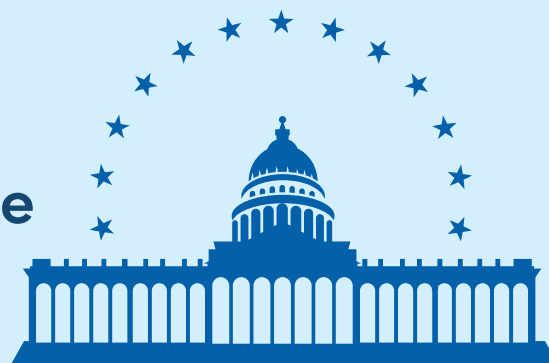




# Prioritizing mental health and well-being at The Scripps Research Institute

Justin Wang, Scripps Research Institute  
Science advocacy case study

Supported by the ASBMB Advocacy Training Program



## Overview

Wang wanted to know what steps could be taken to support student well-being at his institution. He decided to foster discussion in a town hall setting to identify initiatives that Scripps could pursue.

## Activities

- Researched mental health issues in the graduate student community.
- Hosted a town hall for graduate students, providing a platform for them to share their experiences and suggestions for institutional improvement.
- Distributed notes from the event with all graduate students and campus offices that provide counseling and psychological services, graduate program administration, and career and professional development services.

## Results

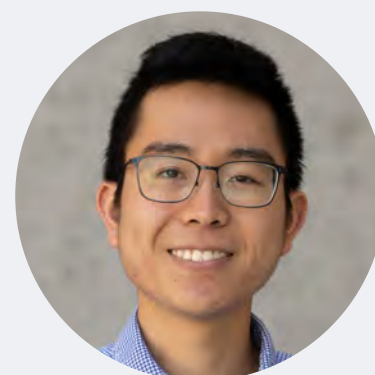
- Attracted 30 in-person and virtual participants.
- Counseling office's open-house events may resume in light of feedback.
- Graduate student council revised its annual student survey to inquire about student well-being and mental health.

## Want to learn more about the ASBMB ATP?

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Contact us at [advocacy@asbmb.org](mailto:advocacy@asbmb.org).



## About the advocate

Justin Wang, a Ph.D. candidate at Scripps Research in La Jolla, California, studies how to inhibit cancer growth and metastasis by exploiting transfer RNA synthetases. He was a member of the 2023 cohort of the ASBMB Advocacy Training Program to, in his words, “gain the skills and know-how to improve research culture through policy and translate scientific findings into impactful policy changes.” He served as president of the Graduate Student Council at Scripps and advocates for a more equitable and inclusive environment for trainees of all backgrounds.