before attending medical school.



Ismat Almadani

Ismat Almadani, MSc., is a PhD student in translational bioengineering at the University of Louisville in Louisville, Kentucky, USA. He holds both a master's and a bachelor's degree in biomedical engineering. His research primarily focuses on scalp EEG and stereo-EEG (SEEG) analysis in epilepsy. His research interests include neural signal analysis, functional brain connectivity, seizure dynamics, and the application of bioengineering approaches to better understand epileptic brain networks.



1,000 Jay Gunkelman Scholarly Research Award Presented to Valentina Ezcurra

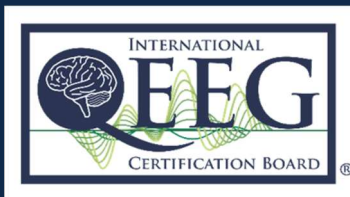
The Efficacy of Neurofeedback Amplitude Training in Reducing Anxiety Symptoms: A Meta-Analysis

Supervisor: Amber Fasula



Valentina Ezcurra

Valentina is an incoming Ph.D. student in Counseling and School Psychology at Florida State University. She graduated from UCF with a degree in Psychology and developed a strong interest in adolescent anxiety, stress, emotion regulation, and youth mental health. Her experience includes clinical work in neurofeedback and psychological assessment, as well as research in anxiety, neurodevelopment, ADHD, and EEG. Valentina is passionate about connecting research and clinical practice to better support children, adolescents, and families.



1,000 Jay Gunkelman Scholarly Research Award Presented to Adelita Montero

Closing the Gamma-Gap: A Pilot Study of 40hz Intensive Neurofeedback Training for High Performing Executive Leaders

Supervisor: Richard Sherman



Adelita Montero

Adelita Montero is a 5-time Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu world champion, international speaker, and BCIA board-certified neurofeedback practitioner. A Saybrook University Ph.D. student with a master's from Pepperdine University, she bridges elite high-performance and advanced brain-training science. A dedicated wife and mother of three, she is also the author of the children's book *The ABCs of Neurofeedback*, balancing peak performance with accessible youth neuroeducation.