

Chelsea Kelland, Ph.D.

MINDGAP Student-Scholar Liaison

Chelsea studies how the immune system works during pregnancy and how changes in a mother's immune response might affect her baby's brain development. She uses non-human primate models to better understand how immune system disruptions during pregnancy could play a role in conditions like autism and schizophrenia. Through her work, Chelsea hopes to identify early signs or biological markers that could help with earlier diagnosis or lead to new treatments.

Chelsea plans to build a career in academia, leading her own research program that combines immunology and neuroscience.

Mentorship is also a big part of Chelsea's goals. She is passionate about supporting undergraduate students, especially those from groups historically underrepresented in science. She wants to create a welcoming and inclusive environment where students feel encouraged to explore biomedical research, gain confidence, and find their own career paths.

Outside of work, Chelsea loves watching action and horror movies and is a big trivia fan. You can often find her at the local theater catching new releases or joining trivia nights around downtown.