



2026 Bold Path Fellow - Research Triangle Region



Ellora McTaggart

EDUCATION:



The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
Bachelor of Science, Biomedical and Health Sciences Engineering
2019 – 2023

[Ellora \(Ellie\) McTaggart](#) is the Co-Founder and CEO of Carolina Instruments, a UNC Chapel Hill spinout building wearable technology that captures eye motion and pupil responses in real time. By addressing the speed and power limitations of existing eye tracking approaches, the system enables new insights into cognition and behavior that have historically been limited to research labs.

A biomedical engineer with a background in neuroscience, she developed the company's core technology as an undergraduate researcher at UNC and started the company after graduating in 2023. She built Carolina Instruments around the belief that these insights should not require access to top research institutions, a perspective shaped by her childhood in rural western North Carolina where those resources were often out of reach.



[Carolina Instruments](#) develops wearable pupil-tracking technology that captures subtle changes in pupil size and eye movement to reveal insights about attention, cognitive effort, and neurological health. The patented system delivers neuroscience-grade data at significantly higher speeds than existing wearable trackers while maintaining a compact form factor suitable for AR/VR devices. The technology is currently being distributed to research labs while the company develops integration for consumer hardware that could enable accessible neurological monitoring tools.

“Being selected for the Bold Path Fellowship is a vote of confidence I don't take lightly, especially at a time when scientific research funding is uncertain and sustained focus matters most. This fellowship allows me to stay fully committed to building during a pivotal stage. I'm genuinely grateful to be welcomed into this community of leaders and am excited to play a part in this program as it sets a strong precedent for investing in the next generation of founders.”

