

Meet the Fellow

Bryan Nguyen

Host Lab:	Orange County (California) Public Health Laboratory
Degree:	Bachelor's
Graduated:	June 2023
School:	University of California, Santa Barbara

Tell us about your educational background?

I received a Bachelor's of Science in microbiology from University of California, Santa Barbara.

What brought you into laboratory science?

I really enjoyed the stimulating hands-on experience that occurs in the laboratory. Applying what I know about life science while also making impact seemed very fulfilling to me.

How did you hear about the Public Health Laboratory Fellowship Program?

After finishing my undergraduate experience, I wanted to find out how to apply what I learned from college directly to my career. I came across the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC's) website as I was looking for entry-level jobs and internships. Then, I came across the Public Health Laboratory Fellowship.

How did this fellowship match or exceed your expectations?

This fellowship has exceeded my expectations. I only expected to work as a lab assistant and learn about basic laboratory operations. I never would have expected that I would be leading a research project in public health and be so well supported through my endeavors. The professional development opportunities, the support of the fellowship team, and all the connections I have made with other lab professionals were the greatest things that have come from this fellowship, and I never would have thought about them before.

Tell us what you learned from your mentor.

My mentor taught me how to organize a research project. She has guided me through every part of my project. With her advice, I learned how to network with other labs for assistance, storyboard my project steps, and troubleshoot through obstacles as the arise in my project.

Tell us about your project assignments/ laboratory roles.

My project is to validate a fully automated reverse transcription - polymerase chain reaction (RT-PCR)



assay for Rabies virus using the Hologic Panther Fusion Open Access system. Outside of project, I assist the virology department with routine viral extractions, surveillance PCR, and rabies diagnosis.

How has your fellowship experience inspired you?

My fellowship experience has inspired me to continue in a health career that is constantly challenging me. The fellowship has shown me multiple career pathways in public health where I can apply my knowledge and skills in a way that serves the community.

How would you describe the APHL Fellowship to other students?

The APHL Fellowship is a fully immersive, educational experience that teaches you about the services of public health laboratories through connections and first-hand experiences. It is a program which invests in your development as a laboratorian by providing opportunities to learn, grow, and connect with other professionals in the field.

Aside from the laboratory and the science, did you gain any other beneficial life experiences?

The professional development opportunities connected me with people from various backgrounds which broadened my perspective on what my future career could look like.