

An almost \$250 thousand grant will help UW-La Crosse undergraduates and area high school students conduct more research on bacterial infections and diseases that affect neurons in the body. The large National Science Foundation grant will allow UW-L researchers to add 15 more undergraduates and high school students to their team to conduct more research on diseases such as Parkinson's, Alzheimer's and Huntington's.

UW-L Chemistry Professor Todd Weaver says the grant, his second consecutive for research on neurodegenerative diseases, speaks highly of the project and UW-L

. Less than 15 percent of NSF proposals are funded and the host institution must support the project. Weaver says UW-L administrators have built a very supportive environment to conduct meaningful, hypothesis-driven undergraduate research.

Weaver says the initial grant sparked nine UW-L undergraduates to present posters regionally and nationally, along with three who have co-authored an article in a peer-reviewed top-tier scientific journal. Four students have continued doctorate studies at major research universities such as Yale, UW-Madison, the University of Michigan, and the University of Minnesota.