

Biochem+Me

Be a CU Boulder Biochemist

CU BOULDER: THE PLACE FOR ME

I decided to be in the Department of Biochemistry at CU Boulder for its strong faculty. I have been very fortunate to be able to learn from amazing professors who are not only leaders in the Biochemistry field but also care for their students' success. Their passion for teaching and mentorship has created a great learning environment where I personally felt encouraged to grow my scientific understanding. Their support has played a crucial role in shaping my academic journey and sparking my curiosity for biochemistry.

Beyond that, the department offers great undergraduate research opportunities where I was very fortunate to join Dr. Roy Parker's lab. Individual success and development are strongly supported in the department of Biochemistry, which has helped me become a better scientist.

UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH OPPORTUNITY: INVALUABLE MENTORSHIP

Going into my senior year of college I wanted to gain more research experience which was why I wanted to join a lab for a summer internship. In Dr. Parker's lab my research focus is looking at a protein called G3BP1, which is an essential regulator of cellular RNA metabolism. The main known functions of G3BP1 are regulating RNA stability and translation in the cytoplasm. Upon stress, G3BP1 also forms cytoplasmic stress granules, a type of membranellar assembly that forms through the biophysical process of condensation. My main goal is to understand the mechanism of G3BP1 nuclear- cytoplasmic localization in the cell.

I spend 40 hours per week working in the lab during the summer. While it was a lot of hard work spent in the lab it was also the most fun experience at the same time. One of the biggest reasons I enjoyed my time in the lab so much was the incredible mentorship in the Parker lab. The guidance and support from experienced researchers created an environment where I felt encouraged to ask questions, think critically, and push myself to improve. Learning something new each day, whether it was troubleshooting an experiment, analyzing data, or perfecting a new technique, made the experience truly enriching. This experience made it clear to me that I wanted to pursue a career in research.

MY LIFE'S JOURNEY

I was born and raised in Germany before moving to Boulder for college, and my journey as an international student-athlete here at CU has been incredibly rewarding. Being part of the CU tennis team and the Parker lab has introduced me to so many inspiring, smart and dedicated people. Every day, I have the opportunity to learn from the people around me. Engaging with such a diverse and driven group has taught me the value of collaboration, support and teamwork.

Coming from an individual sport, my focus was always on personal success. Transitioning to college athletics, where teamwork is essential, has been an incredibly valuable experience. I've realized that this lesson translates seamlessly into a research setting- while each person works on their own project, the true strength of a lab comes from an environment built on teamwork, respect, and mutual support. Embracing this mindset has not only enhanced my experience as an athlete but has also shaped the way I approach scientific research and collaboration.



MILA STANOJEVIC

HEIDELBERG
GERMANY

Parker Research Group

BA Candidate 2025: Biochemistry

2021: A&S Dean's List

2021: ITA All-Academic Scholar
Athlete

2024: Pac-12 Academic Honor
Roll

High School: Lowenrot
Gymnasium

"Balancing a rigorous academic, research, and athletic schedule has prepared me in the best way possible for my future endeavours. CU Boulder has provided me with an amazing environment to grow both intellectually and personally, and I am grateful for the experiences and opportunities I have had here."



Biochemistry

UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO **BOULDER**

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