Message from the Director
MARC T36 - IMSD – T32 Partnering

The recent formation of TWD consolidates all of NIGMS’ training programs into a single portfolio. Many former MORE and T32 programs co-exist on the same campuses and a logical expectation in forming TWD is to foster greater communication and cross-talk between these sibling units. At Brown University, partnerships and collaborations between IMSD, T36 and T32 programs pre-date formation of TWD-yet mirrors its current intent. The Leadership Alliance’s T36 Program for example works with Brown’s IMSD to identify and support training of promising students to develop them into strong graduate candidates. Students who ultimately matriculate as graduate trainees, and qualify for IMSD graduate support, are in turn cultivated as T32 candidates. This is accomplished by working with graduate programs and their T32 directors. Brown’s IMSD looks to the Alliance for promising candidates. IMSD in turn supports trainees with the expectation that some transition to T32 support en route to the PhD. While other support mechanisms for the PhD exist, the point-to-point continuity in the work of former MORE and current T32 programs create valuable training synergy.

Andrew G. Campbell, PhD
Associate Professor of Medical Science
IMSD PI & Program Director

Module Leaders Workshop Promotes Improved Teaching & Learning

IMSD faculty module leaders and senior scholars gathered together in August to participate in a teaching & learning workshop presented by Sheridan Center director, Dr. Kathy Takayama. This annual event provides an opportunity for faculty instructors and graduate student peer mentors to share best practices and plan for upcoming training modules. Participants received tips on facilitating discussions, provoking critical discussion, valuing diverse perspectives, and setting module goals and outcomes. Thanks to all who participated and welcome to the new faculty and senior scholars who will assist with teaching the modules in the coming academic year.

Biomedical Research Workforce Working Group Report

A Biomedical Research Workforce Working Group of the NIH advisory committee to the director released a draft report in June 2012 outlining recommendations for “actions that NIH should take to support a future sustainable biomedical research infrastructure.” A key recommendation of the report is: “shifting funding away from R01s to create more training grants.” The report can be viewed at http://acd.od.nih.gov/bmw_report.pdf
Congratulations

Sam McNeal, Ph.D. Candidate in Medical Science in the Pathobiology Graduate Program, successfully defended his thesis on August 29, 2012. His defense seminar and research focused on “The Role of RIP1 Kinase in the Progression of Septic Liver Injury.” Dr. McNeal conducted his dissertation research in the lab of Dr. Alfred Ayala at Rhode Island Hospital.

Congratulations to former IMSD Program Assistant, Michele Curry who assumed a new role as Program Coordinator for Brown’s Pathobiology Graduate Program effective August 1. We thank Michele for her dedicated service to the IMSD community and wish her the best in her new position.

Congratulations to Brown IMSD alumni who received their Ph.D. in May 2012. Among those who have transitioned to postdoctoral positions are:

Breann Brown – MIT
Tania Nevers – Women & Infants Hospital of RI
Pamela Gaddi – Brigham & Women’s Hospital/ Harvard Medical School
Racquel Kim Sherwood – Yale University
Victoria Ruiz – NYU Medical Center

Trainee Publications

Congratulations to IMSD students Kristin Beale, Cyrena Gawuga, Teresa Ramirez and Bethany Wilcox on their recent publications:


Farewell to The Class of 2012

Breann Brown, Ph.D. Molecular Pharmacology and Physiology
Tania Nevers, Ph.D. Pathobiology
Racquel Kim Sherwood, Ph.D. Molecular Biology, Cell Biology and Biochemistry
Victoria Ruiz and Leon Toussaint, Ph.D. Pathobiology

PHOTO CREDIT: Pathobiology Commencement photos contributed by Tami Mildner
NIGMS Convenes TWD 2012 Meeting
In Matters of Scholarly Development & PREP, how do you build BRIDGES then RISE and SCORE to make a MARC with great IDEAs that become MORE valued? You form TWD.

The first meeting of the newly established Training, Workforce Development & Diversity (TWD) Division of NIGMS, now headed by Dr. Clifton Poodry, was held this year in San Antonio, Texas, June 12th–15th. The meeting was appropriately captioned ‘Revisiting the past/celebrating the future.’ It brought together for the first time the directors of the former MORE programs, NIGMS T32 Program Directors and programs from the now defunct National Center for Research Resources. This restructuring and unification creates unique opportunities for these programs to achieve much together. Times have changed and the fates of these programs are inextricably linked, with their success dependent on collaborations and partnerships. With the expectation of training a future domestic scientific workforce that is competitive, that strives for excellence and achieves diversity, this evolution was inevitable and simply makes sense. The change also brings the promise of intellectually organic cross-fertilization and vertical integration of common interests and practices shared by all. The alternative would be to do less, train less and be less creative, which would not serve our best national interests.

In addition to the structural changes discussed, the TWD meeting offered a number of workshop sessions. Workshop topics covered ranged from improving evaluations, funding, sharing best practices, GRE testing, training and tenure. —AGC

* IMSD, PREP, BRIDGES, RISE, SCORE, MARC & IRACDA formerly made up the MORE division and are now part of TWD

SACNAS@Brown Chapter Established!

Teresa Ramirez, Ph.D. candidate and IMSD trainee in Molecular Pharmacology and Physiology (MPP), led the initiative to establish the new Brown University chapter of SACNAS. SACNAS (http://sacnas.org/) is a national organization of scientists devoted to advancing Hispanics, Chicanos & Native Americans in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM). SACNAS@Brown is OPEN TO ANYONE (undergraduate students, graduate students, postdoctoral fellows, faculty and staff) of all cultures and ethnicities. A special thanks to the chapter’s founding members: Marcela Soruco (Vice President), Ayed Allawzi (Secretary), Kristin Beale (Treasurer), King John Pascual (Undergraduate Student Liaison) and Natalie Chavez and Diana Lizarazo (National Liaison). The students gratefully acknowledge the support of chapter advisors Dean Adetunji and Dr. Mark Johnson, and all those that provided unconditional support to make this possible. For further information, please contact: brown.sacnas@gmail.com

SACNAS@Brown President Teresa Ramirez shares her personal story and experiences with SACNAS on their website: http://sacnas.org/students/resources/opportunities_at_SACNAS_conference

Just arrived! Incoming graduate students Eboni Chambers (Pathobiology) and Vérïda Léandre (Biotechnology) from IMSD partner institution North Carolina A&T

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F31 Predoctoral Individual National Research Service Award (NRSA)
AIDS-related applications: Jan. 7, May 7, Sept. 7
Ruth L. Kirschstein National Research Service Awards for Individual Predoctoral Fellowships (F31) provide support for promising doctoral candidates who will be performing dissertation research and training in scientific health-related fields relevant to the missions of the participating NIH Institutes and Centers. Individual opportunities may have different deadlines, please check the sites:
http://grants.nih.gov/training/F_files_nrsa.htm

Ford Foundation Fellowships
The Ford Foundation seeks to increase the diversity of the nation's college and university faculties by increasing their ethnic and racial diversity, to maximize the educational benefits of diversity, and to increase the number of professors who can and will use diversity as a resource for enriching the education of all students.
Predoctoral Fellowships – Application deadline: Nov. 14
Dissertation and Postdoctoral Fellowships – Application deadline: Nov. 19
Further information can be found at:
http://sites.nationalacademies.org/PGA/FordFellowships

Dissertation Support
R36 Dissertation Support
Standard Deadlines: Oct. 16, Feb. 16, June 16,
AIDS-related applications: Jan. 7, May, Sept. 7
Note-Individual Opportunities may have different deadlines, please check the sites.

CDC Grants for Public Health Research Dissertation (R36) (PAR-07-231)
The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) announces the availability of CDC Public Health Research Dissertation Award grants (R36) to support public health doctoral dissertation research.

Conference Travel Awards
ASCB MAC, FASEB MARC, Keystone Symposia
The Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology (FASEB) provides information on their website about science training and education awards made available through FASEB's member societies for students, trainees and science mentors. A complete list of upcoming eligible national meetings for travel awards can be found at:
http://www.faseb.org/marc/home.aspx

New England Science Symposium
Sat, Mar 2, 2013; Harvard Medical School, 77 Ave Louis Pasteur, Boston, Mass
The New England Science Symposium provides a forum for postdoctoral fellows; medical, dental and graduate students; post-baccalaureates; college and community college students to share their biomedical and health-related research activities and engage in discussions related to career development in the sciences. Abstract deadline is November 30th.
http://www.mfdp.med.harvard.edu/med_grad/ness/

Eligible National Meetings

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<td>ABROMS 2012: Annual Biomedical Research Conference for Minority Students</td>
<td>San Jose CA</td>
<td>11/7 – 11/10</td>
<td>10/22</td>
<td>9/28/12</td>
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<tr>
<td>American Society for Cell Biology 2013 Annual Meeting (Restricted, see app form)</td>
<td>San Francisco CA</td>
<td>12/15 – 12/19</td>
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<td>10/26/12</td>
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<tr>
<td>Conference on Semantics in Healthcare and Life Sciences (CSHALS 2013) – An ISCB Official Conference</td>
<td>Cambridge/Boston MA</td>
<td>2/27 – 3/1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Genetics Society of America: 27th Fungal Genetics Conference</td>
<td>Pacific Grove CA</td>
<td>3/12 – 3/17</td>
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PROGRAM STAFF:
Andrew G. Campbell, PhD
Program Director, Associate Professor of Medical Science, Bio Med Molecular Microbiology & Immunology

Elizabeth O. Harrington, PhD
Co-Program Director, Associate Dean for Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies Division of Biology and Medicine

Karen Ball – Program Coordinator

PARTNER INSTITUTIONS:
St. John's University
York College of the City University of New York
North Carolina A&T State University
The College of Mount Saint Vincent

Brown University’s Initiative to Maximize Student Development (IMSD) is a predoctoral research training initiative that aspires to significantly increase the number of PhDs from groups underrepresented in biomedical and behavioral research. The program is funded by a five-year continuation grant (2 R25 GM083270-05) by the National Institute of General Medical Sciences, National Institutes of Health (NIGMS/NIH).

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