

RESEARCH ROUNDUP

School of Medicine Columbia

University of South Carolina

Research Newsletter

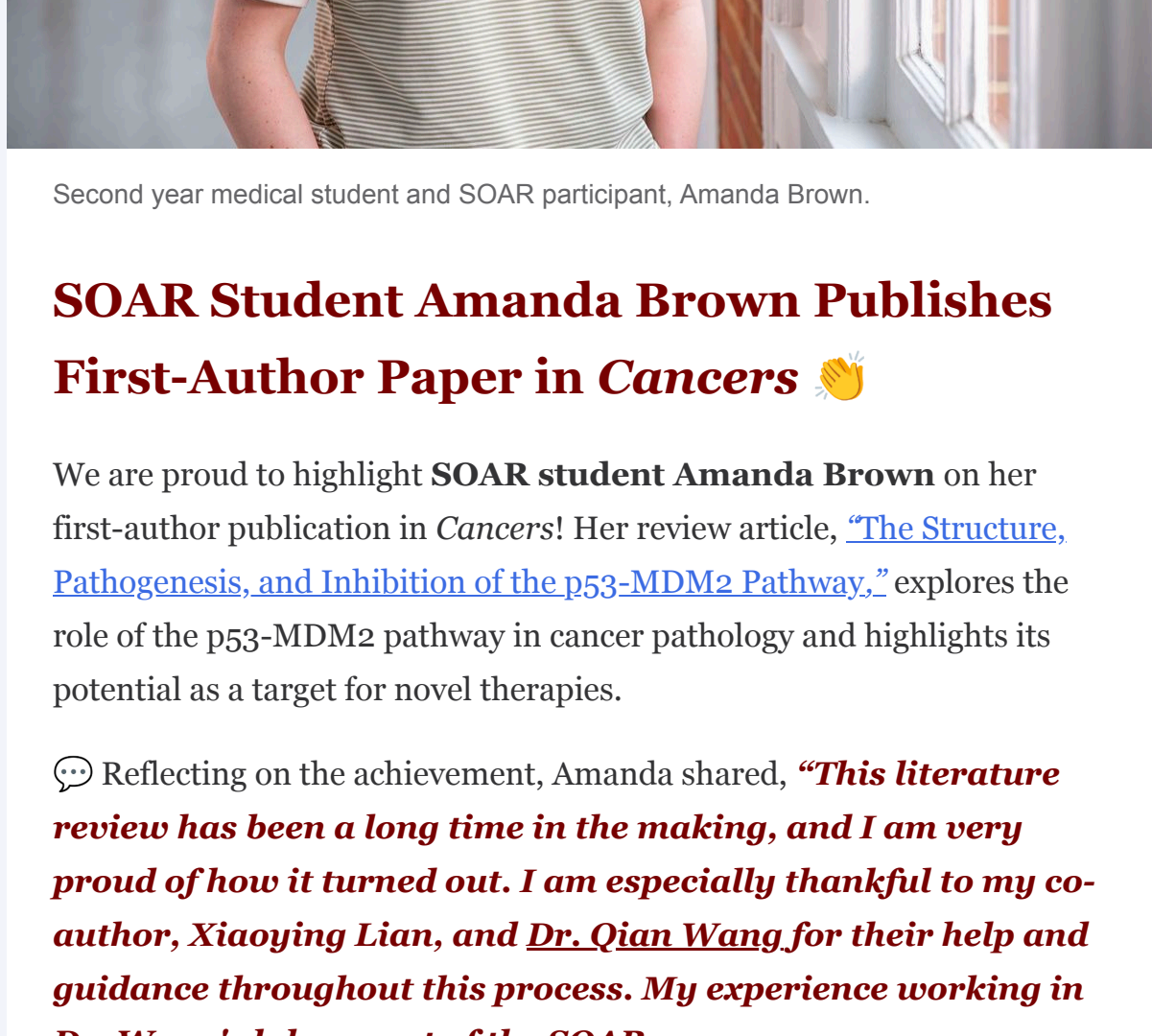
By SOMC Office of Research • Apr 15, 2026

Smart Brevity® count: 3.5 mins...971 words

🔥 Welcome to the eighth edition of the Research Roundup where we share important updates and research news to keep you in the know.

In this edition, learn about the accomplishments of our amazing medical and graduate students, add important events and seminars to your calendar, and consider applying for a new internal funding program for Education Research.

Research Spotlights



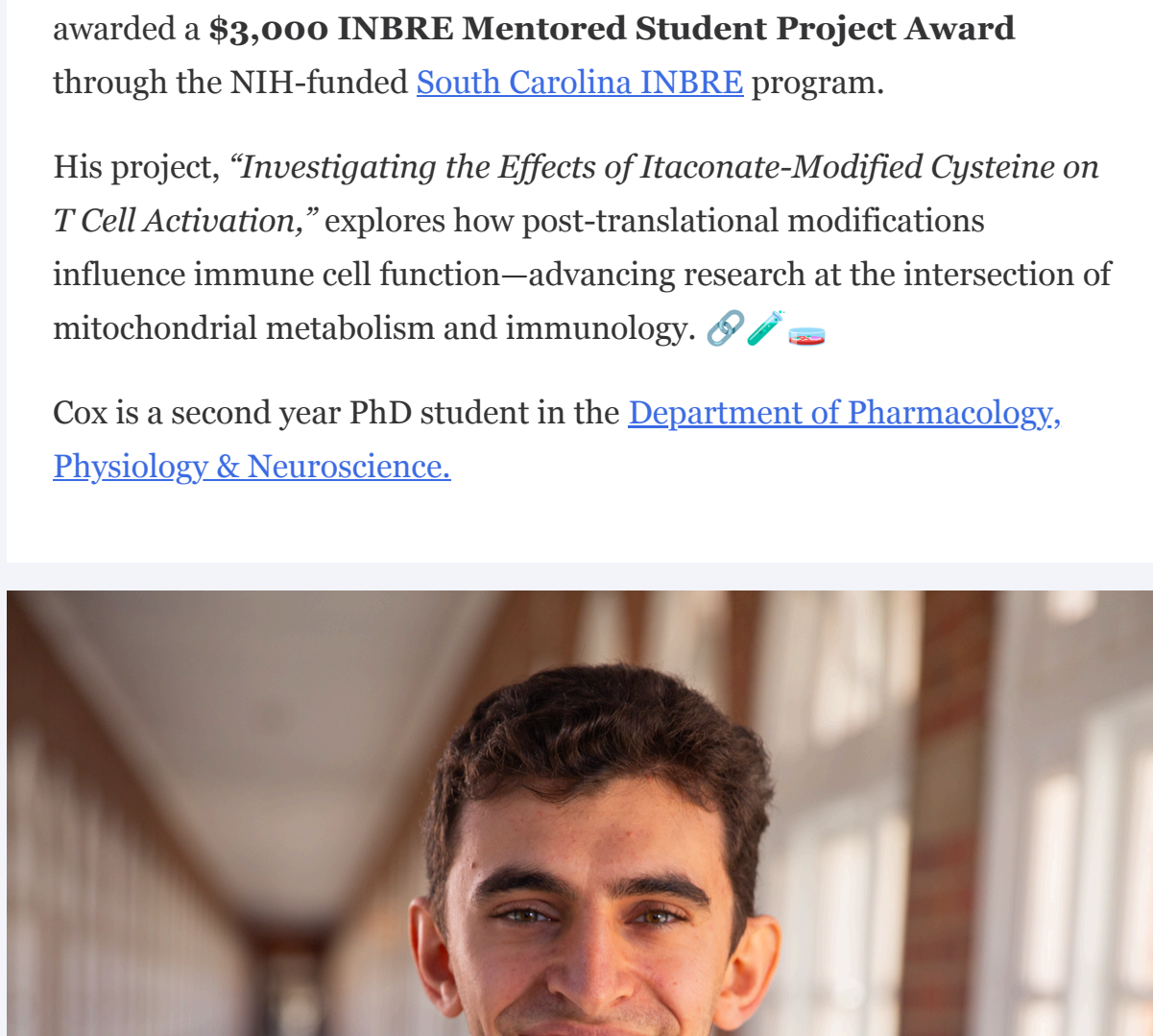
Second year medical student and SOAR participant, Amanda Brown.

SOAR Student Amanda Brown Publishes First-Author Paper in *Cancers* 🔥

We are proud to highlight **SOAR student Amanda Brown** on her first-author publication in *Cancers*! Her review article, “[The Structure, Pathogenesis, and Inhibition of the p53-MDM2 Pathway.](#)” explores the role of the p53-MDM2 pathway in cancer pathology and highlights its potential as a target for novel therapies.

💬 Reflecting on the achievement, Amanda shared, “***This literature review has been a long time in the making, and I am very proud of how it turned out. I am especially thankful to my co-author, Xiaoying Lian, and Dr. Qian Wang for their help and guidance throughout this process. My experience working in Dr. Wang’s lab as part of the SOAR program was very informative regarding the research process, something that will benefit me as I continue with my medical school education and beyond.***”

Amanda’s accomplishment highlights the impact of dedicated mentorship and the meaningful research experiences made possible through the SOAR program. 🍌



Hunter Cox, second year PhD student in the Department of Pharmacology, Physiology and Neuroscience

PPN Graduate Student Secures NIH-Funded INBRE Award 💰

Graduate student **Hunter Cox** (mentor: [Norma Frizzell](#)) has been awarded a **\$3,000 INBRE Mentored Student Project Award** through the NIH-funded [South Carolina INBRE](#) program.

His project, “*Investigating the Effects of Itaconate-Modified Cysteine on T Cell Activation,*” explores how post-translational modifications influence immune cell function—advancing research at the intersection of mitochondrial metabolism and immunology. 🔬🖋️🇺🇸

Cox is a second year PhD student in the [Department of Pharmacology, Physiology & Neuroscience](#).



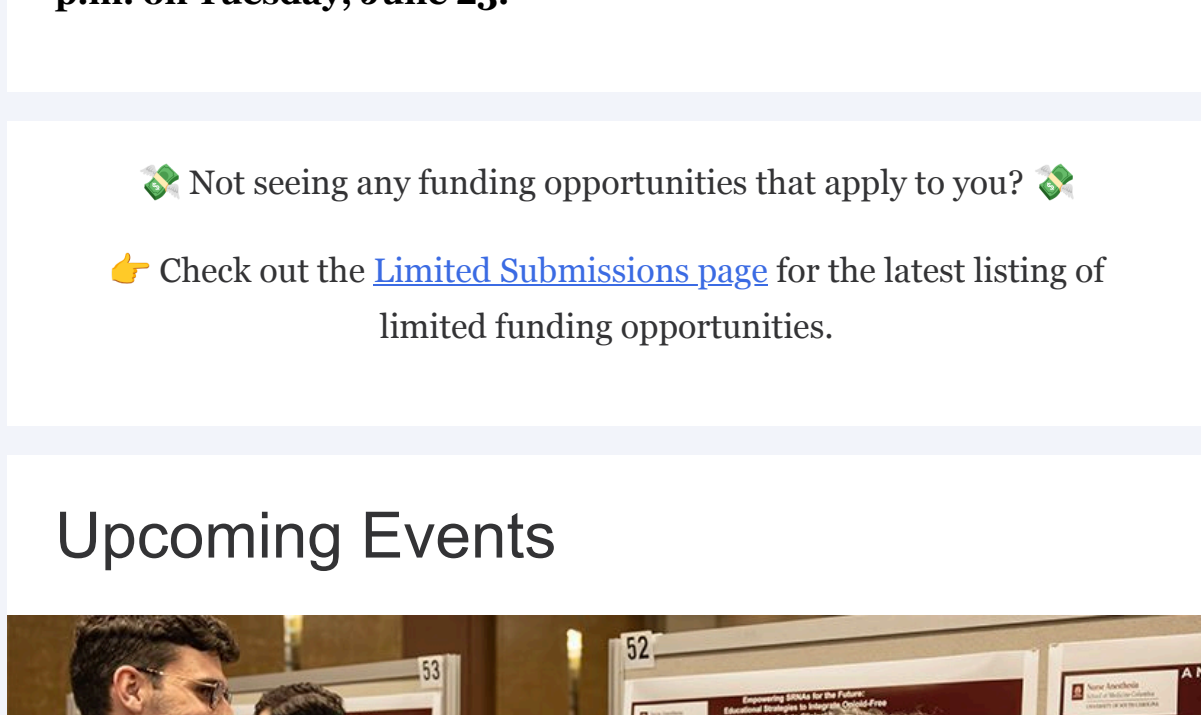
Second year medical student and SOAR participant, Andrew Hayek.

SOAR Student Andrew Hayek Co-Authors Publication in *Molecular Genetics and Metabolism Reports* 🧬

Andrew Hayek, who conducted research with [Dr. Norma Frizzell](#) through the SOAR program, is a co-author on a newly accepted paper examining a novel UQCRC1 (Complex III) variant linked to mitochondrial dysfunction. The work was completed in collaboration with [Greenwood Genetics](#). 🍌

💬 “**I am deeply grateful to Dr. Frizzell and Dr. Piroli, as well as the SOAR program, for providing such an incredible research experience,**” said Hayek. “**I especially appreciate my mentors for taking the time to teach me foundational research principles. Publishing this paper has been incredibly rewarding and is a milestone I will always be proud of.**”

Funding Opportunities



🌟💰 New Internal Funding Opportunity: Education Research Program

The SOMC OOR is launching the [Education Research Program](#), a new internal funding initiative designed to support **hypothesis-driven education research** that generates evidence to improve how we teach and learn!

This program recognizes that meaningful educational innovation requires the same rigor as biomedical research: clear hypotheses, strong methodology, and measurable outcomes.

💰 Funding Available:

Up to **three awards of \$5,000** each for the inaugural cycle to support project-related costs such as software, participant incentives, survey tools, or publication fees.

👤 Who Can Apply:

All School of Medicine faculty (professional or tenure track). Interdisciplinary collaborations are encouraged. The PI must have teaching experience.

📅 Key Dates:

Application Deadline: May 31, 2026

Awards Announced: June 30, 2026.

Funding Begins: August 1, 2026

Projects may focus on any educational context or learner level, and innovative uses of technology, including AI, are encouraged.

👉 View the [Call for Applications](#) for more details on how to apply.

NSF TechAccess: AI-Ready America Initiative 🖥️

The [National Science Foundation](#) announced the [NSF TechAccess: AI Ready America initiative](#) to expand AI access by establishing AI-Ready Coordination Hubs in every U.S. state and territory.

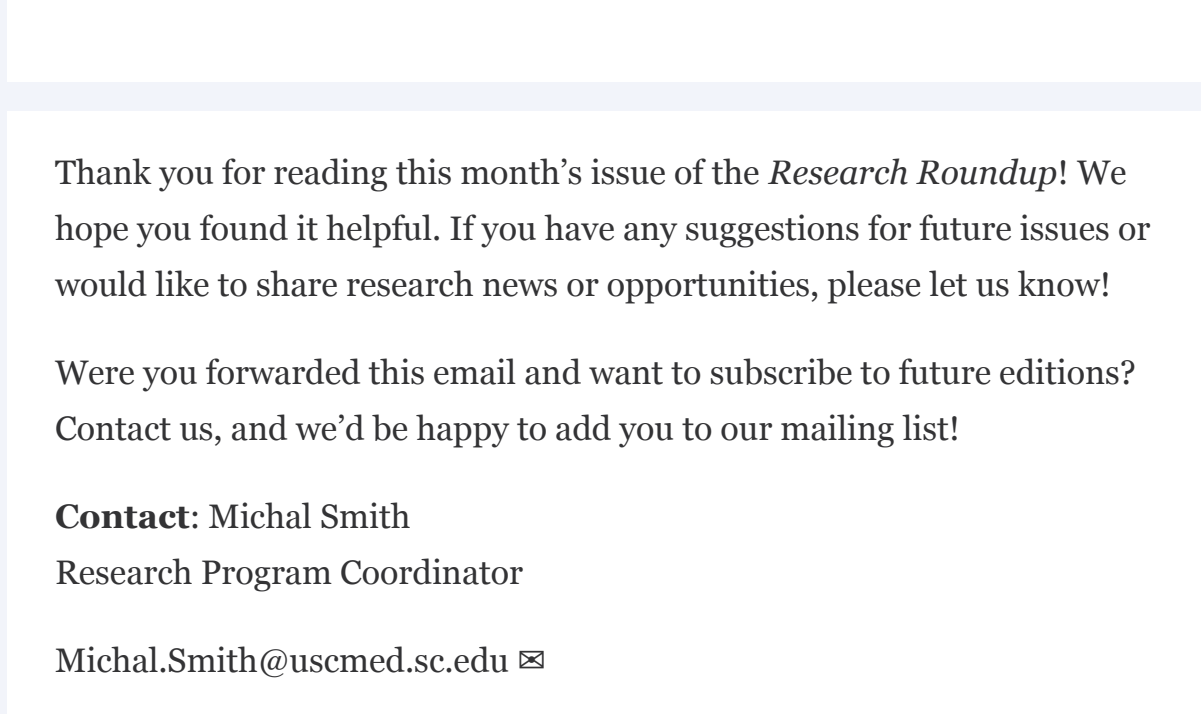
The initiative will operate through a network of state and territory-based Coordination Hubs and will **target expanding AI literacy and applied skills across the American workforce**; equipping small business and local governments with the tools and technical assistance to adopt and translate AI skills into real-world application.

Responses to the Coordination Hubs funding opportunity are due by **5 p.m. on Tuesday, June 23**.

🍌 Not seeing any funding opportunities that apply to you? 🍌

👉 Check out the [Limited Submissions page](#) for the latest listing of limited funding opportunities.

Upcoming Events



Panel Discussion - Trends and challenges for NIH CSR Study Sections

Join the [CGI Hub](#) for a **panel discussion with USC faculty who have served as members of NIH Center for Scientific Review Study Sections**. Participants will share insights into the review process including current trends and challenges.

📅 Friday, April 24, 2026

(Following [Discover USC](#))

🕒 3:00 P.M.

📍 Columbia Convention Center, Carolina Meeting Room

👉 Register [here](#).

Refine Your Skills

ClinTrUSC Research Seminar Series

Team Science in Clinical & Translational Research

Explore **best practices and common challenges in team science**, with a focus on leading and sustaining multidisciplinary and multi-institutional research collaborations.

📅 May 6, 2026

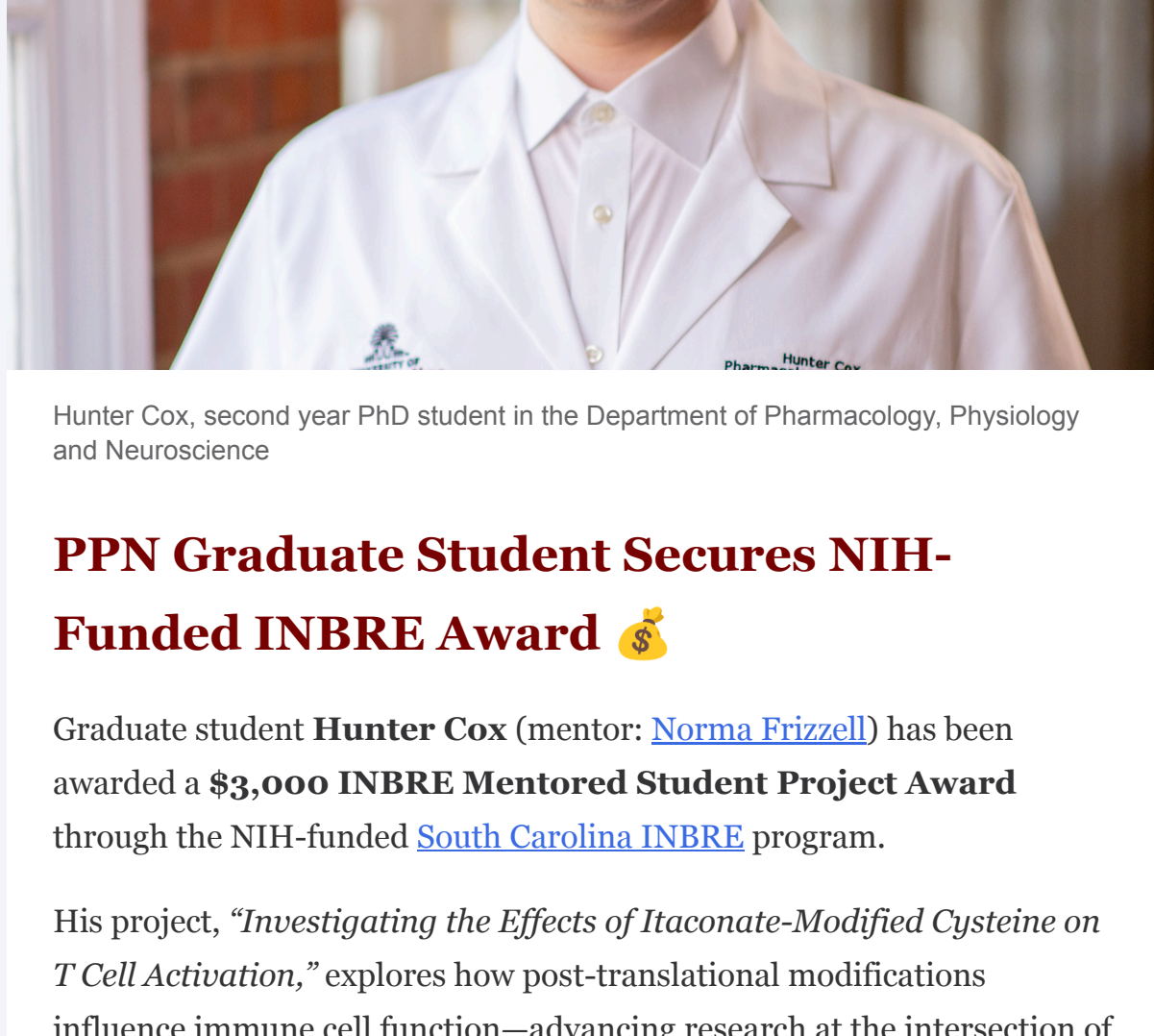
🕒 11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

👉 Register [here](#).

👉 View the full seminar series schedule [here](#).

👉 Check out the [School of Medicine Calendar](#) for more upcoming conferences and seminars.

Action Items



Review Changes to NIH Late Application Submission Policy 🧐

The NIH has announced updates to its **Late Application Submission Policy**, including the end of Continuous Submission (effective August 10, 2026) and revised criteria for acceptable late submissions (for due dates on or after May 25, 2026).

Faculty are encouraged to review the changes and adjust planning accordingly.

👉 Learn more [here](#).

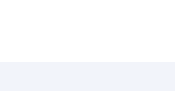
Thank you for reading this month’s issue of the *Research Roundup*! We hope you found it helpful. If you have any suggestions for future issues or would like to share research news or opportunities, please let us know!

Were you forwarded this email and want to subscribe to future editions? Contact us, and we’d be happy to add you to our mailing list!

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