IMSD View

Initiative to Maximize Student Development

Volume 5 Issue 1

Message from the Director

Message from the Director: Modeling the Power of Partnerships

In the September 2013 issue of CBE Life Sciences Education, the Minorities Affairs Committee of the American Society for Cell Biology published the outcomes of a 14-year study of its Visiting Professorship Program [CBE-LSE 2013]. The program partners faculty (The Visiting Professors -VPs) from minority serving institutions (MSI) with faculty at research-intensive institutions for short research training experiences. The experience helps to build collaborations, sustain and, in some cases, re-launch MSI faculty research programs that benefit students and faculty. Data presented show that compared to their matched peers, VPs increase their publication output 60% compared to an almost net change of 0% for their matched peers. Additionally, the paper reports a 10-fold increase in federal grant funding for VPs compared to a 2-fold funding decrease for their matched peers. These outcomes show that achievements and productivity by faculty at MSI is very much determined by access to seed funding and adequate time to engage in research. The results serve as a general model for supporting junior faculty not only at MSIs but at other institutions as well. The publication of this work coincides with the launch of several initiatives by the NIH Common Fund to establish partnerships and build infrastructure by establishing nationwide consortia that support scientific training and workforce development. The challenge is no longer demonstrating was it possible; rather it is a challenge to achieve and sustain what is attainable.

Andrew G. Campbell, Ph.D.
Associate Professor of Medical Science
Brown IMSD PI & Program Director

SAVE THE DATES!

Training Modules:

Defending Your Research Proposal.....Jan. 13-16
Designing/Delivering Scientific Presentations.. (Jan. TBA)
Navigating a Successful Graduate Career ... (Jan. TBA)
Beyond the Hypothesis..... (Wed: Jan 22 – Feb 26)
Essential Laboratory Calculations..... Mar 3, 10, 17

PHOTO CREDIT: Teresa Ramirez

Brown SACNAS chapter members at the 2013 national conference. L to R: Daniel Saenz, Teresa Ramirez, Professor Mark Johnson, Eric James, Rosa Martinez Garcia, Karen Ball, Dean Oludurotimi Adetunji, and David Barrera.

Brown SACNAS Chapter Receives 2013 Role Model Award

The Brown University SACNAS chapter was honored to receive the 2013 Role Model Award for "Outstanding New Chapter." The award was presented to the group at the national conference in San Antonio, TX. The Brown chapter, founded in 2012 by Teresa Ramirez (president) and Marcela Soruco (Vice President), with the support of advisors, Prof. Mark Johnson, and Dean Oludurotimi Adetunji, student officers and members has accomplished a great deal in its first year. The chapter has organized workshops on topics such as CV/resume writing and preparing an abstract. They also invited several distinguished speakers to campus to discuss their science and/or career paths and opportunities. Events were coordinated with Brown's Initiative to Maximize Student Development (IMSD) other departments and programs on campus to maximize impact and exposure. Chapter members have also engaged in outreach efforts, participating in local science fairs, speaker series, and school visits. Congratulations to everyone who has helped to get the Brown SACNAS chapter off to such a great start! *–KZB*

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2013-10

BROWN

Excellence

Congratulations

Congratulations to our 2013 Graduates:
Stacy-Ann Allen-Ramdial (Ph.D. Pathobiology)
Joseph Bahlman (Ph.D. Ecology and Evolutionary Biology)
Noelle Hutchins (Ph.D. Pathobiology)
Sam McNeal (Ph.D. Pathobiology)
Chima Ndumele (Ph.D. Health Services Research)

Tania Nevers, former IMSD senior scholar and recent graduate in Pathobiology (Ph.D. 2012), has assumed a new position as Postdoctoral Fellow at Tufts Medical Center in Boston, effective July 1, 2013.

Chima Ndumele, former Brown IMSD trainee in Health Services Research (Ph.D. 2013), recently accepted a faculty position at Yale University as Assistant Professor in the Department of Health Policy & Management (effective August 1, 2013).

Diana Lizarazo, an IMSD trainee, senior scholar and Ph.D. candidate in Molecular Pharmacology & Physiology, was awarded a Research Society on Alcoholism Student Merit Award to attend the society's 2013 Scientific Meeting.

Anika Toorie, IMSD trainee and senior scholar in the Pathobiology Ph.D. program, received an award for her outstanding abstract entitled "Hypothalamic SIRT1 Regulates the Hypothalmus-Pituitary-Adrenal Axis" and a travel award to attend the Endocrine Society's national conference held in San Diego, CA in June, 2013.

Angel Byrd, IMSD senior scholar and MD/PhD candidate in biomedical sciences, is the recipient of the inaugural 2013-2014 Robateau–Epps Fund Scholarship and will receive an award of $10,000.

Ann Saunders, IMSD trainee and senior scholar in Pathobiology, received a generous stipend from the Burroughs Wellcome Fund to support her participation in the Frontiers in Reproduction (FIR) course at the Marine Biological Laboratory, Woods Hole, MA. FIR is an intensive 6 week laboratory and lecture course for scientists-in-training who seek to improve their knowledge and experimental skills in order to pursue a career in the Reproductive Sciences. At the concluding symposium in June, Ann presented her research on "Developmental Expression of p57kip2 in the Early Postimplantation Mouse Placenta."

Lawrence Were, IMSD senior scholar, was selected as one of seven recipients worldwide of the Hewlett Foundation/Institute of International Education Dissertation Fellowship in Population, Reproductive Health and Economic Development.

Kristin Beale, former IMSD trainee and senior scholar, successfully defended her thesis on July 12, 2013. Her research on "Coupling Gamete Fusion with Sperm Cell Delivery Maximizes Reproductive Success in Flowering Plants" was conducted in the lab of her advisor, Professor Mark Johnson. Dr. Beale is now a Postdoctoral Research Fellow in the Biological Chemistry and Molecular Pharmacology Department at Harvard Medical School, working in the lab of Dr. Timothy Springer.

Eric James, IMSD trainee in Neuroscience, was the recipient of a Marine Biological Labs Summer Program In Neuroscience Ethics and Survival Fellowship (summer 2013).

Cristina Lopez-Fagundo, former IMSD trainee and Ph.D. candidate in Biomedical Engineering, successfully presented her thesis defense on August 26, 2013 entitled "Directing and Understanding Cellular Behavior Using Bioinspired and Biomimetic Materials." Dr. Lopez-Fagundo is continuing her research in the lab of Professor Diane Hoffman-Kim as she prepares to transition to a postdoctoral position at the University of Zurich, Switzerland.

Stacy-ann Allen, Former IMSD senior scholar and recent graduate of the Pathobiology Ph.D. program, co-authored a paper in PLOS Pathogens entitled "A Structure-Guided Mutation in the Major Capsid Protein Retargets BK Polyomavirus." A feature article about her research can be found at: http://news.brown.edu/presy sreleases/2013/10/pathogens.

Jessica Chery, IMSD senior scholar and doctoral candidate in Molecular Biology, Cell Biology and Biochemistry, co-authored a study with her faculty advisor Professor Erica Larschan and fellow graduate student Marcela Soruco, that was published online July 15 in the journal Genes and Development. Their study entitled "The CLAMP protein links the MSL complex to the X chromosome during *Drosophilia* dosage compensation" was recently highlighted on the Brown web page at: http://news.brown.edu/pressreleases/2013/07/clamp

Trainee Publications

Johnson J, Williams M, Gardner E, Menon J. Reactive oxygen species and anti-oxidant defenses in tail of tadpoles, Xenopus laevis. Comp Biochem Physiol C Toxicol Pharmacol. 2013 May 14. Pii: S1532-0456(13)00053-7. Doi: 10. 1016/j.cbpc.2013.05.003

Leydon AR, **Beale KM**, Woroniecka K, Castner E, Chen J, Horgan C, Palanivelu R, Johnson MA. Three MYB transcription factors control pollen tube differentiation required for sperm release. Curr Biol. 2013 Jul 8;23(13):1209-14. doi: 10.1016/j.cub.2013.05.021. Epub 2013 Jun 20. PMID: 23791732

Beale KM, Johnson MA. Speed dating, rejection, and finding the perfect mate: advice from flowering plants. Curr Opin Plant Biol. 2013 Oct;16(5):590-597. doi: 10.1016/j.pbi.2013.08.005. Epub 2013 Sep 7. PMID: 24021868 [PubMed – as supplied by publisher]

Guenette JP, **Lopez MJ**, Kim E, Dupuy DE. Solitary painful osseous metastases: correlation of imaging features with pain palliation after radiofrequency ablation—a multicenter american college of radiology imaging network study. Radiology. 2013 Sep;268(3):907-15. doi: 10.1148/radiol.13122398. Epub 2013 May 8. PMID: 23657892 [PubMed – in process]

BROWN

Community

Message from Dean Elizabeth Harrington

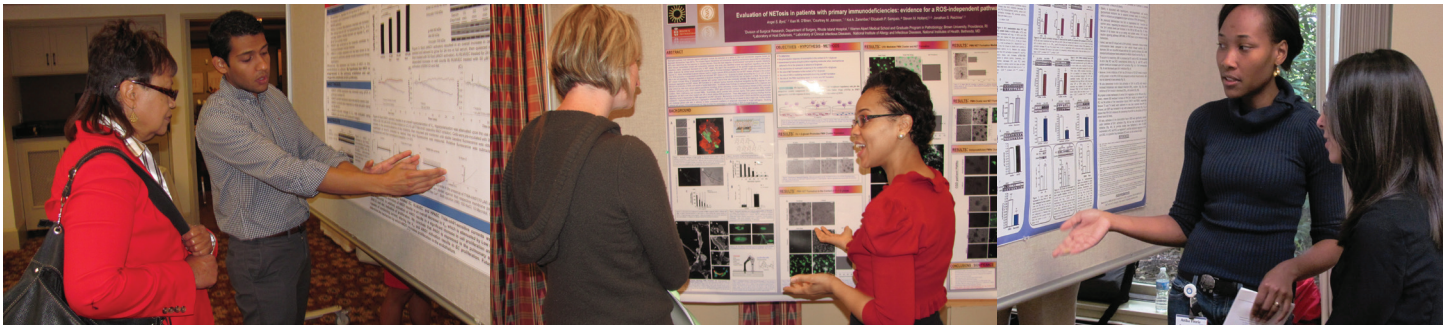
NIH Announces the Awards Designed to Enhance Diversity and Strengthen the Biomedical Workforce

In March of 2013, the National Institutes of Health (NIH) put out request for applications (RFA) for two planning grants with the overall goals of enhancing diversity in the scientific workforce: i) Build Infrastructure Leading to Diversity (BUILD): to develop innovative ways to provide mentorship and research and education opportunities for undergraduates who are underrepresented in biomedical fields and ii) National Research Mentoring Network (NRMN): to establish a consortium of organizations to provide mentoring to students, fellows, and faculty to succeed in the sciences. Both grants will be funded for a 6 month period during which the organizations plan for the submission of multi-year applications during 2014. A listing of these planning awards can be found at commonfund.nih.gov.

In addition, the NIH is seeking approaches to enhance the biomedical research workforce for careers outside of academia. To do this, the NIH solicited applications for the Broadening Experiences in Scientific Training (BEST) awards. These applications were to put forth plans to educate, train, and sustain successes of graduate students and postdoctoral fellows for scientific careers in industry, government, business, etc. The 10 BEST awardees were recently announced, with a listing at www.nih.gov/news/health/sep2013/od-23.htm.

Time will tell if these new initiatives are successful in achieving the goals set forth by the NIH!!!

Elizabeth O. Harrington
Associate Dean for Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies
Brown IMSD Co-Program Director



IMSD student poster session with partners. L to R: Mary Smith (North Carolina A & T) with Ayed Allawzi; Laura Beaton (York College) with Angel Byrd; Anika Toorie and Jennifer Johnson.

IMSD Partners Meeting Highlights

The Brown IMSD Program hosted its annual partners meeting on September 25-27. Faculty representatives from St. John's University, York College-CUNY, The College of Mount Saint Vincent, and North Carolina A & T, met with IMSD students and faculty, graduate program directors and administrators in BioMed and Public Health, to discuss ways that we can continue to learn from one another and strengthen our partnerships. The partners were joined by consultant Dr. Cheryl Gardner of Meridian Solutions who assists with IMSD program evaluation. The partners had the opportunity to learn about the research being conducted by IMSD trainees and senior scholars at a student poster session preceding the annual IMSD Welcome Luncheon. We look forward to continuing collaborations and exchange visits with our partners in the year ahead. –*KZB*

New Partner Program Receives NIH Support

The Brown IMSD Program has led to the launch of a new inter-institutional research program with four minority serving institutions (MSIs). The program supports year-long collaborative pilot projects between six MSI-faculty-led undergraduate student teams and six Brown faculty-led research teams. The program builds on pre-existing relationships and is shaped by the ongoing maturation of Brown's IMSD program, the common desire to establish programs that strengthen the U.S. biomedical research enterprise, increase institutional capacity and workforce diversity. This new program is supported by MARC grant number T36GM101995-01 from the NIGMS. –*AGC*

BROWN Collaboration

Funding and Training Opportunities

F31 Predoctoral Individual National Research Service Award (NRSA)

Annual Diversity Deadlines: Dec. 13, Apr. 13, Aug. 13
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

Dissertation Support

R36 Dissertation Support

The National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) announces the availability of NIH Dissertation Award grants (R36) to support drug abuse doctoral dissertation research in NIDA areas of priority. Areas of focus include research on basic and clinical neuroscience and behavior, developmental trajectories, epidemiology, prevention, treatment, services, and/or women and sex/gender differences. Standard application deadlines apply. Further information can be found at:
http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PAR-13-182.html

Standard Deadlines: Feb. 16, June 16, Oct. 16
AIDS-related applications: Jan. 7, May 7, Sept. 7

Note-Individual Opportunities may have different deadlines, please check the sites.

Conference Travel Awards

ASCB MAC, FASEB MARC, Keystone Symposia

The Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology (FASEB) provides information on their web site 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

Eligible National Meetings	Mtg. Location	Mtg. Dates	Adv. Reg. Deadlines	MARC Deadlines
ASCB 2013 (American Society for Cell Biology Annual Meeting)	New Orleans LA	Dec 14-18, 2013		10/18/13
CSHALS Conference on Semantics in Healthcare 2014	Boston MA	Feb 26-28, 2014		01/17/14
GSA: Drosophila Conference	San Diego CA	Mar 26-30, 2014	2/3/14	02/10/14
Experimental Biology 2014	San Diego CA	Apr 24-26, 2014		
IMMUNOLOGY 2014™: Annual Meeting of The American Association of Immunologists	Pittsburgh PA	May 2-6, 2014		
ASM 2014 - 114th American Society for Microbiology General Meeting	Boston MA	May 17-20, 2014		

New England Science Symposium

The New England Science Symposium will take place Sunday, April 6, 2014 at Harvard Medical School. The symposium provides a forum for postdoctoral fellows; medical, dental and graduate students; post-baccalaureates; college and community college students (particularly for African-American, Hispanic/Latino and American Indian/Alaska Native individuals) to share their biomedical and health-related research activities through oral or poster presentations, to engage in discussions related to career development in the sciences, to exchange ideas and to expand their professional networks. Deadline for Abstract Submission: January 9, 2014. For more information go to:
http://www.mfdp.med.harvard.edu/med_grad/ness/

Second Annual "Stand Up For Science" Video Competition

The Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology (FASEB) is sponsoring its second annual "Stand Up for Science" video competition, which is intended to highlight the important role U.S. federal funding plays in supporting biomedical and biological research. The winner will receive $5,000! For more information and to enter, visit:
www.faseb.org/contest.

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PARTNER INSTITUTIONS:

St. John's University, New York, NY

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 Ph.D.s from groups underrepresented in biomedical and behavioral research. The program is funded by a five-year continuation grant (2 R25 GM083270) by the National Institute of General Medical Sciences, National Institutes of Health (NIGMS/NIH).

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Excellence Community IMSD Collaboration