



Maria Chimiras

Adelphi University Artivism Club Co-Founder: Healing Extending Beyond the Physical



Four years ago, I co-founded the [Artivism Club](#) at Adelphi University with the goal of using art to advocate for social change. What began as a college endeavor inspired by the initiative **Artivism: The Power of Art for Social Transformation** has continued to influence how I approach medicine today.

The concept of **Artivism** taught me that healing extends beyond the physical; it involves empathy, creativity, and connection. This mindset has guided me through medical school and now, as I apply for residency, it remains central to how I envision patient care.



In the Fall of 2021, my senior year at Adelphi University in Garden City, New York, I served as Artivism Ambassador introducing Dr. Alexander Sorokin for his presentation [Sensory Safety in an Art Museum](#).

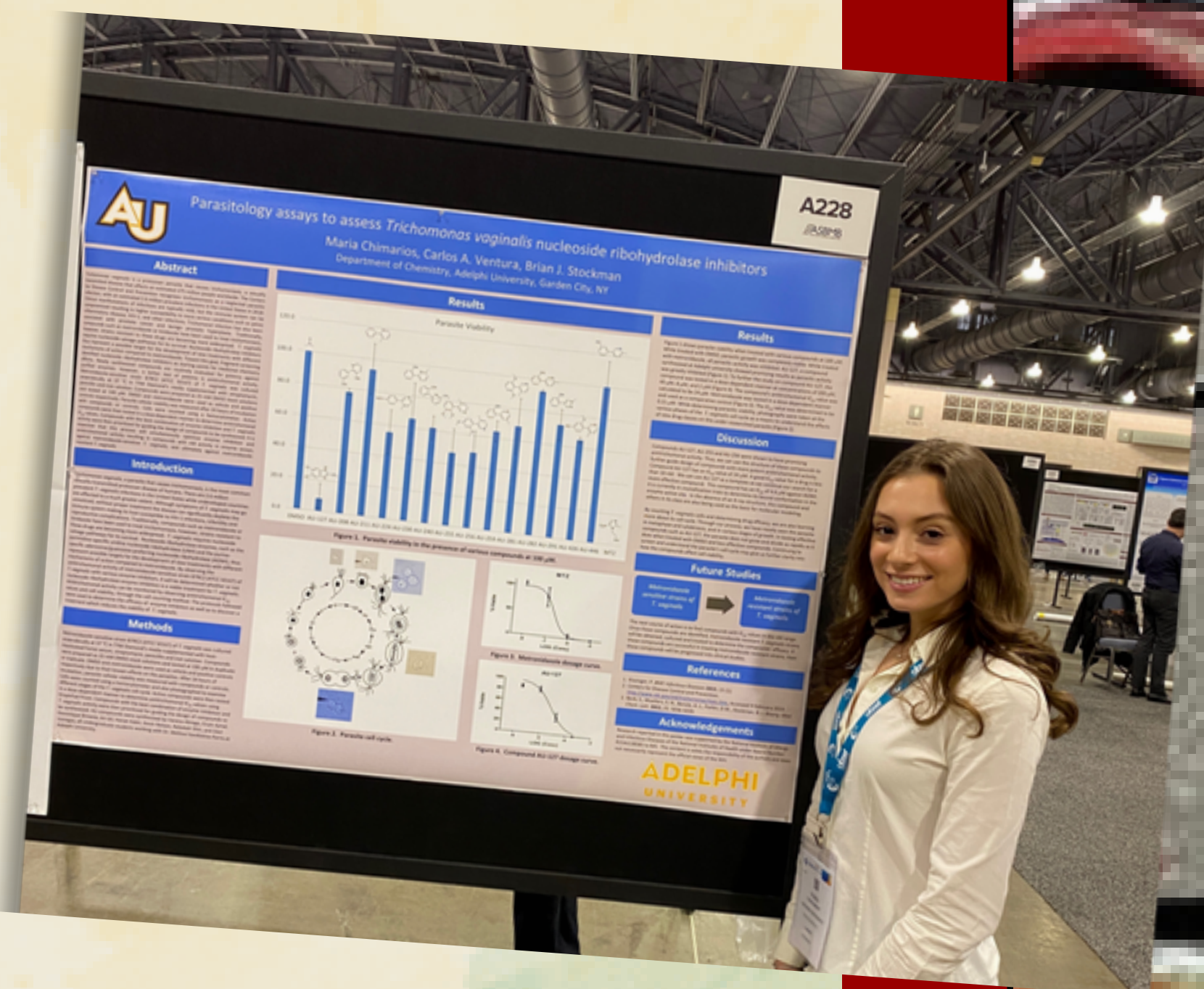
Working with Dr. Sorokin as an Artivism Ambassador further deepened my understanding of advocacy in action. His sensory safety in art museums program, promoting accessibility for individuals with autism, dementia, and other neuro-sensory challenges showed me how inclusion can transform lives. It reminded me that the principles of **Artivism** apply everywhere, including hospitals and clinics.



[watch video here](#)
 YouTube

Looking back, co-founding the Artivism Club along with Rowan McKiernan was more than just starting a club; it was building a community grounded in compassion. Collaborating with others toward a shared vision revealed that meaningful change often begins with creativity and connection.

I am currently in my 4th year at the New York Institute of Technology College of Osteopathic Medicine (NYITCOM), applying for a residency in general surgery. And, even years later, the **Artivism** mindset continues to shape not only my perspective, but the kind of physician I strive to become.



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COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Date: Dec. 6-9th
Time: 11:00am-5:00pm
in Science: Room 108



To get involved in this initiative
please contact Charles Herman
charlesherman@mail.adelphi.edu

Use the QR code for sign up sheet
and more information

Since the founding of the Artivism club in the Fall of 2021, its efforts in creating a community of Artists-Collaborators continues to thrive.

For example, the Dress for Success event, provided a space where students could obtain free clothing and accessories translating into self-esteem and confidence for students to attend their interviews and internships. The Artivism and Criminal Justice clubs in collaboration with other entities three year run of the Dress for Success event inspired Adelphi University to now host a permanent professional clothing boutique right on campus.