Selective Bacteriophage Screening Targeting GaqQ209L Protein
Abdul Karim Khan¹, Kamakshi Sishtila¹, and Timothy Corson¹
¹Department of Ophthalmology, Eugene and Marlyn Glick Eye Institute at Indiana University School of Medicine

Uveal melanoma is the most common intraocular cancer in adults with 2,500 patients diagnosed every year in the United States. The cancer is highly chemoestant and is able to metastasize to other parts of the body, usually the liver, where it proves almost universally fatal. It is often difficult to detect the growth of the tumor without a confirmatory biopsy. The goal of this project is to find a peptide sequence specifically binding to GaqQ209L, which is an oncogenic mutation causing uveal melanoma in majority of all oncogenic cases. The method of bacteriophage display was used to find a peptide ligand that will bind specifically to the Gaq Q209L; subtractive panning was used against Gaq Wild Type and glutathion. The binders were amplified and then tested using a phage ELISA. This experiment is still in progress and there are no conclusions to be made yet. In the future it is hoped to successfully find a peptide sequence that is specific to cells.

Mentors: Timothy Corson, Principle Investigator, Department of Ophthalmology, Eugene and Marlyn Glick Eye Institute at Indiana University School of Medicine; Kamakshi Sishtila, Co-mentor, Department of Ophthalmology, Eugene and Marlyn Glick Eye Institute at Indiana University School of Medicine
Advisors: Brandi Gilbert, Life Health Sciences Internship Coordinator, Indiana University School of Medicine; Wayne Hilson, Diversity Scholars Research Program Director, Center for Research and Learning, Indiana University Purdue University Indianapolis