April 19, 2004 was “MARC Student Day at EB2004” during the recent “Experimental Biology” meeting in Washington, DC. The FASEB MARC Program in association with the American Association of Anatomists (AAA), the American Society for Pharmacology and Experimental Therapeutics (ASPET), the American Association of Immunologists (AAI) and the American Society for Investigative Pathology (ASIP), coordinated the event. A total of over 100 undergraduate students from the following institutions participated in MARC Student Day at EB2004: Howard University, University of the District of Columbia, University of Maryland Baltimore County, Montgomery College, Prince George’s Community College, University of Maryland Eastern Shore, Coppin State University, Bowie State University and the College of Southern Maryland.

SCENES FROM MARC STUDENT DAY AT EB2004: (Top-left) Dr. Jayne Reuben, postdoctoral fellow at the University of Michigan talks about the importance of selecting and establishing an excellent network of mentors at the undergraduate, graduate and postdoctoral levels of your career path. (Top-right) Dr. Adolphus Toliver, Branch Chief of the MARC Program, NIGMS/NIH stresses the importance and value of earning a Ph.D. and why science students should consider a research career. (Center-left) Ms. Jennifer Law, sophomore at Howard University discusses summer research opportunities with Dr. Chellu Chetty, professor at Savannah State University, and Mr. John Baker, Ph.D. student at Rutgers University (and a Dr. Chetty mentee). (Center-right) Dr. Frederick R. Rickles (right), Chief Executive Officer of FASEB, presents an award of appreciation to the Minority Student Workshop organizer, Dr. James Story of Meharry Medical College. (Bottom-left) Dr. Juan Bustamante, Postdoctoral Fellow (University of Kansas Medical Center) and EB2004 Peer Mentor shares lunch and conversation with two local area undergraduate students. (Bottom-right) EB2004 Minority Student Workshop panelists: Ms. Krista Blackwell, Ph.D. candidate at Howard University (center); and Dr. Nikia Laurie, postdoctoral fellow at St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital.
What We’ve Been Doing

TRAVEL AWARDS TO SCIENTIFIC MEETINGS

The FASEB MARC Program recently awarded travel grants to the following for meetings held during the October 2003-June 2004 grant period:

ABRCMS 2003:

POSTER & ORAL PRESENTERS: Agyenim Amoako, Delaware State University; Anastasia Amoakoh, College of St. Elizabeth; Adrienne Baksh, Johns Hopkins University; Brandon Bell, University of Maryland Baltimore County; Qiana Bell, Grambling State University; Stephanie Chambers, Rutgers University of New Jersey; Andrea Cyphers, Grambling State University;

Terri Stoner, Northeastern Ohio Universities College of Med.; Rodney Theodore, University of Maryland, Baltimore County; Alejandro Toro, Rutgers University; Jennifer Waller, Grambling State University

SROP Poster Presenters:

Regina Celestin, Stanford University; Javier Garcia, New York University; Patricia Nugent, Delaware State University; Alexandra Rodriguez, UMDNJ; Nicole Torres, University of Puerto Rico-Humacao; Lucieann Vechioli, University of Puerto Rico-Mayaguez. FACULTY/MENTORS & STUDENTS: Dr. Paul Copeland, UMDNJ; Dr. Harriette Howard-Lee Block, Prairie View A&M University; Dr. James Raynor, Fayetteville State University;

Allison Carter, Tufts-New England Medical Center; Ricardo Garcia, University of San Diego; Eric Gonzales, Univ. of North Texas Health Science Ctr.; Mahealani Monteith-Zoller, The Queen’s Medical Ctr./Univ. of Hawaii; Adrian Olivares, Yale University; Alicia Shelly, Oakwood College; Miguel Talavera, Yale University. FACULTY/MENTOR & STUDENTS: Dr. Juan Ramirez, University of Puerto Rico; Mariel Adorno, University of Puerto Rico; Pamela Torres, University of Puerto Rico; Dr. Don Rufus Ranatunga, Oakwood College; Sonnet Davis, Oakwood College; Dr. Alexander Volkov, Oakwood College; Tanya Dunkley, Oakwood College; Dr. Maia Volkov, Oakwood College; Shalleen-Kaye Denham, Oakwood College.

AMERICAN SOCIETY FOR CLINICAL INVESTIGATION MEETING:

FACULTY/MENTOR & STUDENTS: Dr. Cynthia Cardona, University of Puerto Rico; Jorge Alagon, University of Puerto Rico; JoMarie Rivera, University of Puerto Rico; Dr. Jose Fernandez, University of Puerto Rico; Monica Nieves, University of Puerto Rico; Yara Rosario, University of Puerto Rico

EXPERIMENTAL BIOLOGY ANNUAL MEETING: 2004 MARC STUDENT DAY TRAVEL AWARD WINNERS: Adrian Fejoo, University of Maryland, Baltimore County; Gracieuse Sajus, Prince George’s Community College; Michael Spliedt, University of Maryland, Baltimore County. (Nominated and recommended by the American Society for Investigative Pathology): POSTER & ORAL PRESENTERS: Jade Carter, Brown University; C. Marcela Diaz-Montero, University of Texas, MD Anderson Cancer Center; Laundette Jones Georgetown Univ./Lombardi Cancer Center. (Nominated and recommended by the American Association of Immunologists): TRAINEE-JUNIOR FACULTY MINORITY SCIENTIST TRAVEL AWARD: Adrian Arechiga, University of California-Irvine; Jonathan Deane, University of California-Irvine; Manuel Moro, Kansas State University; Thandi Onami, Emory University School of Medicine; Adriano Salicru, University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston; Melanie Sanchez, Lovelace Respiratory Research Inst.; Deirdre Thomas-Rudolph, University of New Mexico School of Medicine; Peter Valázquez, University of California-Los Angeles; FACULTY MENTOR/MINORITY TRAINEE TRAVEL AWARD: Dr. Janice Blum, Indiana University School of Medicine; Jeremy Lott, Indiana University School of Medicine; Tammi Taylor, Indiana University School of Medicine; Dr. Michael Brown, University of Virginia; Marisela Rodriguez, University of Virginia; Dr. Randy Brutkiewicz, Indiana University School of Medicine; Dr. Victoria Camerini, University of California-Irvine; Jeffrey Hartleroed, University of California-Irvine; Dr. Elizabeth Field, University of Iowa; Dr. Kristine Garza, The University of Texas at El Paso; Cynthia Perez, The University of Texas at El Paso; Claudia Vargas, The University of Texas at El Paso; Dr. James Lillard, Morehouse School of Medicine; Erica Johnson, University; Nada Elbuluk, Princeton University; Adrienne Goodrich, Thomas Jefferson University; Oluwakemi Johnson, University of Pittsburgh; Melissa Liriano, University of Maryland, Baltimore County; Nicole Onyeneho, University of Maryland, Baltimore County; Clarence Owens, Hartwick College; Alicia Sherrell, Delaware State University; Kezia Sterling, Grambling State University;

Dr. Granville Wrensford, Albany State University; Hector Caban, UMDNJ; Yvette Green, UMDNJ; Stacy Lloyd, Prairie View A&M University; Latasha Rabsatt, Prairie View A&M University; Ashley Cheek, Fayetteville State University; Laurashya McMillan, Fayetteville State University; Kenya Lemon, Albany State University; Joyce Roberts, Albany State University.

BIOPHYSICAL SOCIETY MEETING 2004: POSTER & ORAL PRESENTERS:

“Attending the FASEB conferences has afforded me the opportunity to interact with my fellow graduate students and professional scientists. I was able to broaden my awareness of the diversity of biomedical research as well. Additionally, the meetings have provided me with the opportunity to make contacts that will be beneficial to my career in the future.” Willie Craft, Jr., Ph.D. Student, University of Kentucky
What We’ve Been Doing continued...

Morehouse School of Medicine; Kristina Keys, Morehouse School of Medicine; Dr. Chaim Puttermann, Albert Einstein College of Medicine; Sean Campbell, Albert Einstein College of Medicine; Dr. Gerald Sonnenfeld, Morehouse School of Medicine; Hernan Aviles, Morehouse School of Medicine; Dr. Fernando Villalta, Meharry Medical College; Swinburne Augustine, Meharry Medical College; Kaneatra Simmons, Meharry Medical College; Dr. Julie Wilder, Lovelace Respiratory Research Inst.; Melanie Sanchez, Lovelace Respiratory Research Inst.; Dr. Tai June Yoo, University of Tennessee; Brandon Hill, University of Tennessee; GENOMICS SYMPOSIUM PARTICIPANTS: Reshma Bagla, Ohio State University; Hongmei Chen, North Dakota State University; Dr. George Christ, Albert Einstein College of Medicine; Jeremy Davis, Southern Illinois University; Sachin Devi, The University of Louisiana at Monroe; Linda Hammond, Univ. of North Carolina-Chapel Hill; Aditi Marwaha, Heart & Kidney Inst.-Univ. of Houston; Carrie McCurdy, University of Michigan; Dr. Michael Pagliassotti, Colorado State University; Makoto Yono, Yale University School of Medicine. POSTER & ORAL PRESENTERS: Mohamed Attaya, Texas Tech University; Jenny Chua-Tuan, Texas Tech University; Selina Faith Darling-Reed, Florida A&M University; Linda Hammond, Univ. of North Carolina-Chapel Hill; Tabitha Hardy, Jackson State University; L’Aurelle Johnson, University of Michigan; Alia McConnell, University of Houston; Katherine Shivers, University of Houston; April Stull, Purdue University; Andrew Unzeitig, Univ. of Texas Health Science Center. FACULTY/MENTOR & STUDENTS: Dr. Caroline Appleyard, Ponce School of Medicine; Gerardo Hernandez, Ponce School of Medicine; Olga Santiago, Ponce School of Medicine; Dr. Idhaliz Flores, Ponce School of Medicine; Dr. Willis Jacob, Southern University; Lanee Lane, Southern University; Larry Minor, Southern University; Dr. Evangeline Motley, Meharry Medical College; Phillip Palmer, Meharry Medical College; Stephanie Richardson, Meharry Medical College; Dr. Sandra Murray, University of Pittsburgh; Kevin Davis, University of Pittsburgh; Douglas Robinson, University of Pittsburgh; Dr. Catherine Opere, Creighton University; Adewale Adeniran, Jacksonville University; Dr. Teresa Petrinio, Barry University; Gesulla Toussaint, Barry University; Dr. Karam Soliman, Florida A&M University; Zakia Williams, Florida A&M University; Dr. Peter Ward, University of Michigan; Brandon Baugh, University of Michigan. AMERICAN SOCIETY FOR BIOCHEMISTRY & MOLECULAR BIOLOGY MEETING: POSTER & ORAL PRESENTERS: Frances Antommattie, University of Massachusetts; Willie Craft, University of Kentucky; Nathaniel dela Paz, University of California-San Diego; Sandra Gonzalez-Ramirez, Ponce School of Medicine; Mack Hall, Meharry Medical College; Julia Hernandez, The Ohio State University; Shemedia Johnson, University of North Texas Health Science Center; Eddie Kamau, Louisiana State University; Ruth Leon, University of Puerto Rico-Rio Piedras; Gary Morris, Eastern Virginia Medical School; Sonia Murphy, Meharry Medical College; Michael Parra, Washington State University; Maria Perez-Lamigueiro, University of North Texas Health Science Center; Kimberly Raines, University of Maryland-Baltimore County; Luis Ralat, University of Delaware; Kelie Reece, Vanderbilt University; Eva Rodriguez, University of Puerto Rico; Rita Serda, University of New Mexico; Aubrey Smith, Howard University; Charlene Snyder, Howard University; Ingrid Veras, St. John’s University; Michelle Walker, University of Tennessee-Memphis; Kareem Washington, Howard University. ENDOCRINE SOCIETY MEETING: POSTER & ORAL PRESENTERS: Micah Cordova, Hunter College-CUNY Graduate Center; Tabitha Hardy, Jackson State University; Jesus Muñoz, University of Texas at San Antonio; Gabrielle Page-Wilson, Harvard Medical School-MGH. FACULTY/MENTOR & STUDENTS: Dr. Mary Frances Lopez, Harvard Medical School; Delia Silva, Harvard Medical School. TERATOLOGY SOCIETY MEETING: POSTER/ORAL PRESENTERS: Nafeesa Owens, University of Louisville. ✓

**BE SURE TO VISIT THE FASEB MARC PROGRAM & CAREER RESOURCES EXHIBIT**

(504/506/508) AT THE ABRCMS 2004 MEETING IN DALLAS, TX!

- Learn about funding for Summer Research Opportunities
- Pick up your copy of our 2005 FASEB MARC Program Information and Applications CD
- Bring your resume or CV by our “Career Corner” and have it critiqued by Eric Celidonio of OneScience.com
- Stop by the “Career Corner” for a one-on-one counseling session with Dr. Howard Adams. Receive a copy of “Get Up With Something On Your Mind”.
- Meet FASEB MARC Program management and staff members
- Learn about Travel Awards to attend the FASEB member societies scientific meetings and conferences, ABRCMS and SACNAS
- Also visit the FASEB societies’ booths:
  - APS (514)
  - ASMB (405)
  - ASPET (512)
  - BPS (606)
  - ENDO (516)
MARC Visiting Scientist Program

FASEB Visiting Scientists Program Activity

The FASEB MARC Program sponsored Visiting Scientists for the following institutions between October 2003 and September 2004:

- Universidad Metropolitana hosted Dr. Thomas Landefeld of California State University, Dominguez Hills on October 23-26, 2003.

- Ana G. Mendez University System hosted Dr. Thomas Landefeld of California State University, Dominguez Hills on November 18-23, 2003.

- San Diego State University hosted Dr. George Littleton of Howard University on November 21-23, 2003.

- Tougaloo College hosted Dr. Kelly Mayo of Northwestern University on January 28, 2004.

- Alcorn State University hosted Dr. Kelly Mayo of Northwestern University on January 28, 2004.

- Dillard University hosted Dr. Howard Adams of HG Adams & Associates, Inc. on April 7, 2004. MARC-sponsored Faculty/Student Career Development Seminars & Workshops.

- Virginia Union University hosted Dr. Howard Adams of HG Adams & Associates, Inc. on April 30, 2004. MARC-sponsored Faculty/Student Career Development Seminars & Workshops.

- California State University, Dominguez Hills hosted Dr. Kristina Garza of the University of Texas, El Paso on May 6-7, 2004.

- University of the Virgin Islands hosted Dr. Howard Adams of HG Adams & Associates, Inc. on May 18, 2004. MARC-sponsored Faculty/Student Career Development Seminars & Workshops.

- Tuskegee University/ National Sponsored Program Administrators Alliances of HBCU’s Conference hosted Dr. Chellu Chetty of Savannah State University on June 7-9, 2004.

- University of Puerto Rico-Humacao hosted Dr. Balarama Kalyanaraman of Medical College of Wisconsin on June 17, 2004.

- University of the Virgin Islands, St. Thomas hosted Dr. Stephen Russell of GWSW, LLC and Dr. Anthony Coelho, J.r. or NIH/OD on August 12-13, 2004. MARC-sponsored Grantsmanship Training Program.

- Jackson State University in Jackson, MS hosted Dr. Stephen Russell of GWSW, LLC and Dr. Anthony Coelho, J.r. or NIH/OD on September 22-23, 2004. MARC-sponsored Grantsmanship Training Program.

- California State University, Dominguez Hills hosted Dr. Howard Adams Dr. Howard Adams of HG Adams & Associates, Inc. on September 23-24, 2004. MARC-sponsored Faculty/Student Career Development Seminars & Workshops.

- Fort Valley State University hosted Dr. Howard Adams Dr. Howard Adams of HG Adams & Associates, Inc. on September 29-30, 2004. MARC-sponsored Faculty/Student Career Development Seminars & Workshops.

FASEB MARC Visiting Scientist and Peer Mentor Referral Network Program

Visiting Scientist Responsibilities

- Provide advice on research, curriculum, and graduate opportunities.
- Attend selected scientific meetings to mentor and serve as a guide for undergraduate students attending the meetings. Activities to include but not limited to: giving advice, visiting poster and oral presentations, guided tours through the exhibit halls that will help enhance the experience of the attending student.

Peer Mentor Responsibilities

- Attend selected scientific meetings to mentor and serve as a guide for undergraduate students attending the meetings. Activities to include but not limited to: giving advice, visiting poster and oral presentations, guided tours through the exhibit halls that will help enhance the experience of the attending student.
- Selecting the correct mentors and advisors.
- Staying motivated and committed to pursuing a career in life sciences.
- Network with students to foster collaborative communications.
- Follow-up visits by the scientists and peer mentors are encouraged. Visiting Scientist/Peer Mentor travel expenses and funds for necessary supplies, slides reproduction, etc. are provided by the FASEB MARC Program.
- The visiting scientist or peer mentor must be an active member of one of FASEB’s Constituent Societies.
- Serve as a guide for undergraduate students attending the meetings. Activities to include but not limited to: giving advice, visiting poster and oral presentations, guided tours through the exhibit halls that will help enhance the experience of the attending student.
- Assisting in the preparation and development of grant proposals.
- Staying motivated and committed to pursuing a career in life sciences.
- Network with students to foster collaborative communications.
- Follow-up visits by the scientists and peer mentors are encouraged. Visiting Scientist/Peer Mentor travel expenses and funds for necessary supplies, slides reproduction, etc. are provided by the FASEB MARC Program.
- The visiting scientist or peer mentor must be an active member of one of FASEB’s Constituent Societies.

Visit:

http://www.faseb.org/faseb/societies.html
(For Society List)

http://ns2.faseb.org/vsp/vsmain.asp
(For Complete Roster of Members)

http://ns2.faseb.org/vsp/vspapp.asp
(For an on-line application)

FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT...

Cheryl Wright, Program Coordinator
Email: cwright@faseb.org
Phone: 301-634-7109

The FASEB MARC Program is funded by two generous grants from the National Institute of General Medical Sciences, National Institutes of Health (NIGMS/NIH): [T36-GM08059 and T36-GM08637]
Summer Research Opportunity Program

Herman R. Branson Summer Honors Course in Biophysics

The Herman R. Branson Summer Honors Course in Biophysics (Case Studies in the Physics of Life) was presented for the first time this summer (June 13-July 3) at Hampton University in Hampton, Virginia. This first ever summer course in biophysics was organized and sponsored by the Biophysical Society, with the co-sponsorship from The Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology and The National Society of Black Physicists.

Ten students enrolled and completed this course: Brendon Bagley, a physics major from Loyola College; Sharyce Banks, a biology major from Knoxville College; Daud Cole, a biology major from North Carolina Agricultural & Technical University; Sonnet Davis, a biochemistry major from Oakwood College; Thomas Cudjo, a biology major at Hampton University; Howard Henderson, an electrical engineering major from Morgan State University; Alex Herrera, a biochemistry/mechanical engineering major from the University of Maryland, Baltimore County; Cal Rabang, a physics major from the University of Maryland, Baltimore County; Dana Smith, a molecular biology major at Hampton University; and Celine Sin, a cybernetics/bioengineering major from UCLA.

The course was taught by Bernie Chasan, Professor Emeritus of Physics at Boston University and Co-Chair of the Society’s Education Committee. The on-site host was Alfred McQueen of Hampton University’s Biology Department, while Barry Lentz, Chair of the Society’s Minority Affairs Committee, organized the course with the able help of Yvonne Cissel from the Society office. Lawrence Norris, Visiting Professor of Physics at the US Naval Academy and Managing Director of the National Society of Black Physicists, served on the student selection committee and helped secure funding from NIH through FASEB.

The objective of the course was to introduce students from largely minority colleges and universities to the excitement of biophysics, and thus to the possibility of a career in biophysics. Liz Russell-McKenzie, a PhD candidate in educational psychology at Temple University, interviewed the students before and after the course and is preparing a formal course evaluation from which some preliminary impressions can be drawn. An introduction to the intellectual content of biophysics was certainly one desired outcome. To the extent possible in three weeks, this was reasonably achieved. However, all involved agreed that a 5-week course would be more effective. The instructor, the organizer, and the evaluator all felt that the most important outcome was a change in student demeanor and attitude: increased confidence, interests in research aroused and focused, horizons broadened. It was felt that both Bernie Chasan’s open classroom environment and the visits and seminars of practicing biophysicists (volunteer Society members: Ishita Mokerji, Stephen Harvey, Barry Lentz, Fred Sachs, Jeff Gelles, and Wilma Olson) were instrumental in achieving this outcome. The students repeatedly mentioned that these visitors helped them not only to grasp what biophysics is but also to see themselves as capable of becoming a biophysicist. In this regard, four students asked Barry Lentz to help them locate research opportunities at R01 universities in the areas where they attend school. Through an e-mail appeal to the Society membership in these local geographic areas, opportunities for all four students were located. Two students are already engaged in these labs. A fifth student is looking for a position in the Baltimore area for next summer. Three other students are already situated in research positions in which they will continue.

A proposal to offer this course next summer has already been prepared and submitted to FASEB for inclusion of their MARC award. Ultimately, the Society will need to address how best to run this course so that it combines an intense 5-week classroom experience with a research experience, since the only real way to help students discover if they might be biophysicists is to put them into a biophysics lab. Ro Kampman, Lawrence Norris, and Barry Lentz will hold meetings with individuals from the NIGMS and the HHMI this fall to explore possibilities for continuing this effort in the future.
The Summer of 2004 was another banner year for the FASEB MARC Summer Research Opportunity Program. A total of 75 students participating in summer experiences at 16 institutions were funded: HERMAN R. BRANSON SUMMER COURSE IN BIOPHYSICS AT HAMPTON UNIVERSITY: Brendon Bagley, Loyola College in Maryland; Sharyce Banks, Knoxville College; Daud Cole, North Carolina A&T University; Thomas Cudjoe, Hampton University.

NEW YORK UNIVERSITY: Yaihara Fortis-Santiago, University of Puerto Rico-Rio Piedras; Gabriel Lazaro-Munoz, University of Puerto Rico-Rio Piedras; Ameer Thompson, California State University; Karen Velazquez, University of North Texas.

NORTHEASTERN UNIVERSITY DRUG DISCOVERY PROGRAM: Carolina Soto, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign; Dr. Isabel Sumaya, California State University-Bakersfield.

NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY: Carmen Capo-Lugo, University of Puerto Rico-Rio Piedras; Eduardo Cardenas; University of Texas at San Antonio; Lisandra Colon, University of Puerto Rico at Mayaguez; Brooke Marshall, Hampton University.

RICE UNIVERSITY: Koriand’r Conyers, University of Maryland-Baltimore County.

STANFORD UNIVERSITY: Joseph Capetillo, Florida Southern College; Monica Feliz-Mojar, University of Puerto Rico, Bayamon; Adam Iddriss, University of Pittsburgh; Ijah Mondesire-Crump, Harvard University.

ST. JUDE CHILDREN’S RESEARCH HOSPITAL: Vanessa Enriquez-Rios, University of California-Santa Cruz; Lucas Ferrer, University of Puerto Rico; Jacquelynn Pratt, Chaminade University; Alexis Stephens, Texas Southern University.

THE ROCKEFELLER UNIVERSITY: Rudy Bellani, Arizona State University.

UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA: Kellie Arviso, University of New Mexico; Jennifer Barela, University of New Mexico; Betsy Colon, University of Puerto Rico-Mayaguez; Jesus Cruz, University of Puerto Rico-Mayaguez; Odalys Escalera, University of Puerto Rico-Cayey; Valerie Flores, Grinnell College; Tania Gonzalez, University of Puerto Rico; Kaisha Gonzalez-Lopez, Inter American University of Puerto Rico; Shatasha Hamilton, Fayetteville University; Ingrid Hernandez, University of California-Riverside; Anibal Laspina, Pontifical Catholic University; Janice Lopez, University of Notre Dame; Edwin Morales, University of Puerto Rico-Cayey; Melissa Moreno, St. Mary’s University; Andrew Peralta, University of Wisconsin-River Falls; Ruth Perez, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee; Roxanne Phillips, University of California-Davis; Melanie Rodriguez, University of Puerto Rico-Mayaguez; Kenny Roman, University of Illinois-Urbana-Champaign; Yvonne Rosario, Fayetteville University; Michael Torres, Dallas Baptist University.

ABOUT FASEB MARC SUMMER RESEARCH OPPORTUNITY PROGRAM: Our objective is to develop better research opportunities for minority students by providing support to visit, learn, and participate in new research techniques at prominent research laboratories and institutions during the productive summer “recess” periods. We are interested in working with your organization by providing funds to supplement and/or cover the travel and subsistence (travel, lodging, and per diem) expenses for the underrepresented minority students who have been selected to participate in your summer research programs. In addition, we also provide funding to support the participation of the SROP student to the ABRCMS meeting.
Summer Research Opportunity Program cont’d...

Sharon Torres, Pontifical Catholic University; Queen Utley, Clemson University; Tiara Williams, South Mountain Community College. UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO HEALTH SCIENCES CENTER: Erica Nolte, Chaminade University.

UNIVERSITY OF IOWA: Rebecca Montoya, New Mexico Highlands University.

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA: Roxanne Brooks, University of Maryland-Baltimore County; Eddie Kalombo, Minnesota State University; Suzette Meraz, California Polytechnic Pomona. UNIVERSITY OF PUERTO RICO: Jennifer Law, Howard University.

UNIVERSITY OF ROCHESTER: Tara Annis, Marshall University; Robin Conley, Talladega College; Timaris DeMott, SUNY; Anthony Olarerin-George, Ramapo College of New Jersey; Pedro Ortiz, University of Puerto Rico-Mayaguez; Nelissa Perez, University of Puerto Rico-Mayaguez; Omayra Rivera, Universidad Metropolitana; Francesca Rothenbacher, Delaware State University; Nsuhodeidem Udoh, Eastfield College.

UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON/FRIDAY HARBOR LABORATORIES: Jaquan Horton, University of Massachusetts; Matthew Johnson, Honors College at University of Central Arkansas; Noyle McPherson, Oakwood College.

MARYLAND PSYCHIATRIC RESEARCH CENTER: Andy Windsor, University of Maryland-Baltimore County. RUTGERS UNIVERSITY: Imani Anwisye, Washington University-St. Louis; Maurisa Blackman, University of Maryland-Baltimore County; Tyesha Burks, University of Maryland-Eastern Shore; Luciann Cuencas, The Catholic University of America; Shakese Hudley, Tuskegee University; Stanley King, Florida A&M University; Yania Lopez-Alvarez, University of Puerto Rico-Mayaguez; Joanna Mercado-Cruz, Pontifical Catholic University; Ivis Otero-Rios, Universidad de Este; Arnaldo Pica, Kean University; Ayana Proby, University South Alabama; Ismael Torres, University of Puerto Rico-Aguadilla; Yatzmellie Vega Bonet, University of Puerto Rico-Mayaguez; Kirk Brown, George Washington University; University of Wisconsin-Madison; Xiomara Nieves, University of Puerto Rico-Rio Piedras; University of Wisconsin-Madison; Jeremy Espinosa, Northern New Mexico Community College; University of Oregon; Bernadette Guerra, Virginia Commonwealth University. UNIVERSITY OF OREGON: Ryan Salvador, University of Hawaii at Manoa; David Valenzuela, Stanford University.

UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA: Naa Amponsah, Mt. Holyoke College; Renee Carrington, Pace University; Teshell Greene, Pace University.


Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology (FASEB) Minority Access to Research Careers (MARC) 9650 Rockville Pike - Bethesda, Maryland 20814-3998 USA Tel: 301-634-7020 - Fax: 301-634-7353 - Email: marc@faseb.org - WWW: https://ns2.faseb.org/marc

Key to FASEB’s MARC Summer Research Program is Training, Mentoring

The pathway to becoming a research scientist can be fraught with difficulties, especially if you are an underrepresented minority student. A top concern for students pursuing a career in the science field is the ability to take the fundamentals learned inside a classroom and applying those lessons in the real world. Having the opportunity to work in a laboratory setting, alongside top biomedical researchers, is an invaluable experience for any student. In order to help them obtain these opportunities, the FASEB MARC Program provides financial support for underrepresented minority students to visit, learn, and participate in new research techniques at prominent research laboratories and institutions during the productive summer “recess” periods.

In creating the Summer Research Opportunity Program (SROP), the FASEB MARC Program has established alliances with several research universities, institutions, and laboratories that have summer research opportunity programs already in place. The program provides funding to supplement and/or cover the travel and subsistence for the underrepresented minority student who have been selected to participate. Funding for the FASEB MARC program is from a generous grant from NIH's National Institute of General Medical Sciences.

Ryan Salvador, a student from the University of Hawaii at Manoa, has spent this summer at the University of Oregon in the lab of Dr. Peter O’Day conducting research on the HSP90 and glucocorticoid receptor complex. He feels that this experience has been critical to helping him gain a more in depth look into the research field. Salvador believes that this experience will “fine tune” his skills as an efficient researcher. “By developing good lab technique research skills, it will enable me to proceed onto graduate school, in hopes of obtaining a Ph.D.”

But Salvador isn’t the only one benefiting greatly from this experience. His mentor, Dr. O’Day, feels that his participation in the SROP has been incredibly valuable to his lab and to the scientific community at large. “The FASEB MARC SROP program allows us to offer research opportunities to minority students we would not otherwise be able to fund. Through the SROP program, we were able to fund 11 students during the summers of 2003 and 2004. All students were trained in internationally renowned research labs with excellent...”
Key to FASEB’s MARC Summer Research Program is Training, Mentoring continued ...

records of student training, research innovation, and accomplishment. The students were of very high caliber and motivation, and without exception the students competently participated in important research projects. The SROP program allowed us to enhance the diversity of our Summer Program for Undergraduate Research (SPUR) in Life Sciences at the University of Oregon.”

O’Day, who is a member of two FASEB member societies – The Biophysical Society (BPS) and the American Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology (ASBMB) – has long been a strong supporter of the FASEB MARC Program. “The FASEB MARC Program is a wonderful resource that enables us to identify outstanding minority students and minority institutions, enhancing our recruiting efforts in Life Sciences at the University of Oregon. It also enables students and institutions around the country to identify the University of Oregon Life Sciences programs as an excellent research institution that offers outstanding training opportunity for graduate and undergraduate students interested in Life Sciences careers.”

Another proponent of the FASEB MARC Program in general and the SROP program in specific is Dr. Eduardo Rosa-Molinar at the University of Puerto Rico – Rio Piedras Campus. Dr. Rosa-Molinar has experience FASEB MARC Programs from both sides of the spectrum, as both a student and as a mentor. His first interaction was as a graduate student when he attended the grant writers’ workshop, returning for further training as a post-doctoral fellow and while serving in his first faculty position. Today, Rosa-Molinar is a member of the FASEB MARC Program Advisory Board. He believes that programs like the Summer Research Opportunity Program are critical to move minority scientists into the competitive arena and not just rely on receiving minority funding. “To be successful and to be able to contribute to the scientific community, you must be a first class scientist,” states Rosa-Molinar. “Programs like SROP help give students the critical tools needed to ready them for the competitive scientific arena.”

As a mentor in the SROP Program, Rosa-Molinar feels that he receives as much as he gives to his students. “Every day they teach me as much as I teach them. I help them navigate through the barrage of pitfalls that they might face, pointing them in the right direction. But they give to me by helping me appreciate the joy of discovery, the mystery of science unfolding. I find it very rewarding to see the light turn on in their heads as they make a connection. We become students together.”

One of his students is Jennifer Law from Howard University. She feels that her experiences have taught her how to use some of the newest laboratory technology on the market. But she also learned a lesson even more important. “I have learned that making mistakes is very much a part of getting to the correct answer. When you know what is wrong, you can move towards what is correct. I have learned how to think more innovatively since science is all about finding new ways to think and new knowledge to give to the world.”

But according to Rosa-Molinar, the FASEB MARC Program will continue to play an important role in Law’s career, long after the summer is over. “All throughout my career, I have had regular phone calls from individuals like [Career Resources Manager and MARC Program Director] Jacquie Roberts, asking me about how things are going, showing me continual care and concern about my future as a scientist,” explains Rosa-Molinar, who is a member of two FASEB Member Societies – the American Association of Anatomists and the Society for Developmental Biology. “That’s the thing about this program – the follow-up is unbelievable.”

In order to participate in the FASEB MARC SROP program, students must have the host institution submit an application on the students’ behalf. For more information, visit the FASEB MARC Program web site at https://ns2.faseb.org/marc, or contact Trevia Jennings at 301-634-7417 or via email at tjennings@faseb.org.