

My name is Rohini Guin. I am a MD-PhD Candidate at Stony Brook University and Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory. I am also the current President of the American Physician Scientists Association (APSA), a student-led organization dedicated to addressing the needs, training, and goals of physician-scientists-in-training. I, along with several others, led rallies for Stand Up for Science (SUFS), a national organization dedicated to defending and advancing America's scientific ecosystem.

In my research, I study how a ketogenic diet can work together with certain medicines to treat cancer and alleviate weight loss symptoms experienced by cancer patients. Cancer places a huge burden on patients and their families and remains the second leading cause of death in the US. By understanding how diet and drugs can strengthen each other, my research aims to find new ways to make treatments more effective, less harsh, and better tailored to each person's needs. Ultimately, this work could offer patients more options, including lifestyle changes to better support their health during cancer care. My goal is to empower patients through nutritional choices that meaningfully support their overall quality of life.

The federal government's freezes, cancellations, and attempted cuts to federal research funding have stalled review of critical trainee fellowships funded via the NIH. Scientific projects like mine have the potential to make life better for millions suffering from diseases like cancer, as well as lowering the major financial costs associated with these diseases. New York has among the highest healthcare costs in the country and these costs continue to rise.

To fight back against anti-science actions by the federal government, I along with like-minded scientists across the country mobilized through Stand Up for Science in February 2025, came together in response to the Trump Administration's dismantling of our nation's premier science institutions and escalating threats to the lives of Americans.

We believe that science is the lifeblood of American democracy and freedom. With a bold strategy combining activism, messaging campaigns, grassroots organizing, and political advocacy, we're mobilizing the fight for science and democracy, now and for generations to come.

Through the efforts of tens of thousands of researchers across the country, we have made some progress in fighting back these cuts. But the impacts remain. The Governor's proposal for the Bolstering Biotech Initiative is a meaningful step towards stabilizing New York's research ecosystem, so that I and my colleagues can focus on continuing to make progress on critically important cures for diseases like cancer.

For this reason I urge all members of the state legislature to expand the current allocation for biomedical research in the proposed New York State Budget for 2026-2027 so New York can continue to lead the nation and the world when it comes to scientific innovation and reduce the financial burden on our state due to healthcare-related costs.