

## Summer 2025 Undergraduate Research Internship

### **Project Name**

Social Support Reduction in Inflammation (SSRI)

### **Faculty Mentor**

Dr. Keely Muscatell (Psychology & Neuroscience)

### **Project Description**

Social support is known to predict health and longevity. While most work has focused on the importance of receiving support during times of stress, recent work suggests that giving social support to others may also buffer the support giver's own stress. The goal of this project is to examine in an experimental, in-lab study if providing support to a loved one by writing them a letter buffers physiological and psychological responses to stress, compared to a neutral control condition. Results will shed light on the mechanisms through which people may be "gaining while giving" support to others.

### **Scope of Work for Internship**

A summer intern will play a role in all aspects of data collection, including:

- Participant recruitment, screening, and scheduling
- Running study sessions in the laboratory, including learning to utilize psychophysiological measurement equipment and administering a time-sensitive protocol
- Help transcribe written letters and develop coding schemes for the letters

### **Expected Deliverables**

Data collection and letter transcription

### **Preferred Skills**

Strong interpersonal skills/customer service experience (that can be utilized while collecting data from participants) are key