



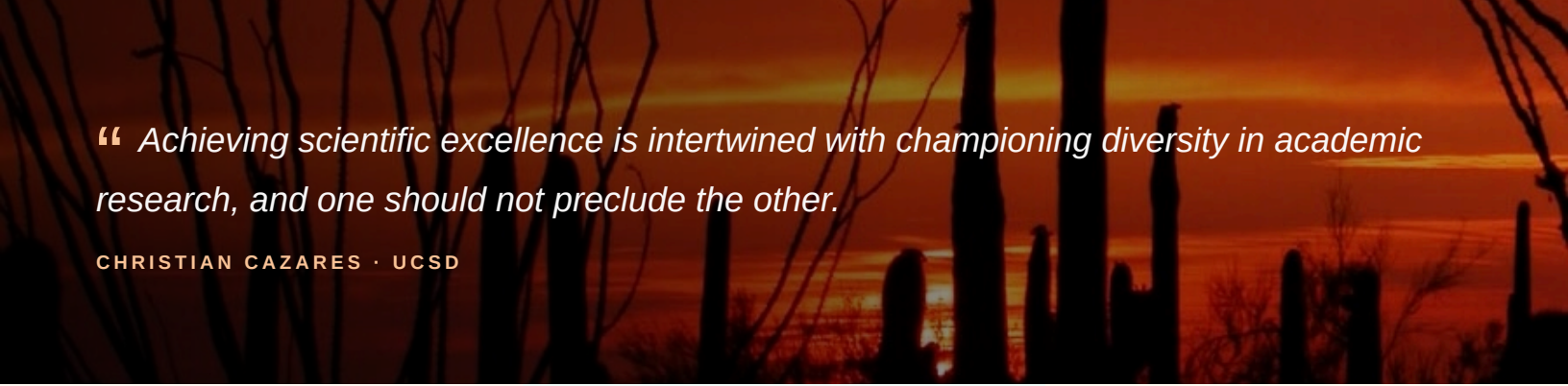
CHRISTIAN CAZARES

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CONFRONTING SCIENCE'S CLASS PROBLEM — FROM THE BORDER TO THE BRAIN

FOUNDER
Colors
OF THE BRAIN

PUBLISHED 2024
Nature Neuroscience

\$230K+ RAISED FOR PAID RESEARCH POSITIONS	5 COHORTS OF SCHOLARS SUPPORTED	30+ STUDENTS FUNDED	501(c)(3) REGISTERED NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION
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“ Achieving scientific excellence is intertwined with championing diversity in academic research, and one should not preclude the other.

CHRISTIAN CAZARES · UCSD

01 Cross-Scale Electrophysiology

RESEARCH SCIENCE

- Cross-scale EEG biomarkers bridging patient findings to experimental models in neurodevelopmental disorders
- Within-subject correspondence between patient EEG and cortical organoids derived from children with autism
- Transcriptomic signatures of aberrant electrophysiology in a Rett syndrome mouse model via snRNA-seq
- Aperiodic neural activity as a translational biomarker anchor for clinicians and researchers alike
- Portable, affordable EEG to bring early detection to underserved communities far from major medical centers

02 Colors of the Brain

EQUITY IN SCIENCE

- Founded Colors of the Brain in 2016 as a first-year graduate student alongside three colleagues at UC San Diego
- \$230,000+ raised and managed; highest stipends among UCSD summer undergraduate research programs
- Five scholar cohorts produced; graduates accepted into PhD programs and now lead the organization
- IBRO grant awarded to new generation of co-directors to sustain paid research for low-income students
- Lessons learned published in Nature Neuroscience (Cazares and Patino et al., 2024)

03 Science's Class Problem

LANGUAGE, ACCESS, JUSTICE

- Advocated GRE removal from graduate admissions in 2018, before the national movement gained momentum
- Founded BrainBorders to provide bilingual neuroscience education in Calexico, El Centro, and border cities
- Organized Spanish-language neuroscience workshop at Society for Neuroscience 2025
- Hosting workshop entirely in Spanish on analytical tools at CETYS University, Tijuana, Baja California
- Nephew with autism in Calexico — hours from specialists — motivates biomarker work for underserved communities

CROSS-SCALE THINKING	BORDER ROOTS	EQUITY ADVOCATE	GRASSROOTS BUILDER	BILINGUAL SCIENCE
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