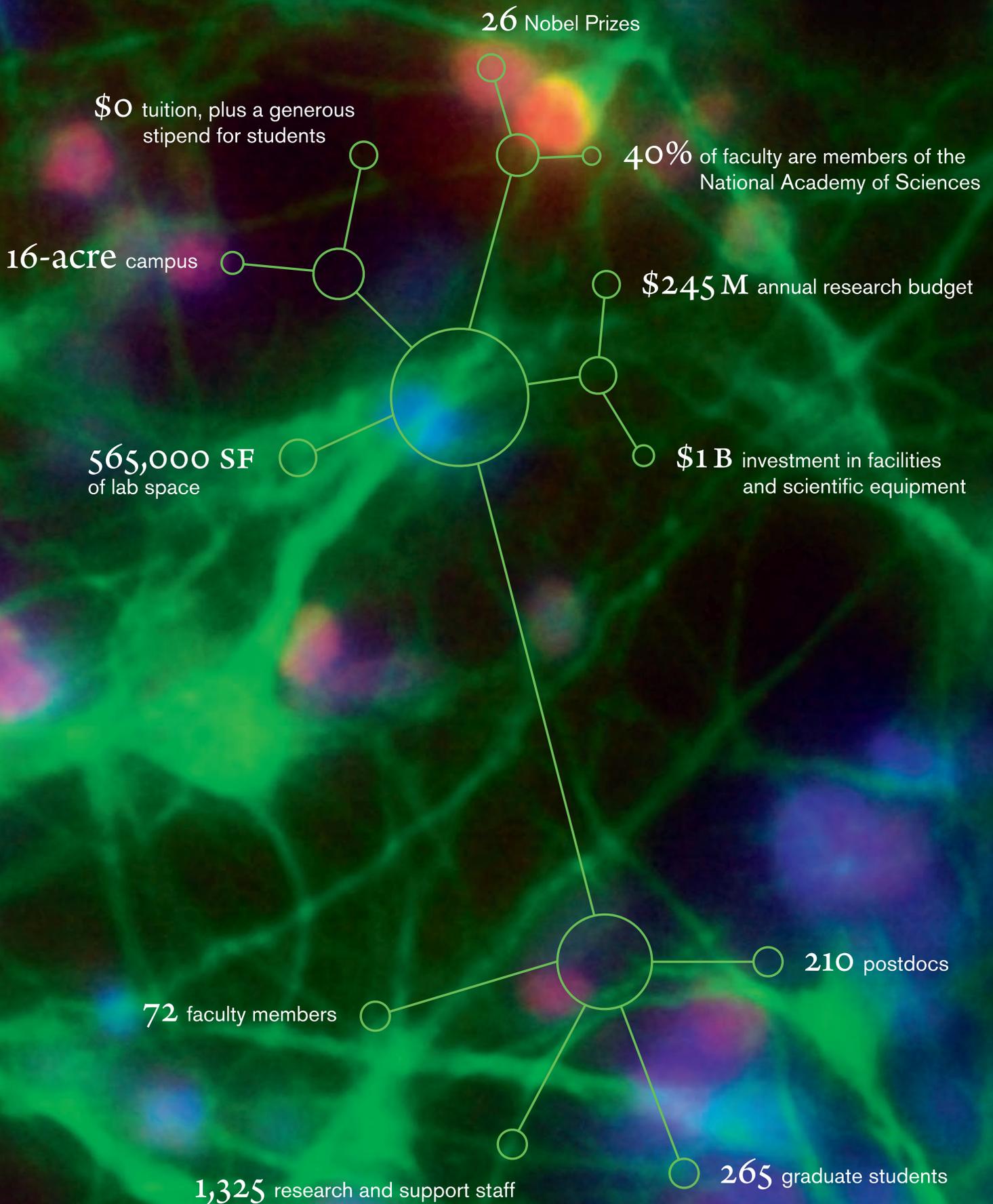


THE ROCKEFELLER UNIVERSITY

Graduate Program in Bioscience





# The David Rockefeller Graduate Program





## Biomedical Institutions

- 1 Cornell Tech
- 2 Hospital for Special Surgery
- 3 Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center
- 4 Mount Sinai
- 5 Tri-Institutional Therapeutics Discovery Institute
- 6 Weill Cornell Medicine

## Museums and Culture

- 1 American Museum of Natural History
- 2 Asia Society
- 3 Carnegie Hall
- 4 Cooper Hewitt, Smithsonian Design Museum
- 5 El Museo del Barrio
- 6 Guggenheim Museum
- 7 The Jewish Museum
- 8 Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts
- 9 Museum of the City of New York
- 10 The Metropolitan Museum of Art
- 11 The Museum of Modern Art
- 12 92nd Street Y
- 13 Park Avenue Armory

Opposite page: The Rockefeller University campus overlooks the East River, on the Upper East Side of Manhattan. (Photo by: Halkin Mason Photography)

Below photos by: Matthew Septimus, iStock, Chris Taggart, iStock



# New York City is the right place to become a scientist –and a world citizen

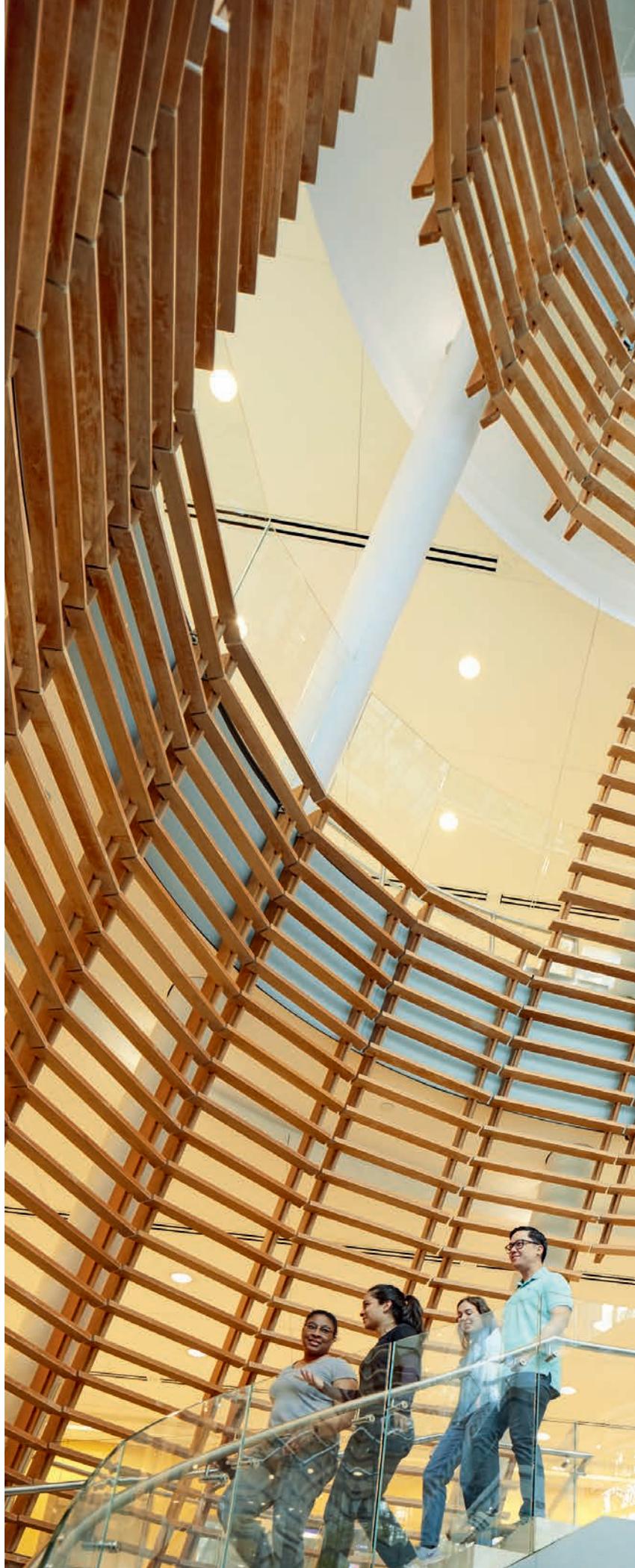


Don't just make it here, make it the most inspiring time of your life. Rockefeller's beautiful, serene campus sits at the heart of a burgeoning research and biotech hub, near several partner institutions in the life sciences. Our neighborhood is packed with scientific expertise, state-of-the-art facilities and training programs, and is surrounded by the kind of art and culture only found in New York City.

“Here, nothing  
gets in the way  
of science.”

–Danielle Keahi

Graduate student in the laboratory  
of Agata Smogorzewska

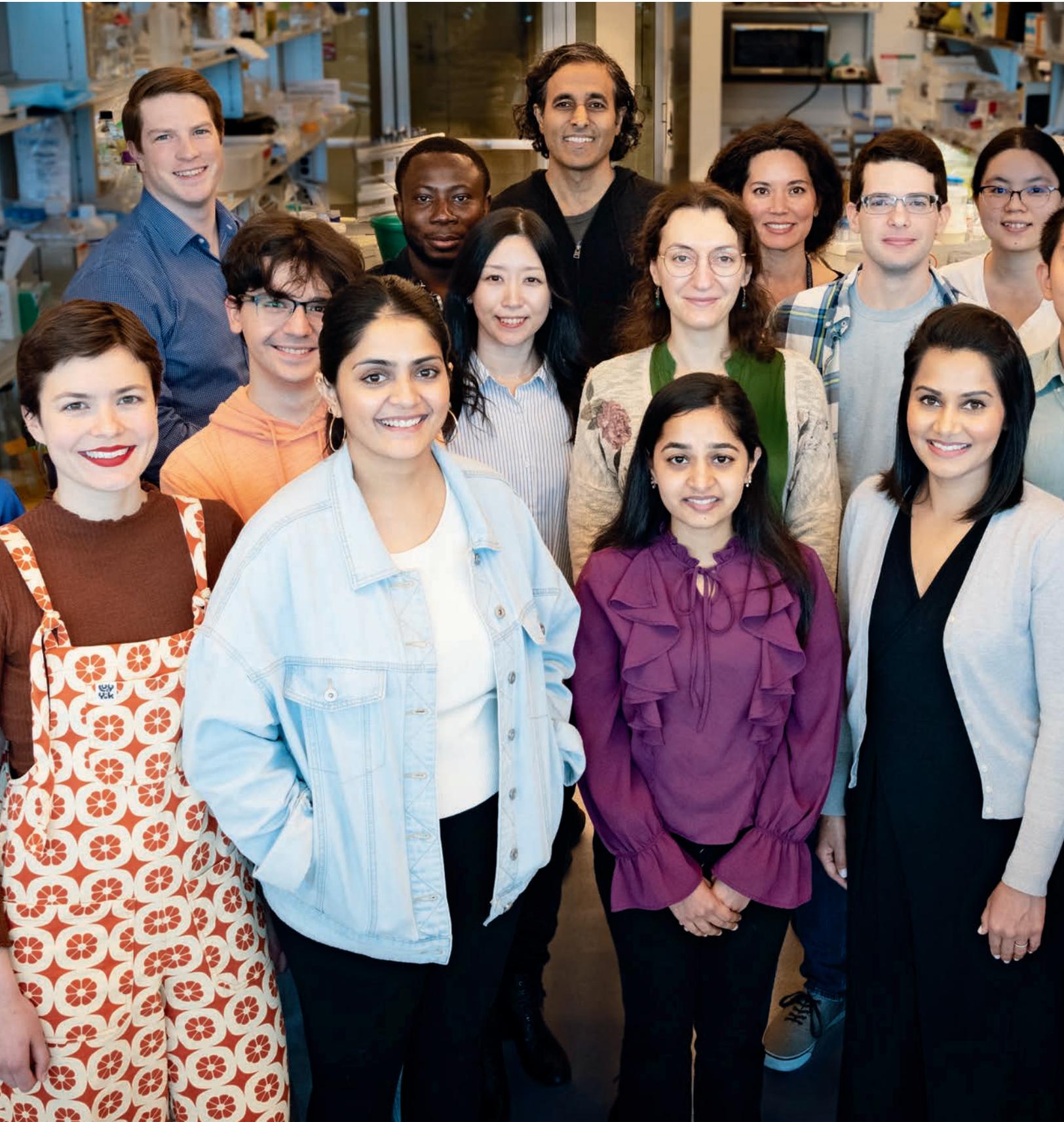


Photos by: Matthew Septimus (center)  
and Frank Veronsky



“You can really have an impact as a Rockefeller student,” says Danielle Keahi, a graduate fellow who works on a collaborative project between two labs specializing in neuroscience and cancer biology, respectively. In the bustling intersection of those fields, she’s found a unique lens through which to study how medulloblastoma, a type of brain cancer affecting kids, may arise from subtle defects in a cell’s DNA repair machinery.

“You don’t have to pursue a predetermined model,” she adds, “but have the freedom to follow the science where it takes you.”





## Join a world-class research team

To learn science, do science. That's the foundation of our educational program and the key to our students' success. Once you've chosen a faculty mentor and project, you become part of a close-knit lab that cares about your success. You will be designing and executing experiments to solve impactful scientific problems—and you might discover something about the nature of life or a disease that nobody has seen before.

The lab of Sohail Tavazoie, Rockefeller's Leon Hess Professor, is shedding new light on the processes by which tumors metastasize to new organs. Graduate students are an integral part of the internationally acclaimed research team.

Photo by: Claire Holt

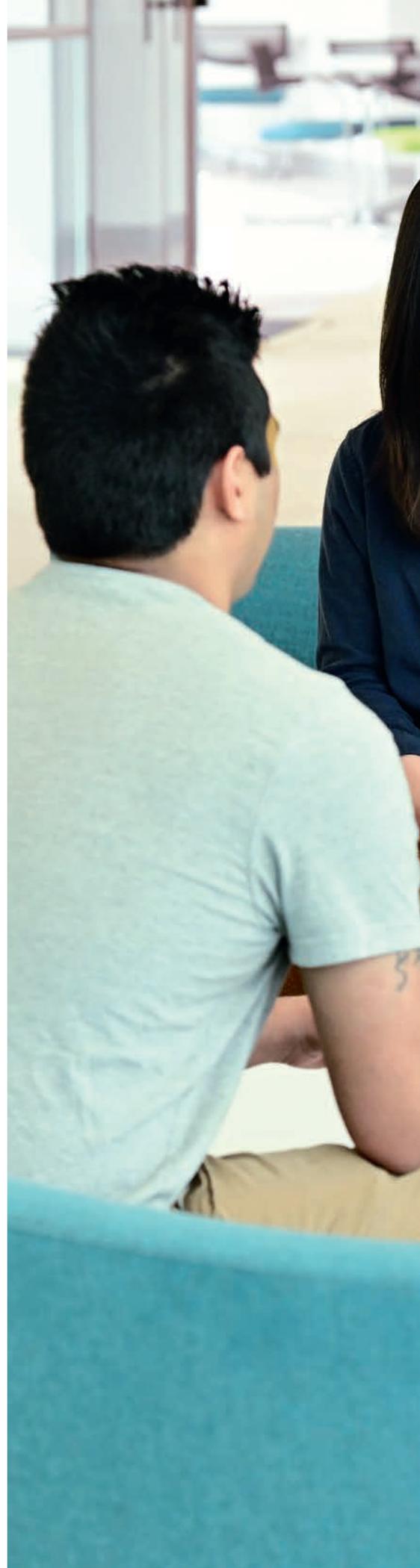
# People come from everywhere, and everyone belongs

Students come to Rockefeller from all over the world and become an integral part of our community. Along with faculty, postdocs, and staff, many engage with the university's Office for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) to build and maintain an environment where everyone feels welcome, valued, and safe to express their identity.

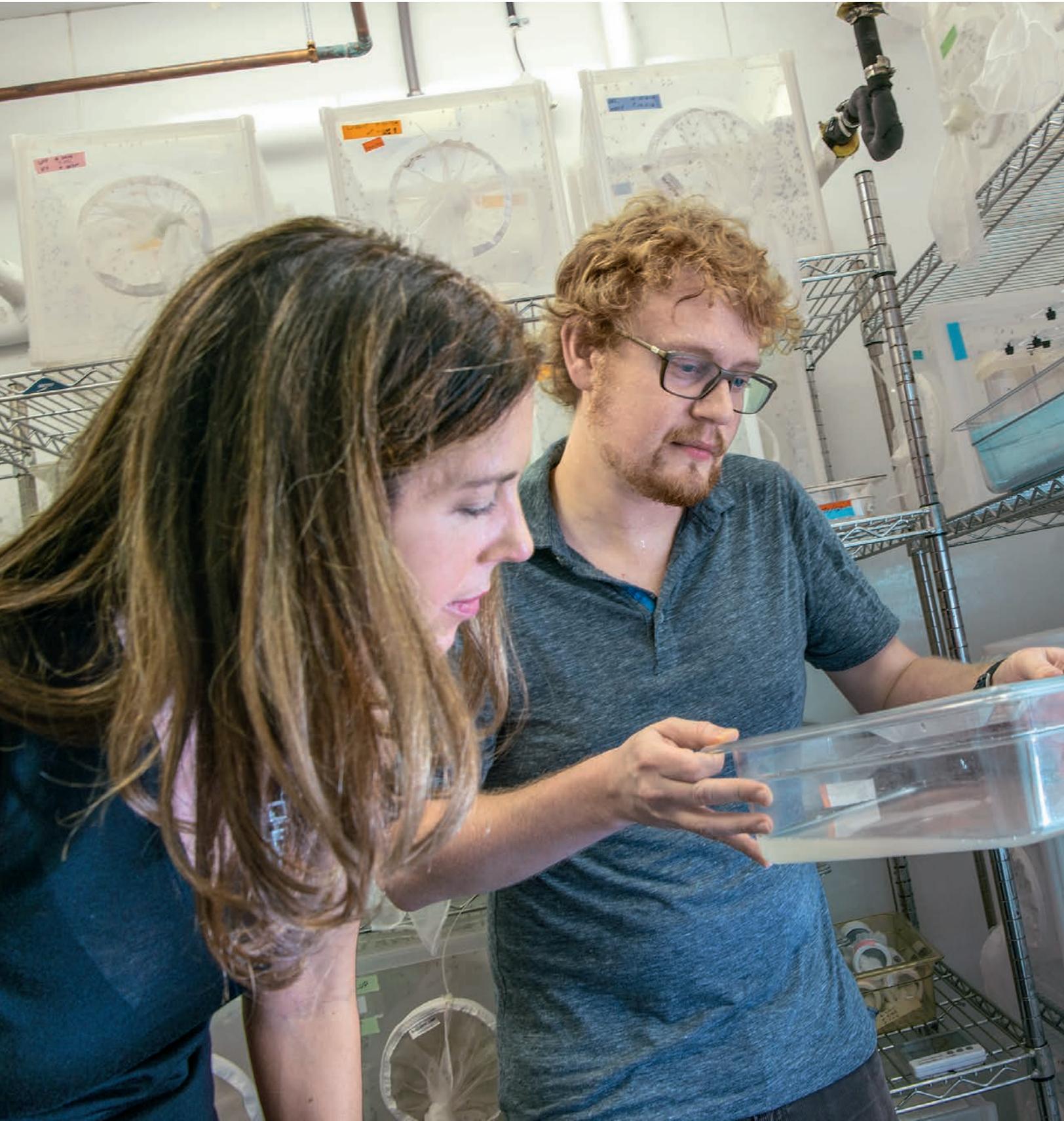
When people of different backgrounds and with different perspectives get together, and their ideas freely intermingle, the opportunities for discovery become endless. That's why a culture of DEI goes hand in hand with the scientific excellence that Rockefeller is known for.

Left to right: Graduate fellows Sanraj Mittal and Xinyue Deng, Chief Diversity Officer Ashton Murray, and biomedical fellow Rohan Roy.

Photo by: Chris Taggart









“Science is as much about exploration as about results.”

–Leslie B. Vosshall

Robin Chemers Neustein Professor at Rockefeller; Vice President and Chief Scientific Officer at Howard Hughes Medical Institute

Leslie Vosshall, who heads the Laboratory of Neurogenetics and Behavior, believes students should be safe to take risks. “At Rockefeller, they get to try things that have never been tried before,” she says.

She was a Rockefeller graduate student herself in the 1990s, mentored by Michael W. Young, who went on to win a 2017 Nobel Prize. Today, Vosshall’s lab studies the processes by which *Aedes aegypti*, the mosquito that spreads yellow fever, dengue, and Zika, seeks out human hosts.

“Mentoring isn’t a one-size-fits-all interaction,” she adds. “It requires an understanding of how each student got to where they are today.”



Rockefeller students learn science alongside the best professors in the world. Five of our current faculty have won the Nobel Prize, and a total of 26 Nobel Laureates have worked here since the institution was founded in 1901. And because faculty administrative responsibilities are limited, students and their mentors have time for one-on-one interactions and impromptu meetings.



# Learn shoulder to shoulder with renowned trailblazers

Caitlin Gilbert '21 with her mentor Erich D. Jarvis, an HHMI Investigator and recipient of the 2019 NIH Director's Transformative Research Award, among other prestigious honors.

Photo by: Frank Veronsky

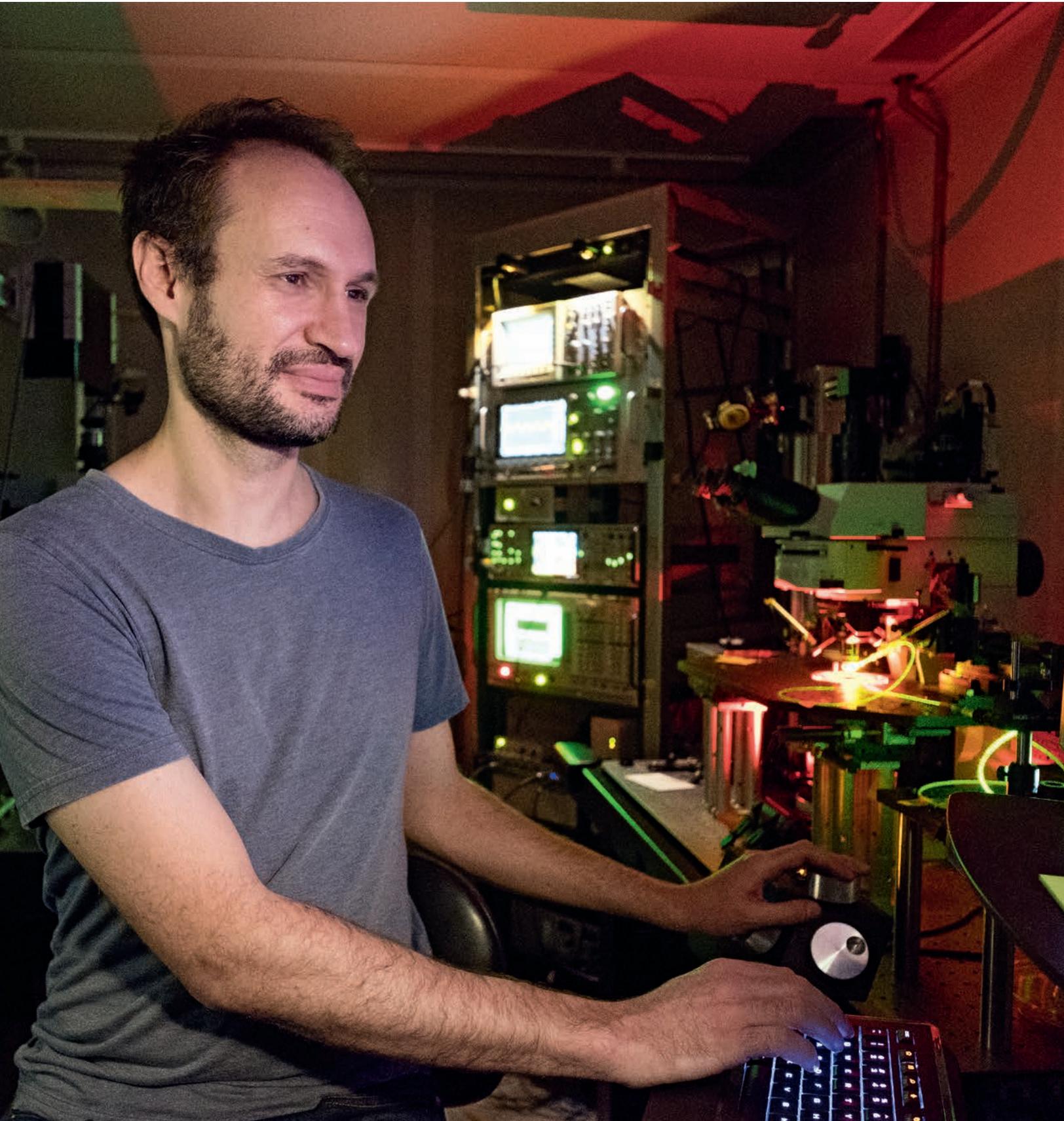
# An environment designed for the next generation

For more than 120 years, we've been investing in the innovative tools, facilities, and expertise needed to answer tomorrow's questions. Our graduate students and postdocs operate cutting-edge technologies backed up by the best core facilities that 21st-century science has to offer—and some reach their goals by developing highly specialized tools that didn't exist before.

The university's 18 scientific resource centers provide advanced support for precision instrumentation, bioimaging, drug discovery, and many other areas, while more than a dozen interdisciplinary centers facilitate collaborations between labs with common goals. Rockefeller also partners with other life-science institutions in New York City to provide resources and training in specific areas, including translational research and entrepreneurship.

Photo by: Mario Morgado









# Freedom from debt enables freedom of thought

With a generous support package, our students have financial peace of mind and can focus fully on their training. We offer a competitive stipend, health insurance, and an annual research budget.

Additionally, our on-campus Child and Family Center provides affordable childcare for students as well as postdocs and faculty.

Photo by: Mario Morgado



# The deans are here to listen, guide, and support

Graduate fellows Roberto J. Rodríguez Cartagena and Betty Ortiz-Gonzalez with Tim Stearns, Andrea Morris, and Emily Harms

Photo by: Claire Holt



In addition to mentorship from faculty advisors, students receive thoughtful guidance from graduate program leaders.

Dean Tim Stearns and Senior Associate Dean Emily Harms get to know every student one-on-one to help plan and execute their individualized course of study. Andrea Morris, Rockefeller's Assistant Dean and Director of Career and Professional Development, helps students explore and prepare for a variety of career options, from traditional academic appointments to jobs in biotech, pharma, business, and policy.

# It's a tight-knit community—supportive, inclusive, and fun!

Since most students, postdocs, and faculty live on or near campus, there are plenty of opportunities to make new friends both during and after work hours, from informal gatherings at the Faculty and Students Club to barbecues, pickup games, film screenings, concerts, and lectures all across campus.

Photo by: Claire Holt



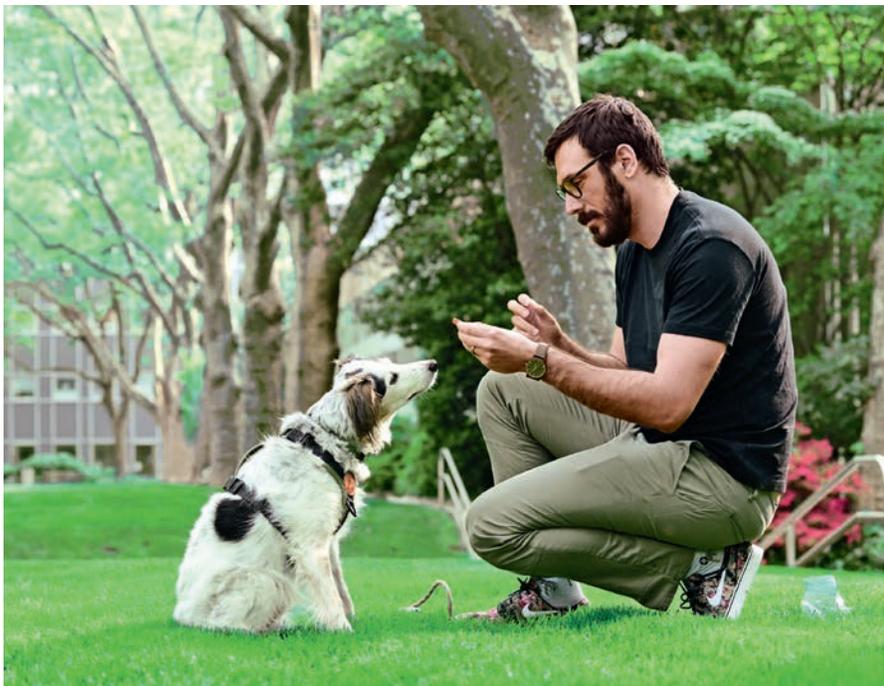


# Affordable and comfortable apartments, in the middle of Manhattan

Our students have the best deal in town—all are guaranteed Rockefeller housing from day one through graduation. Bring your own furniture or use ours; either way, our apartments are attractive, clean, comfortable, and secure. Rents are far below market rates, starting at around \$760 per month.

Scout and his owner, graduate fellow Tyler Lewy (below), outside their Rockefeller apartment.

Photos by: Chris Taggart (below) and Mario Morgado





# Student groups and activities





Play in an orchestra, volunteer for one of our outreach programs, or participate in LGBTQ+ events. These are just a few of the many extracurricular activities Rockefeller students get involved in to hone new skills, build relationships outside of the lab, and serve the community.

Photos by: Scott Rudd Photography (opposite page), Will Ragozzino (top), and Matthew Septimus

# A spectrum of career choices

A Rockefeller education opens many doors. The skills you'll gain in analytical problem solving, experimental rigor, and independent thinking will last a lifetime, as will the friendships and connections you will have formed by graduation.

Today about half of our approximately 1,430 graduates have academic jobs in which they continue to explore the mysteries of life and disease; others are pursuing successful careers in biotech and other professional areas.

Learn more about the career trajectories of our alumni at [go.rockefeller.edu/alumni-outcomes](http://go.rockefeller.edu/alumni-outcomes)

## Career outcomes, 2013–2022 snapshot

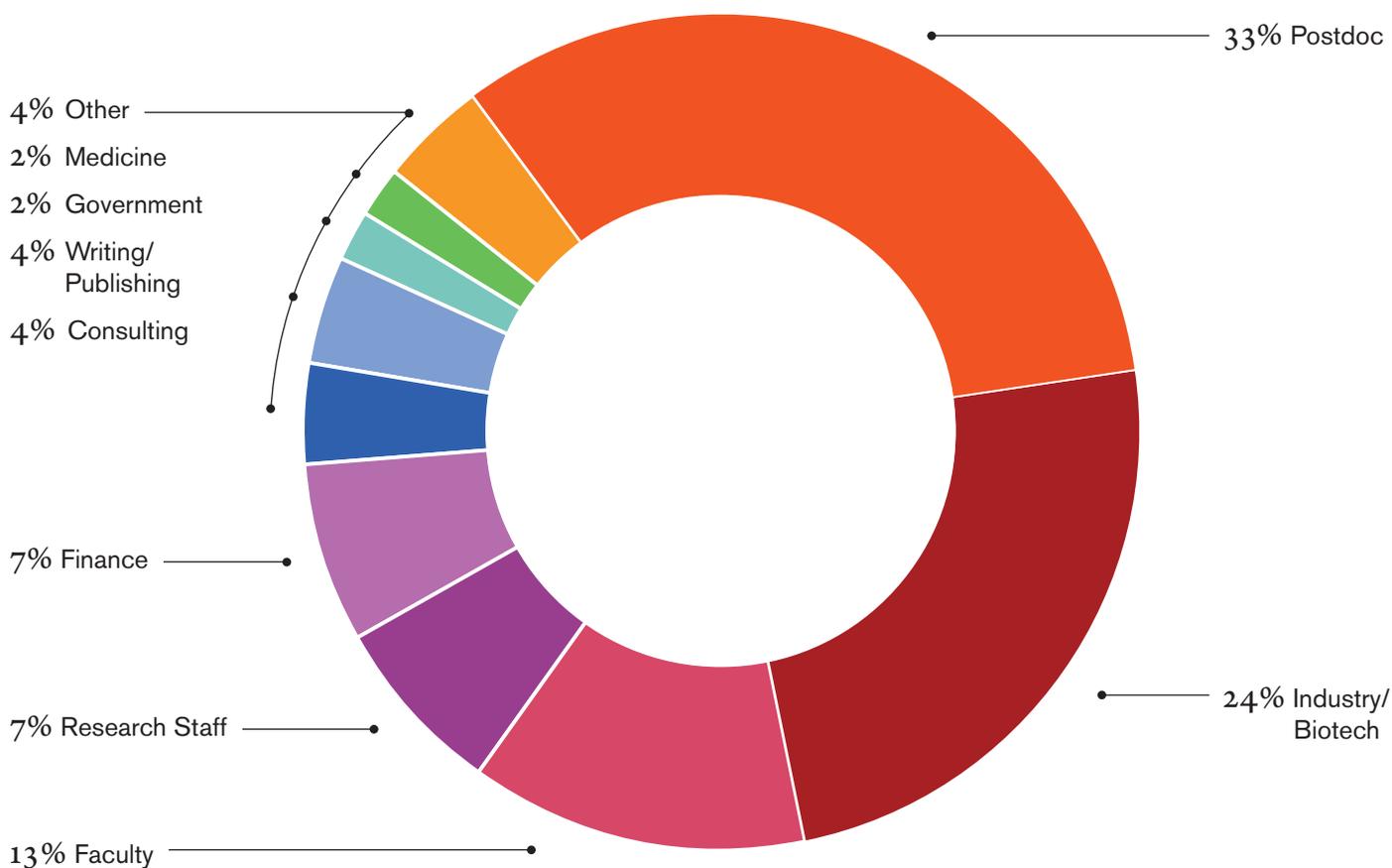




Photo by: Zachary Veilleux

# Alumni career outcomes



As a graduate student, **Stefano Di Talia '09** chose a challenging research topic: How do growing cells sense when they are big enough to start dividing? Building on his background in physics, Di Talia explored how imaging, data analysis, and mathematical modeling could yield answers. Today, as an associate professor at Duke University, he is studying a related question: How do tissues grow to the right size and shape during development and regeneration?



An assistant professor at Vanderbilt University, **Nicole Creanza '11** is continuing along the path she charted at Rockefeller, studying birdsong and human language to understand how cultural evolution interacts with genetic evolution. Her favorite aspect of being a scientist: mentoring graduate and undergraduate students as they forge independent research projects.



**Cameron Bess '09** spent his time at Rockefeller studying viruses that affect millions of people. Now focusing on combatting bacterial infections, Bess is a project officer in the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Office of Biomedical Advanced Research and Development Authority, where he manages a program that supports the development of new antibiotics and other life-saving therapeutics.



“Rockefeller gave me the freedom to truly follow my curiosity, and the resources to do so.”

–Maryam Zaringhalam

**Maryam Zaringhalam '17** developed an interest in science communication and policy during her graduate training. Currently, on detail from the National Library of Medicine, she works at the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy, as part of a project aimed to increase equitable public access to research findings and data from federally funded research. Zaringhalam is also a producer for The Story Collider podcast and has written about science for outlets including Slate, Scientific American, and Quartz.

Photos by: Howard Korn (this page and opposite page, left), Les Todd/Duke Photography (opposite page, top), and Nathan Morgan (opposite page, bottom right).

# Join us!

The David Rockefeller Graduate Program provides an exceptional opportunity for highly motivated students to receive advanced education in the biomedical sciences, chemistry, and biophysics. We seek to recruit the very best students from around the world and are committed to fostering a diverse and inclusive student community. We encourage applications from all aspiring scientists, including people from underrepresented groups or disadvantaged backgrounds, and from individuals with disabilities.

The program offers hands-on training in the laboratory as well as a roster of required and elective courses on general research topics and scientific specialties. The program is individualized according to each student's particular needs. In consultation with the Dean's Office, students choose a flexible combination of courses totaling seven academic units taken in the first and second years.

In addition, Rockefeller offers one of the nation's top M.D.-Ph.D. programs and leading programs in chemical and computational biology in partnership with our neighboring institutions, Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center and Weill Cornell Medicine.

Rockefeller students enjoy generous financial support, live in subsidized housing on Manhattan's Upper East Side, and pay no tuition.

Visit our website to learn more about our eligibility criteria and how to apply:  
[go.rockefeller.edu/graduate](http://go.rockefeller.edu/graduate)



## Learn more about our different doctoral programs:

**David Rockefeller  
Graduate Program**  
[go.rockefeller.edu/graduate](http://go.rockefeller.edu/graduate)  
[phd@rockefeller.edu](mailto:phd@rockefeller.edu)  
212-327-8086

**Tri-Institutional  
M.D.-Ph.D. Program**  
[mdphd.weill.cornell.edu](http://mdphd.weill.cornell.edu)  
212-746-6023

**Tri-Institutional  
Training Program in  
Chemical Biology**  
[chembio.triiprograms.org](http://chembio.triiprograms.org)  
212-746-5267

**Tri-Institutional Program  
in Computational Biology  
& Medicine**  
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212-746-5267





SCIENCE FOR THE BENEFIT OF HUMANITY