

Isabella Chon

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SUMMARY

Detail-oriented research assistant with 3+ years of internship and research experience in fermentation and bioprocessing aligned with industry standards. Skilled in analyzing experimental data, problem-solving, and teamwork to support research goals. Eager to contribute to innovative research in fast-paced, collaborative settings.

EDUCATION

University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign

Champaign, IL

BS in Molecular & Cellular Biology

Graduation Date: December 2025

- Relevant Coursework: Cell Biology, Toxicology, Genetics, Microbiology, Pharmacology, Biochemistry, Physics
- Awards: Mars Scholarship, Chung Hwe Park Charity Foundation Scholarship, Illinois Achievement Scholarship

WORK EXPERIENCE

Integrated Bioprocessing Research Laboratory (IBRL)

Urbana, IL

Student Technician

March 2024 - Present

- Supported fermentation specialists, professors, and biotech clients in 100+ contracted scale-up projects by managing facility systems and mentoring incoming interns in student training to improve project turnaround.
- Performed troubleshooting on pilot-scale bioreactors (19L-1200L) during fermentation projects while managing real-time data analysis to monitor biomass production and collect high-quality datasets for client reporting.

Levesque Eukaryotic Cell Lab

Champaign, IL

Lab Technician

January 2025 - May 2025

- Executed 10+ research projects pertaining to cell viability, immunofluorescence, proliferation, and protein quantification while maintaining high-throughput sterile mammalian cell cultures with <1% contamination rate.
- Analyzed the cytotoxic effects of nicotine on NIH-3T3 mouse fibroblasts from an original in vitro study, optimizing dose-response curves with >95% accuracy in detecting apoptosis and necrosis via cell death assays.

Chemistry Annex - Aspirin Case Study

Urbana, IL

Student Laboratory Analyst

March 2023 - May 2023

- Inspected 5 essential chemical components within aspirin utilizing spectroscopy and chromatography to analyze its molecular composition and characterize distinct properties with various solutions.
- Organized experiments to extract acetylsalicylic acid from +10 aspirin sources to further study the forms of salicylic acid in modern pharmaceutical formulations, ensuring accurate experimental design and data analysis.

EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Eagles' Wings

Northbrook, IL

Junior Board Member

May 2022 - May 2025

- Partnered with 50+ companies within 3 weeks to secure vital sponsorships for a silent auction event during the non-profit's launch party, demonstrating strong negotiation and planning abilities to orchestrate logistics.
- Generated an additional \$25,000 in annual gross revenue by leading 10+ newly developed fundraising events to expand educational access for impoverished Lakotan children with scholarships and technology initiatives.

Molec & Cellular Basis of Life - The Genetic Mutations Podcast

Champaign, IL

Researcher and Scriptwriter

September 2022 - October 2022

- Conducted extensive research by sourcing 20+ scholarly articles to develop a comprehensive podcast episode analyzing genetic disorders from mutations in specific protein structures and exploring molecular mechanisms.
- Investigated the nature of genetic mutations in health conditions like Laron Syndrome, Cystic Fibrosis, and Sickle Cell Disease, demonstrating mastery of the subject to relay its real-world significance to listeners.

SKILLS & INTERESTS

Skills: Experimental Design, Gel Electrophoresis, Western Blot, BioCommand, ImageJ, RStudio, Microsoft Office

Interests: Drug Discovery, Food Science, Synthetic Biology, Fermentation, Bouldering, Cooking, Volleyball