Advice
I can’t emphasize enough how important it is to get involved with research that you are truly interested in and that you feel matters. Ask your professors about their research and utilize the resources at the Center for Undergraduate Excellence, such as the Faculty Research Expo and Student Scholar Symposium. Even if you have no prior research experience, don’t let this intimidate you! Our Chapman professors are happy to mentor you.

Current Research
Over 85% of children experience significant pain after surgery, yet research suggests that a quarter of these children receive very little or even no pain medication at home. The beliefs and attitudes parents have regarding pain medication can significantly impact how much pain medication they administer to their children postoperatively. With this in mind, my individual research study aims to identify the demographic of parents who have the most misconceptions about pain medications and, therefore, are the most likely to undertreat their child’s postoperative pain. With my findings, we can develop interventions that specifically target and educate these parents.

In the Affect Regulation and Health Lab, our study’s goal is to explore the effects of arousal level of positive affect (i.e. “positive emotions”) on children's asthma symptoms. We expect low-arousal positive affect (e.g. “calm”) to be associated with fewer asthma symptoms and better lung function compared to high-arousal positive affect (e.g. “vigor”).