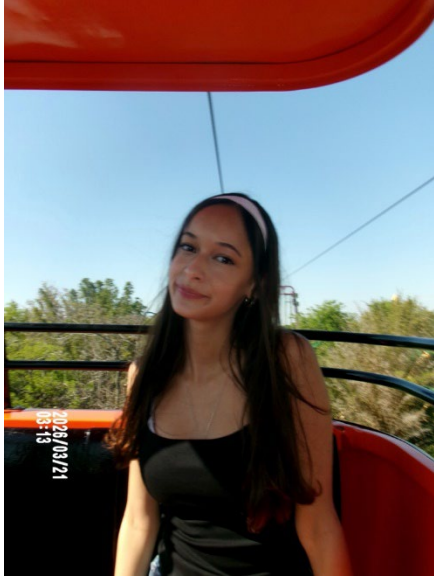


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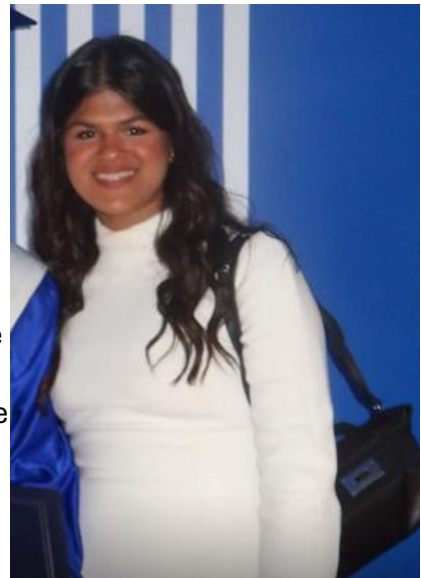


Cailyn Aceituno
Wesley Chapel High School

I decided to join the WFIRM virtual academy because I hope to pursue a medical career in my future. I am so excited to learn more about regenerative medicine and how it can transform the medical field. I hope to make connections with like-minded peers and learn more about the medical field from experts. I hope this experience will help me expand my knowledge of medicine and push me to pursue my future career goals.

Dalal Alnasrallah
Albayan Bilingual School

I joined the WFIRM Academy because I would like to learn more about regenerative medicine and gain more knowledge about medicine. I am trying to understand more about this field since I have worked as a helper in a hospital, which gave me some experience and made me more interested in healthcare. I would like this program to be a more advanced learning experience that helps me understand medicine better.



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Joyce Chen

J. L. Mann High Academy

I applied to the Wake Forest Summer Virtual Academy in Regenerative Medicine because, although I love science, school science classes and lab assignments have always felt scripted to me. I hope that this program will allow me to experience the authentic feeling of discovery that first drew me into science. Through participating in this program, I will also have the opportunity to engage with active researchers, allowing me to gain

an understanding of how ideas are translated into experiments, as well as gain insight into my future dream of becoming a clinical researcher.

Elysa Dalmacio

Valencia High School

Hello everyone! My name is Elysa Dalmacio. I joined the 2026 Virtual Academy because of my strong passion and dedication towards the medical field. My goal is to be a part of the medical field as a nurse practitioner, specializing in the Emergency Room or the Pediatric route. I am excited to learn more about regenerative medicine!





Julianne Fahringer
The Overlake School

Hello! My name is Julianne Fahringer, and I am a rising junior at The Overlake School, near Seattle, Washington. I am interested in materials science and biomedical engineering. I have always had a strong interest in science, which started in elementary school when I received a microscope as a gift. Seeing the natural world from a different perspective, I grew my curiosity in the structure of everyday objects, how things work, and how they can be manipulated to improve lives. Since then, my interest in science has only deepened. During a program last summer at the Northwest Institute of Biomedical Research, I found my passion for biomedical engineering. This year, I have brought my interests forward, volunteering to teach an original class on engineering microplastics filters for washing machines at my local library, leading a biology club, and learning about materials science. Outside of this, I enjoy running, reading, volunteering, and working on cars, and I also work as a swim instructor and lifeguard at a local pool. This year, I became interested in regenerative medicine when learning about how materials science could be applied to biomedical science to repair or replace damaged tissues or organs. I am incredibly excited and grateful to be a part of WFIRM 2026 Virtual Academy. Through this program, I hope to deepen my understanding of regenerative medicine, gain mentorship and experience, and collaborate with other students.

Sreya Ganapathy
Nash Early College High School

Hello, my name is Sreya Ganapathy, and I am a rising ninth grader at Nash Early College High School. I am excited to begin high school because I look forward to learning more about science and technology and becoming actively involved in my school community. During middle school, I stayed busy with a variety of activities. I played basketball and participated in several clubs, including Junior Beta, Graphic Design, Engineering/Robotics, and the Kindness Club. Through these experiences, I developed strong time management skills, improved my communication, and learned how to solve problems effectively. In my free time, I enjoy creating artwork and playing the piano. I am often described as kind, creative, quiet, and determined. My main goal for high school is to challenge myself academically while also building meaningful connections with my teachers and classmates. I am especially interested in learning more about medical science. Thank you for your time!





Harrison Ganas
Chapel Hill High School

Hello, I'm Harrison, and I chose WFIRM Virtual Academy to learn more about new branches of science. This year, I have enjoyed studying biomedical science, and I wish to continue expanding on similar topics. Regenerative medicine is especially interesting to me, as this is something that could help a lot of people. I hope that this course will allow me to deepen my understanding of medicine and pursue a future career in this field.

Akul Gowda
Lightridge High School

I am Akul Gowda from Aldie VA. My life has centered around medicine for most of my life as a child of South Asian parents. Being a doctor was one of the pathways that was planted in my head from an early age. As I grew older however my focus grew toward my true passion in life Basketball, I played on multiple AAU teams and made the summer league for the Freshmen team at my school. Then everything fell apart. I kept getting minor nagging injuries, and for almost two years I couldn't realize what was wrong with me. Participating in my passion hurts every fiber of my body. I thought it was unfair. Then I

started learning about Ayurveda, a holistic system of medicine in India centered around Yoga and other natural treatments. It helped me quite a bit, but I understand it isn't really "true western" medicine in shorts and obviously had some severe drawbacks. Though I feel as though my body is better than it's ever been thanks to it and will attempt to make my Varsity team for the Senior year. I also have a new passion to become a sports medicine physician, and help future athletes play for however long they want no matter financial status, social status, etc.



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Kathy Kang
Reagan High School

Hello everyone, my name is Xiaoyan Kang, but I go by Kathy. I'm a rising sophomore at Reagan High School. I love playing volleyball and the violin, and I enjoy getting to know new people. I joined the 2026 Virtual Academy because of my deep interest in the field of regenerative medicine, especially the organoids and the stem cells. I have participated in WFIRM Public Day twice, and those experiences deepened my interest even further. I find it fascinating that we can artificially grow little parts of the human body, and I'm excited to meet more like-minded peers and learn more about this field through the academy!

Ananya Kochuparambil
Wake Early College of Information and Biotechnology

I applied to the WFIRM Virtual Academy because I wanted to learn more about the medical field and gain exposure to an area of science that is shaping the future of healthcare. As someone who enjoys science and is considering a future in medicine, I am excited to learn from researchers and professionals while exploring regenerative medicine. Outside of school, I am heavily involved in music and classical Indian dance, which have taught me the value of perseverance and lifelong learning. I am looking forward to expanding my knowledge, meeting other students with similar interests, and gaining new perspectives through this program.



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Saahil Mehta

Central Academy of Technology and Arts

Hi! My name is Saahil Mehta. I love to play basketball, and in the past couple of years, through injuries and setbacks, I have developed a passion for regenerative medicine, physical therapy, and exercise science. I am a rising 11th grader at the Central Academy of Technology and Arts in Monroe, NC.



Sornavalli Meiappa

South Forsyth High School

I'm excited for the WFIRM High School Summer Program because it is a great opportunity to learn more about regenerative medicine and biomedical research. This program will give me valuable insight into potential career paths in medicine and biotechnology while allowing me to gain hands-on experience. I am excited to learn from researchers, work with other students, and make the most of this opportunity.

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Kairi Munguia

Nash Everywhere Digital Academy

I wanted to apply to the regenerative medicine program because of its unique stance on medicine that you don't necessarily see a lot in normal school. I first became interested when I happened to find this program while searching for other summer camps. By being in this program I hope to learn more about regenerative medicine field, how it's applied, and seeing whether this field is something I'm wishing to pursue in the future.



Iris Onyekwere

J.P Stevens High School

Hello everyone! My name is Adaeze [Iris] Onyekwere, and I am excited to be part of this program. I am a student at J.P. Stevens High School in Edison NJ, and I hope to become a surgeon one day.

My interest in healthcare comes from my empathy for others and my desire to help people who are sick or facing difficult challenges. When I was 9 years old, I read *Gifted Hands* by Benjamin Carson. Learning about his journey and how he used medicine to change lives strengthened my interest in healthcare and sparked my curiosity about the human body and its many wonders. I joined this academy because I am eager to learn more

about regenerative medicine, medical research, and innovative technologies that can improve patient care. I look forward to learning from experts, meeting other students who share similar interests, and gaining knowledge that will help me achieve my goal of becoming a surgeon.

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Aditi Patel
Forsyth Country Day School

My name is Aditi Patel, and I would like to join the WIFIRM Virtual Academy program because I want to expand upon my current knowledge and get broader exposure, receive guided hands-on experience, meet mentors who are currently active in the field, and interact with other interested students. I am really excited about this opportunity because it brings to the forefront my interest in both technology and science.

Aditya Ramesh
Downingtown STEM Academy

I chose to join 2026 WFIRM Virtual Academy because I have a deep passion for regenerative medicine and wish to further build my understanding and experiences in this field. I initially became interested in regenerative medicine after participating in a one month summer course last year, where I learned the vast potential and value of this field, which amazed and really interested me. I am looking forward to meeting and collaborating with peers of similar interests around me, as well as forming connections with some professionals who are actively shaping this field.



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Sukhpreet Sandhu
Colegio San Agustin Bulacan

I applied to the WFIRM 2026 Virtual Summer Academy because regenerative medicine is right at the edge of what we currently know, and that is exactly where I want to be. I have always been the kind of person who asks too many questions — about how the body works, how people heal, why things go wrong — and at some point, that curiosity stopped feeling like a personality trait and started feeling like direction. Growing up between three cultures taught me early that the most interesting things happen at the intersection of different worlds, and WFIRM feels like that. I am excited about the research and getting access to knowledge I cannot find in a regular

classroom, but honestly what I am most looking forward to is the people. The perspectives, the conversations, the friendships that come from being in a room with others who care about the same things — that stay with you longer than anything.

Carson Taylor
Early College of Forsyth

I am a dedicated and academically accomplished student at Early College of Forsyth in Winston-Salem, NC, pursuing both a high school diploma and an associate in science degree, with an expected graduation in May 2027. Maintaining an impressive



3.895 unweighted GPA and 4.368 weighted GPA, participation in a highly competitive dual enrollment program reflects a strong commitment to academic excellence in biology, chemistry, and health sciences. With aspirations to become a future physician, I am driven to advance patient-centered care through leadership, service, and scientific inquiry, while also enjoying personal interests such as gaming, music, and fine dining.

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Gabriela Valencia
Conard High School

Hello, my name is Gabriela Valencia, and I am 14 years old. I go to Conard High school, and a few hobbies of mine are writing, drawing, and research. When I grow up, I'd like to participate in political science, biology, or sociology. I chose to do this specific program, because I am very interested in medicine and how it works, its impact, and the ways of science behind it. I think it's important to be interested in this topic because medicine is a necessity for humans and it's informative to learn more about the chemicals within medicine and research about it.

Ashton Veld
Walter Johnson High School

Growing up as an athlete with parents working in medical environments, I was enveloped in medical care, injuries, treatments, and dilemmas. Somewhere between my own experiences and those shared with me I found a pull to delve into regenerative medicine, to deepen my own understanding, and to widen the realm of possibilities available within this field.



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Valeria Ventura

Sherman Oaks Center for Enriched Studies

Hello everyone, my name is Valeria and I enjoy reading, listening to music, and playing tennis. My dream is to become a heart surgeon so I joined the WFIRM Virtual Academy because I want to learn more about medicine and how science can help heal the human body. I am interested in learning about regenerative medicine, stem cells, and new medical technologies. I am excited to learn from professionals, meet other students who are interested in science, and gain experience that can help me with my future goals.