A variety of opportunities exist for undergraduates to become involved in research in the Division of Nutritional Sciences.

**OPTION 1: NS 4010, Empirical Research:**
Students identify the kind of research they are interested in pursuing and then contact faculty members with relevant types of research to see if/how they may become involved in a project. Once students identify the research lab, they submit a form online: [https://students.human.cornell.edu/student/](https://students.human.cornell.edu/student/). Before the form is submitted, the student and the faculty member should discuss details and outline the agreement for the content of research work. Once the form is submitted, the faculty member and the Director of Undergraduate Studies in DNS will approve it online. There is a 4 credit maximum per semester. **NOTE - IMPORTANT PREREQUISITE:** Before NS 4010 can be taken for a letter grade, the course must be first be taken as S/U for at least 2 credits. After the course has been successfully completed for at least 2 credits S/U, the student may then request to take the course for a letter grade if they choose. They can also take it again as S/U.

**OPTION 2: NS 4990 Honors Research Program:**
Students with very strong academic records are invited to apply to the honors program the fall of the junior year. This structured research experience is for students who are highly interested in research and willing to commit substantial time and intellectual energy to a project that will span semesters. For more information, see the detailed information sheet, [Honors Research Program](#) (gold pages).

**OPTION 3: Student Employment:**
A few opportunities may exist for students to assist with a research project as an employee during the academic year and/or summer. The number and nature of the opportunities vary. To identify such opportunities, students contact faculty members directly.

**Process for Exploring Research Opportunities:**
- **Find out about the types of research being conducted in the Division.**
  Beginning on the next page is a list of names of faculty members in DNS whom students may contact regarding research opportunities. Review the list and identify those faculties with whom you wish to speak. Your method of selecting faculty members may include the type of research methods you wish to learn about (e.g., social science methods or lab methods) or the problem you wish to investigate (e.g., infant nutrition or lipid metabolism). Your faculty advisor will help you identify appropriate people to contact.

- **Suggestions for contacting faculty members.**
  Speak to faculty members at least a semester in advance of the time when you would like to get a research experience. Make an appointment to see a faculty member by speaking with his/her secretary, signing up for office hours, sending an e-mail message, or another method. Before meeting, prepare a copy of the application for undergraduate research (available in B21 Savage) or bring a copy of your resume to give the faculty member. Be prepared to discuss why you are interested in research, how much time per semester and/or how many semesters you wish to be involved in research, and previous work and research-related experiences. Ask the faculty member about their current/future research projects and their expectations for undergraduates who work with them in research. The extent to which a faculty member can involve students in his/her research program will vary according to the size and scope of various projects, the faculty member's other commitments, and the skills/abilities of individual students.

- **Remember:**
  Be prepared, but do not be afraid to ask faculty members about research. All faculty members were undergraduates at some time, and many of them arranged their first research experience through this process. Faculty members like to talk about their research!

- **Assistance with Statistics:**
  One of the many things that students learn when they are involved in research is how to apply the knowledge acquired in statistics classes to real data. The Cornell Statistical Consulting Unit (CSCU) is here to
help you with this. Students involved in research projects are encouraged to seek assistance from CSCU for the design of experiments and surveys, the write-up of the statistical method section of proposals, the planning and implementation of statistical analyses, the interpretation of output and, the write-up of the results for reports or publications. To set up an appointment go to http://www.cscu.cornell.edu/about/appointment.php or contact one of the statistical consulting staff. For short questions, you may also take advantage of the walk-in consulting hours Monday-Friday from 11:00–11:30AM in B11/B18 Savage Hall and 1:30-2:00PM in B07/B09/B13 Savage Hall. For more information consult CSCU’s webpage at http://www.cscu.cornell.edu/ or contact either Francoise Vermeylen (B-07 Savage Hall, 5-8211, fmv1@cornell.edu).

Brief Description of DNS Faculty Research Interests
For more information, check faculty websites at: http://www.human.cornell.edu/dns/academic/facultyconcen.cfm

**PATSY BRANNON**, Ph.D. Professor (225 Savage Hall, 5-3770, pmb22@cornell.edu). Maternal nutrition, placental regulation and developmental programming.

**J THOMAS BRENNA**, Ph.D., Professor (B38 Savage Hall, 5-9182, jtb4@cornell.edu). Fatty acid nutrition during perinatal development; steroid and other sports doping methods development; development of biomedical mass spectrometry for lipid analysis, including high precision isotope ratio and molecular mass spectrometry.

**RICHARD CANFIELD**, Ph.D., Senior Research Assoc. (302 MVR Hall, 5-9575, rlc5@cornell.edu). Intellectual development during infancy and early childhood, including cognitive development, and the effects of low-level lead (Pb) exposure on intellectual development.

**PATRICIA A. CASSANO**, Ph.D., Associate Professor (209 Savage Hall, 5-7551, pac6@cornell.edu). Research: Nutritional and genetic epidemiology, nutrients with antioxidant and anti-inflammatory properties and lung disease risk, young adult weight change and chronic disease risk, interaction of nutrition and the genome in chronic diseases.

**MARIE CAUDILL**, Ph.D., R.D. Professor (228 Savage Hall, 4-7456, mac379@cornell.edu). Optimizing maternal nutrition during pregnancy and lactation to improve maternal and child health.

**CAROL DEVINE**, Ph.D., Professor. (405 Savage Hall, 5-2633, cmd10@cornell.edu). Work-family integration, food choice coping strategies, and weight gain prevention; increasing access to healthy meals for working families.

**KATE DICKIN**, Ph.D. Research Scientist (302 Savage Hall phone: 255-7297 e-mail: kld12@cornell.edu)
Research: Maternal and child nutrition; micronutrient interventions; parenting and feeding styles, food insecurity, nutrition disparities, and evaluation of program implementation and impact.

**JAMIE DOLLAHITE**, Ph.D., Professor (408 Savage Hall, 5-7715, jsd13@cornell.edu). Nutrition education for low-income audiences, including methods of program evaluation; nutrition education using mobile technology and electronic media; community level change that supports healthy lifestyles.

**JULIA L. FINKELSTEIN**, MPH SM ScD, The Follett Sesquicentennial Faculty Fellow and Assistant Professor of Epidemiology and Nutrition. (218 Savage Hall, 5-9180, jfinkelstein@cornell.edu). The role of vitamin B12, iron, and folate in the etiology of anemia and adverse pregnancy outcomes; intersection of nutrition and infection, particularly HIV and neglected tropical diseases. Epidemiology, maternal and child health, international nutrition, geographic information science and technology. Randomized trials, cohort studies, and epidemiologic surveillance programs in resource-limited settings in India and Latin America.

**ZHENGLONG GU**, Ph.D. Associate Professor (312 Savage Hall, 4-5144, zg27@cornell.edu). Evolution of metabolism in human and model organisms; Evolution of duplicate genes; Network biology; Regional dietary adaptation during human evolution and its medical significance in current society.

**JOHN Hoddinott**, D.Phil., Professor (305 Savage Hall, 5-8443, Hoddinott@cornell.edu) Economics of food security and nutrition; international nutrition; program evaluation; development economics.

**DAVID LEVITSKY**, Ph.D., Professor. (112 Savage Hall, 5-3263, dal4@cornell.edu). Eating behavior and the control of body weight.
MARLA LUJAN, Ph.D. Assistant Professor (216 Savage Hall, 5-3153, mel245@cornell.edu). Nutritional regulation of the menstrual cycle; ultrasonographic evaluation of ovarian function; endocrinology of obesity and reproduction.

CHARLES McCORMICK, Ph.D., Associate Professor (223 Savage Hall, 5-2063, ccm3@cornell.edu). Nutritional control of gene expression.

SAURABH MEHTA, M.B.B.S., Sc.D., Assistant Professor of Global Health, Epidemiology, and Nutrition, (314 Savage Hall, 5-2640, smehta@cornell.edu). Maternal and Child Nutrition; Global Health; Nutritional Modulation of the Immune Response; Epidemiology; Tuberculosis; HIV; Role of Vitamin D in human health; Neglected Tropical Diseases.

KIMBERLY O’BRIEN, Ph.D., Professor (230 Savage, 5-3743, koo4@cornell.edu). Research: Mineral metabolism during pregnancy, adolescent pregnancy, placental transport of nutrients, maternal/fetal nutrient partitioning using stable isotopes and mass spectrometry, calcium, iron and vitamin D metabolism.

ROBERT PARKER, Ph.D., Associate Professor (226 Savage Hall, 5-2661, rsp3@cornell.edu). Metabolism and bioavailability of vitamin E; interaction of vitamin E and vitamin K.

PILAR A. PARRA, Ph.D. Research Associate and Senior Lecturer (309 Savage Hall, 5-0063, pap2@cornell.edu) Immigration, acculturation and poverty in the health status of minority populations; applied research to design and test interventions to achieve long-term health behavior change; Home food safety among Mexican Americans, prevention through education.

DAVID PELLETIER, Ph.D., Professor (212 Savage Hall, 5-1086, dlp5@cornell.edu). Improved methods for the development, implementation and evaluation of nutrition policies, programs and interventions in developing countries and the U.S. Includes a focus on chronic malnutrition, micronutrient malnutrition, childhood obesity, implementation science, multisectoral nutrition and nutrition governance.

SHU-BING QIAN, Ph.D., Assistant Professor (301 Biotech, 4-3397, sq38@cornell.edu). Nutrient signaling in mammalian cells, stress response and protein quality control, protein synthesis and cell growth, nutritional biochemistry in human diseases.

KATHLEEN RASMUSSEN, Sc.D., Professor. (111 Savage Hall, 5-2290, kmr5@cornell.edu). Role of nutrition in reproduction, particularly the effects of maternal nutrition on pregnancy outcome and lactational performance; maternal and infant nutrition.

DAVID SAHN, Ph.D., M.P.H. Professor and Director of Cornell Food and Nutrition Policy Program (CFNPP) (B16 MVR, 5-8931, David.Sahn@cornell.edu). The determinants of, and solutions to poverty, inequality, poor health and malnutrition; and exploring the role of policies and programs to raise living standards, and improve skills, ability and health and nutrition outcomes.

REBECCA SEGUIN, PhD. Assistant Professor (412 Savage Hall, 5-8250, rs846@cornell.edu). Community-based nutrition and physical activity interventions and dissemination research; underserved populations (e.g. low-income; rural); social, food, and physical activity environments influences on behavior and health.

JEFFERY SOBAL, M.P.H., Ph.D., Professor. (407 Savage Hall, 5-6015, js57@cornell.edu). Sociological aspects of food and nutrition; social patterns of obesity; food choice; family meals and commensality, food systems.

PAUL SOLOWAY, Ph.D., Professor. (211 Weill Hall, 4-6444, Soloway@cornell.edu). Regulation of epigenetic phenomena.

CHRISTINA STARK, M.S., R.D., C.D.N. Senior Extension Associate, (409 Savage Hall, 5-2141, cms11@cornell.edu). Nutrition education for professionals. Distance learning. Online professional development.

MARTHA STIPANUK, Ph.D., Professor. (227 Savage Hall, 5-2683, mhs6@cornell.edu). Sulfur amino acid metabolism, role of cysteine dioxygenase in sulfur metabolism; H2S signaling and sulfhydration of target proteins; amino acid deprivation response pathways.
REBECCA STOLTZFUS, M.S, Ph.D., Professor. (120 Savage Hall, 5-7671, rjs62@cornell.edu). Improving the health and well being of women and children in resource-poor environments by improving their nutritional status. Major research themes: Nutrition interventions for mothers and infants; Infections and malnutrition; micronutrients, anemia, environmental enteropathy, hygiene and sanitation, mycotoxins and human health.

PATRICK STOVER, Ph.D., Professor. (127 Savage Hall, 5-8001, pjs13@cornell.edu). Regulation of Folate mediated-metabolism one carbon metabolism; metabolic regulation of cellular methylation reactions; mechanisms of folate-related pathologies; interaction of metabolism with genome stability and gene expression.

BARBARA STRUPP, Ph.D., Professor. (also Adjunct Prof., Dept. of Psychology) (109 Savage Hall/ 217 Weill Hall, 5-2694, bjs13@cornell.edu). Lifelong cognitive effects of biological influences during early development (e.g., maternal nutrient intake, exposure to toxins). Ongoing studies focus on the effects of maternal choline supplementation on offspring cognition, affect, and epigenetics, in normal individuals as well as individuals with Down syndrome and Alzheimer’s Disease. Studies include rodent models and human subjects.

ANNA THALACKER-MERCER, Ph.D. Assistant Professor (109 Savage Hall, 5-7007, aet74@cornell.edu). Mechanisms underlying skeletal muscle metabolic and inflammatory dysfunction in health and disease primarily linked to aging; Dietary and exercise treatments to improve the phenotype of sarcopenic obesity and metabolic dysfunction in older adults.

Note: You may also find research experiences with faculty members in other departments. To find research experiences in other departments:
1. speak with instructors of courses that interest you, and with your faculty advisor
2. speak with undergraduate students in other majors,
3. contact the department offices for lists of faculty research areas, and
4. explore the faculty pages of department web sites.