

## Message from IMSD Directors

Welcome to the VIEW! This is the inaugural issue of our IMSD newsletter. The VIEW will be a means by which we share news, celebrate achievements, highlight progress and address topics of interest and concern. We expect to publish an issue each semester and one during the summer and distribute these to our campus community and leadership as well as to our IMSD partner institutions and colleagues in the broader academic community. Note the header categories for news reflect our IMSD program themes: Excellence, Community and Collaboration. We have lots to communicate within these themes for this first issue and we invite our IMSD community members to share news and suggest ideas for future issues.

It is wonderful to see the IMSD initiatives translating from static aims of a grant proposal to concrete successes in the form of students supported, innovative career-enhancing training modules, increasing diversity of our PhD programs and an enriched culture of learning and achievement. Thank you to all of you who have worked to make this happen. We are particularly grateful to our Internal Advisory Board members, staff and faculty module leaders for their efforts. On that front, we welcome Karen Ball as IMSD Program Coordinator and also welcome Assistant Graduate School Dean Jabbar Bennett and Sheridan Center Associate Director, Dr. Kathy Takayama as new members of our Internal Advisory Board. On a personal note, Nancy will step down as Associate Dean for Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies at the end of July but will remain as IMSD Co-PI through March 2011. "These have been the most rewarding experiences of my professional life. I am glad to stay connected with your progress and work as part of the IMSD community".

On to the VIEW! It looks great from here. Let us know your thoughts.

Andrew and Nancy

## Training Modules Provide Professional Development at Many Levels

A key component of the IMSD are the skill-based training modules that are offered throughout the year. Modules provide short, non-credit, active learning experiences to help students throughout the Division of Biology and Medicine develop important skills and competencies that complement their discipline-specific training.

Several modules were offered during the January intercession to minimize conflicts with students' other commitments during the academic year. Professor Suzanne de la Monte taught the popular module, "Beyond the Hypothesis: Experimental Design and Critical Analysis", and acknowledged the valuable assistance of senior scholar, Victoria Ruiz, who, "helped quite a bit in terms of getting the sessions organized and making material available to the students" while also "offering insights regarding her own difficulties and methods of improvement." At the IMSD student community meeting in January, Victoria spoke enthusiastically about her experience in co-teaching this module and noted that it also improved her own abilities to formulate hypothesis-driven questions and to design effective experiments.

Professor Kathy Takayama, Associate Director of the Sheridan Center for Teaching and Learning, taught "Designing and Delivering Scientific Presentations". She commented that senior scholar Courtnei Newsome had "a very thoughtful, considered approach in mentoring her peers, and brought her own experiences and expertise to enrich the workshop." For future modules, Takayama suggests that

we ask senior scholars what they hope to gain for their own professional and career development so that the faculty member can consider that aspect as another layer of this program.

Senior scholar, Angel Byrd, had the opportunity to co-teach with her faculty mentor and PI, Dr. Jonathan Reichner. For their module on "Defending Your Research Proposal and Critiquing Those of Others", Angel conducted one of the classes based on her experiences in constructing and critiquing her own PhD thesis project, and found this to be "very beneficial for me and for the students". Regarding Angel's role in co-teaching this module, Dr. Reichner said, "students fully related to her and the class would have lacked a level of depth and relevance without Angel's participation."

Several postdocs and faculty members expressed an interest in Professor Michael McKeown's module on "Resources, Tools and Basic Techniques in Molecular Biology" which he co-taught with senior scholar Leon Toussaint. In response to the increased demand, we opened registration to several postdocs and faculty members. Feedback from course evaluations indicate that the diverse mix of participants enhanced the learning experience for all.

Dean Nancy Thompson offered the highly interactive module on "Professionalism" with the help of senior scholar George Aninwene. As in previous years, participants found these workshops to be very helpful for honing their communication

*Training Modules continued on page 3*

## Save the Date!

Friday, August 20<sup>th</sup>  
IMSD Welcome Luncheon  
11:30 am - 2:00 pm  
Brown Faculty Club

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# EXCELLENCE

## Congratulations

### Breann Brown

#### Poster Presentation Winner at Graduate Students of Color Conference

The IMSD was well-represented at the March 23rd Samuel M. Nabrit Graduate Students of Color Conference, “*The Impact of Research, The Promise of Leadership*”. **Breann Brown**, an IMSD senior scholar in the Department of Molecular Pharmacology, Physiology and Biotechnology, received an award for her poster presentation, “*Three dimensional structure of the MqsR:MqsA complex: A novel toxin:antitoxin pair regulating bacterial persistence*”. Also presenting posters at the conference were IMSD graduate students, **Courtney Frederick**, **Diana Lizarazo**, **Cristina Lopez-Fagundo**, and **Teresa Ramirez**, and senior scholars, **Angel Byrd** and **Tania Nevers**. **Courtnei Newsome** gave an oral



Breann Brown accepts award for her poster presentation at the Brown University Graduate Students of Color Conference

presentation on her dissertation topic. Associate Provost and Director of Institutional Diversity **Dr. Valerie Petit Wilson**, who is a member of the IMSD advisory board, was presented with the Ruth J. Simmons Award for Leadership. ▲

### Sheridan Awards and Medals

**Dr. Andrew G. Campbell** and **Dean Nancy Thompson** were honored at the University Awards Ceremony on May 5, 2010, receiving citations and medals as 2009 recipients of the Harriet W. Sheridan Award for Distinguished Contribution to Teaching and Learning. The IMSD Co-Directors were “recognized jointly by colleagues and graduate students across the division of Biology and Medicine for your imaginative leadership in developing a sustainable means to enhance the teaching of science in higher education...Your creation of skill development through training modules in ‘Responsible Conduct of Research for Biology and Medicine’ and the innovative Senior Scholar Mentorship program have established a culture of

collegial involvement in science education within the division.” The following IMSD faculty trainers and advisors were also recognized: **Michael McKeown**, Professor of Molecular Biology, Cell Biology and Biochemistry, received a Faculty Teaching Excellence Award. **Tricia Serio**, Associate Professor of Molecular Biology, Cell Biology, and Biochemistry, received the Dean’s Award for Excellence in Graduate and/or Postdoctoral Teaching and Mentoring in the Biological Sciences. **Sharon Swartz**, Associate Professor of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology was the recipient of the Karen T. Romer Award for Excellence in Advising. **Diane Lipscombe**, Professor of Neuroscience, received the Graduate School Faculty Award

### Dr. Courtnei Newsome

#### First Ph.D. of the IMSD!

We are pleased to congratulate Dr. Courtnei Newsome as the first Ph.D. graduate of the IMSD Program. Courtnei first came to Brown University as an undergraduate in 2003 to participate in the Leadership Alliance Summer Research Early Identification Program before receiving her Bachelors degree from Tougaloo College in Mississippi. She joined the graduate program in Molecular Biology, Cell Biology & Biochemistry (MCB) in September of 2004 and rotated through the labs of Drs. Steven Moss and Alan Rosmarin. Courtnei’s professional interests changed during her graduate career in MCB, and she transferred to the Pathobiology Graduate Program in 2007. It was there that she joined the lab of Dr. Jonathan Reichner and began work on her Ph.D. thesis: “Effects of Beta-Glucan on Sepsis and Endotoxemia”. ▲



Courtnei Newsome is acknowledged as a new doctoral scholar of the Leadership Alliance.

Courtnei has served as Senior Scholar with the IMSD Program and earned a teaching certificate through the Sheridan Center. She received numerous travel awards to attend national conferences and was a recipient of the National Institutes of Health Ruth L. Kirschstein National Research Service Award (NRSA) Pre-doctoral Fellowship Award.

We wish Dr. Newsome continued success in her new endeavors as she searches for a post-doctoral position in New York City. ▲



IMSD Program Directors Dr. Andrew G. Campbell and Dean Nancy L. Thompson receive Sheridan Awards and Medals at University Awards Ceremony

for Advising and Mentoring. IMSD senior scholar **Tania Nevers** received Teaching Certificate II. **Pamela Gaddi** was recognized as a discussion leader, graduate student liaison and recipient of

Teaching Certificates II and III. A list of award recipients and their citations is posted on the Sheridan Center’s website: [http://brown.edu/Administration/Sheridan\\_Center/award/recipients.html](http://brown.edu/Administration/Sheridan_Center/award/recipients.html). ▲

## Message from the Program Coordinator

Thank you to everyone in the IMSD community for being so welcoming and supportive as I have transitioned into my new role as Program Coordinator. I am thrilled to have this opportunity to work with such wonderful students, faculty and colleagues, and I look forward to learning more about you and the important research you are doing.

Thanks also to those of you who offered kind expressions of sympathy in the recent loss of my father. My Dad loved to impart words of wisdom so I would like to share one of his favorite sayings that I think has relevance for all of us. "A smart person learns from experience; a smarter person learns from OTHER people's experience." Here at Brown, we are surrounded by individuals with extraordinary talent, drive and experience. Whatever challenges we are facing – be it a perplexing research problem, a pending grant or fellowship application, dealing with a difficult colleague, overcoming personal insecurities, or trying to juggle work and family responsibilities -- chances are that someone you know has encountered a similar situation and could provide



Karen Z. Ball, IMSD Program Coordinator

you with valuable perspective and advice. The only way you will know is if you reach out to people and ask for help. Remember that the most successful scientists are the ones that ask the most questions and are not afraid to admit that they don't have all the answers.

Science is, by nature, a collaborative venture, and by sharing our ideas, knowledge and questions, we all benefit. It is exciting to imagine where our inquiries may lead, and I look forward to joining you for a part of your journey on the long and winding road towards knowledge, discovery and understanding. ▲

## IMSD Reaches Out to Middle School Students at Times Squared Academy



L to R: Teresa Ramirez, Cristina Lopez-Fagundo, and Dean Nancy Thompson address class of 8th graders at Times Squared Academy

In January, members of the IMSD community gave a presentation to middle school students at Times Squared (Times<sup>2</sup>) Academy. IMSD graduate students **Teresa Ramirez** (MPP) and **Cristina Lopez-Fagundo** (BME) spoke with a diverse group of 8th graders about science and research and the opportunities that await those who go on to college and graduate school. As Teresa explained, "The main goal was to motivate these students to start thinking about attending college and obtaining advanced degrees, such as a PhD. Most of the questions that they asked were related to how to get information to apply and prepare for college, and how to apply for

scholarships...At the end of our talks, a number of students stayed to continue the conversation." She added, "I treasure the opportunity to have broadened the perspective of these students." Professor Wayne Bowen, Chair of the Department of Molecular Pharmacology, Physiology and Biotechnology said, "We are proud that Teresa and Cristina had this opportunity to be ambassadors for the future pipeline of scientists." Dean Nancy Thompson noted, "Times<sup>2</sup> was very appreciative of their time and efforts." Based on the success of this visit, we have been invited to come back and meet with their high school students who will be applying to colleges in the Fall. ▲

## Cristina Lopez-Fagundo & Kristin Beale

### NSF Fellowship Awardees

**Kristin Beale** and **Cristina Lopez-Fagundo** were honored at the Brown Graduate School Award Recognition Ceremony on May 11th as recipients of the prestigious 2010 NSF Graduate Research Fellowship Program Award (GRFP). The NSF GRFP provides three years of funding support including an annual stipend of

\$30,000, a cost of education allowance, and an international travel allowance. Congratulations also to **Diana Lizarazo** who received Honorable Mention. These students join the ranks of other IMSD Research Associates who have been successful in obtaining fellowships and awards to support their graduate studies. ▲

## Training Modules continued...

and networking skills for conferences, job interviews, and other professional situations.

Angel Byrd sums up the module teaching experience saying, "It feels great to be able to help other graduate students who are striving to achieve excellence. While helping them, I was able to also help myself as we learned from one another!"

We hope that current students and faculty will be encouraged by the positive experiences of their peers, and consider serving as trainers for future modules. ▲

## Funding and Training Opportunities

### F31 Predoctoral Individual National Research Service Award (NRSA)

Upcoming Diversity Deadlines: Aug. 13, Dec. 13, Apr. 13  
 AIDS-related applications: Sept. 7, Jan. 7, May 7  
 Note-Individual Opportunities may have different deadlines.

- **Ruth L. Kirschstein National Research Service Awards for Individual Predoctoral Fellowships (F31) to Promote Diversity in Health-Related Research** - <http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PA-10-109.html>

### Dissertation Support:

#### R36 Dissertation Support

Standard Deadlines: June 16, Oct. 16, Feb. 16  
 AIDS-related applications: Sept. 7, Jan. 7, May 7  
 Note-Individual Opportunities have different deadlines.

- **Mental Health Dissertation Research Grant to Increase Diversity (R36)** This funding opportunity will enable qualified doctoral candidates to pursue research careers in any area relevant to the research mission of the National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH).

*Letters of Intent Deadline: 30 days before receipt date*

*Deadlines: Aug 24, Dec 22, Apr 22, annually*

*Standard dates for AIDS-related submissions*

<http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PAR-09-132.html>

- **Aging Research Dissertation Awards to Increase Diversity (R36)** The National Institute on Aging (NIA) announces the re-issuance of a Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA) that provides dissertation awards (R36) in all areas of research within NIA's mandate to increase diversity of the research workforce on research on aging and aging-related health conditions. <http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PAR-08-250.html>

**ELA Foundation Scholarship** - ELA Scholarships are available only to women graduate students with physical disabilities who are enrolled in an accredited college or university in the United States. Applicant must be a member of AAPD. These scholarships are awarded on an objective and nondiscriminatory basis, and usually cover tuition costs only. Annual Deadlines: June 1, March 1 <http://ela.org/scholarships/scholarships.html>

### Conference Travel Awards

#### FASEB MARC Travel Awards for the following meetings:

Any FASEB MARC Program Travel Award offered for meetings that will take place after June 30, 2010 will be offered on a "conditional/contingent upon funding availability" basis. <http://www.faseb.org/marc/home.aspx>

Eligible Nat. Mtgs	Mtg. Location	Mtg. Dates	Adv. Reg. Deadlines	MARC Deadlines
Teratology Society Annual Meeting	Louisville, KY	6/26-6/30/10	5/15/10	5/25/10
ISMB 2010/ISCB Official Conference **	Boston, MA	7/11-7/13/10	5/28/10	6/11/10
Society for the Study of Reproduction Annual Meeting **	Milwaukee, WI	7/30-8/3/10	5/31/10	6/30/10
The 24th Annual Symposium of The Protein Society **	San Diego, CA	8/1-8/5/10	7/31/10	7/1/10
Society for Developmental Biology Annual Meeting **	Albuquerque, NM	8/5-8/9/10	5/31/10	7/1/10
Integrative Physiology of Exercise 2010**	Miami, FL	9/22-9/25/10	7/15/10	7/30/10
SACNAS National Conference 2010 **	Anaheim, CA	9/30-10/3/10	9/2/10	9/1/10

*\*\* funding for travel awards dependant on available funds*

### Keystone Symposium Minority Scholarship – Immunological Mechanisms of Vaccination (S1)

Conference Dates: October 27 – Nov 1, 2010

Scholarship Deadline: Jun 28, 2010

Abstract Deadline: Jun 28, 2010

Late Abstract Deadline: Jul 30, 2010

Early Registration Deadline: Aug 27, 2010

<http://www.keystonesymposia.org/Scholarships/MinorityTravel.cfm>

### Gordon Research Conferences (GRC) Carl Storm Underrepresented Minority Fellowship Program

This fellowship offers \$600 of support to attend any Gordon Research Conference. <http://www.grc.org/diversity.aspx?page=2>

A list of upcoming conferences can be found on the GRC web site:

<http://www.grc.org/meetings.aspx?year=2011>

#### PROGRAM STAFF:

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*Associate Professor of Medical Science  
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#### PARTNER INSTITUTIONS:

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 York College/City University of New York  
 North Carolina A&T State University

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