Advice
I would advise students to pursue a subject that inspires them to work hard each day to make a difference. Research can be so fulfilling and exciting when you are working towards something you are passionate about! I would also encourage students to reach out to faculty who are in their field of interest. The Chapman community is very welcoming and supportive and would be more than happy to get you started on your journey.

Current Research
Focuses on the development of a prophylactic vaccine against the carcinogenic Epstein Barr virus (EBV). EBV infects more than 90% of the human population and is the leading cause of infectious mononucleosis. EBV is likely to cause cancer in infected subjects who are immunosuppressed. The development of this vaccine entails the use of molecular cloning to genetically modify the genome of a virus known as Modified Vaccinia Ankara (MVA) that has been fused to a bacterial artificial chromosome (BAC) to assist with the cloning process. Working on inserting 5 EBV glycoproteins into the MVA-BAC so that when the genes are expressed, a virus-like particle (VLP) will be produced that presents the 5 EBV glycoproteins on its surface. When the MVA virus containing the modified genome is injected into subjects, the human cells will be infected by the MVA and subsequently produce the VLP’s presenting the 5 EBV glycoproteins to the body. This will elicit the appropriate immune response to EBV leaving the subject with the necessary antibodies against EBV.