



Message from the Director

Welcome to the third issue of 'The View', the newsletter of Brown University's IMSD program. This issue also coincides with the completion of the third year of our program's existence. Year three has been a very meaningful milestone for us as we emerge from a stage of infancy and translate early concepts to meaningful outcomes and work product. Most notably, Brown IMSD graduated its first IMSD trainee who received her PhD in 2010. A broader retrospective view shows that we are well on our way to achieving our goal of creating a strong community of scholars, faculty and administrators dedicated to achieving greater diversity in the sciences. We have also increased diversity in graduate programs throughout the BioMed Division, established policies and implemented practices designed to maximize trainee success and strengthened our relationships with individual graduate programs. We have also begun to work collaboratively with all T32 Training Grant directors in preparing IMSD trainees for opportunities to transition to these and other external support mechanisms as part of their graduate training.

Brown IMSD's identity and work is also shaped by the relationships we build with our external partner institutions. In September of 2010, the program held its annual partners meeting on campus. Current partner representatives Dr. Gerry McNeil (York College/CUNY), Dr. Mary Smith (NC A&T) and Dr. Chris Bazinet (St. Johns University) were joined by Dr. Janet Rollins representing the College of Mount St. Vincent. As stakeholders invested in the process of student development and success, our partners provided valuable feedback about our working relationship at this meeting. One of the important achievements was the establishment of criteria, standards and expectations of a good partner relationship. A summary of our first partners meeting can be found on the Brown IMSD web site <http://biomed.brown.edu/imsd/Report-of-Partners-Mtg-9-2009.pdf>.

Brown IMSD is proud that its work continues to be shaped by our focus on enhancing academic rigor and excellence in all fields. We encourage you to visit our website (<http://biomed.brown.edu/imsd/>) to learn more about our program.

Andrew G. Campbell, PhD

ABRCMS 2010 – Marking 10 years of commitment



L to R: Barbara Kahn, Teresa Ramirez, Dean Jabbar Bennett, Sandra Torres, Victoria Ruiz, Karen Ball, Jessica Chery

The 2010 ABRCMS meeting, held in Charlotte, NC November 10-13th (<http://www.abrcms.org>), marked the conference's 10th anniversary. This year's meeting specifically marked a decade of collaboration between the American Society for Microbiology (<http://www.asm.org/>), the MORE Division of the National Institute of General Medical Sciences (<http://www.nigms.nih.gov/Minority/>) and faculty across the country to increase diversity in the sciences. The ABRCMS meeting is organized and managed by ASM through funding it receives from the MORE Division. The conference is the primary presentation venue for students, faculty and program directors of MARC, MBRS and Bridges Training programs and many of the student trainees use the conference as a springboard en route to furthering their careers in the

sciences. The theme of this year's meeting was 'The Future of Science: Diverse People, Diverse Needs'. Brown University was well-represented by IMSD Program Director and faculty member, **Dr. Andrew G. Campbell**, IMSD Program Coordinator **Karen Z. Ball**, **Dr. Medeva Ghee** and **Barbara Kahn** (Leadership Alliance Acting Director and Program Coordinator, respectively), and **Dr. Jabbar Bennett** (Assistant Dean of the Graduate School). Joining them were IMSD community members **Teresa Ramirez**, **Diana Lizarazo**, and **Victoria Ruiz**, and module participant **Jessica Chery** along with several other Brown students and faculty mentors.

With funding support from the Brown Division of Biology and Medicine, IMSD

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Save the Dates! Training Module

"Resources, Tools and Basic Techniques in Molecular Biology"
Thursdays: March 3, 10, 17, 24 and April 7

Seminars:
April 5 – Tyrone Hayes: "From Silent Spring to Silent Night: A Tale of Toads and Men"
April 26 – Michael Leibowitz
TBD – Winston Thompson

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EXCELLENCE

ASCB 2010 Meeting and Mentoring Symposium



Andrew G. Campbell presents session on mentoring at ASCB annual meeting

IMSD PI & Program Director, **Dr. Andrew G. Campbell**, presented a 'How To' and 'Best Practices' Session as part of the Mentoring Symposium at the 50th annual meeting of the American Society for Cell Biology (ASCB; <http://www.ascb.org/>) meeting held in Philadelphia, PA in Dec. 2010. The session was sponsored by the **ASCB Minority Affairs Committee** (MAC) and featured an interactive session presented by

Dr. Campbell and colleague, **Dr. Michael Leibowitz** of UMDNJ Robert Wood Johnson Medical School. The session stressed the importance of preparation and guided prospective and current graduate students through the expectations of the critical early years of graduate training. Much of the presentation was modeled on Dr. Campbell's regularly taught IMSD module, 'Demystifying the PhD Training Experience' (<http://biomed.brown.edu/imsd/training/>). In line with the work of Brown's IMSD program, ASCB, through the work of 'MAC' is dedicated to maximizing the education and training opportunities for students under-represented in the sciences. Brown IMSD continues to use a number of national venues to share its practices and work products with the larger scientific community. Next year's ASCB meeting will be held in Denver, Colorado Dec 3rd – 7th. ▲

Congratulations

Michael Lopez, a first year PhD student and IMSD trainee in Brown's Biostatistics program, was selected to receive the prestigious **Levy Fellowship Award**, 2010–2011. Funding for these fellowships comes from a generous current use gift to Brown University from the June Rockwell Levy Foundation. Eligible first year graduate students in the Division of Biology and Medicine were nominated by their graduate program based on academic record, achievements to date and promise for success in graduate school, and selected by a faculty committee composed of

representatives from all graduate programs in the Division. Fellows will receive a certificate noting this honor along with an invitation to the annual graduate student recognition event in May.

Goldie Byrd, a Nathan F. Simms Endowed Professor of Biology at North Carolina A&T State University, was recently appointed Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences (http://www.ncat.edu/press_releases/disp_release.php?ID=4821). Byrd joined the faculty of NC A&T in 2003 as chair of the Department of Biology. Her

research in Alzheimer's disease has been recognized both nationally and internationally. Throughout her tenure in academia, Byrd has continuously exemplified excellence in teaching, research and service. We thank Dr. Byrd for her commitment to the IMSD program and wish her much success in her new role.

IMSD Program Director **Nancy Thompson** has been selected to participate as a faculty coach for a recently awarded NIH Director's Pathfinder Award to Promote Diversity in the Scientific Workforce (1DP4

GM0968070). Principal Investigator Dr. Rick McGee, Associate Dean for Faculty Recruitment and Professional Development at Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine has devised an experimental, long-term approach to guiding the development of young biomedical scientists toward future academic careers. Faculty Coaches are skilled scientist mentors from around the U.S., and student cohorts, stratified for ethnic and gender proportions, come from biomedical PhD programs across the country. KZB ▲

SACNAS 2010

The 2010 SACNAS National Conference was held jointly with the society for Mexican American Engineers and Scientists (MAES : <http://www.maes-natl.org/>) Sept 30th – Oct 3rd in Anaheim, California. Attending were IMSD PI & Program Director, **Dr. Andrew G. Campbell**, and Brown IMSD Internal Advisory Board members **Dr. Medeva Ghee** (Acting Director of the Leadership Alliance) and **Dr. Jabbar Bennett** (Assistant Dean of the Graduate School). Joining them was IMSD module leader **Dr. Mark Johnson** of the Molecular Biology, Cell Biology

and Biochemistry Graduate Program (http://www.brown.edu/Departments/Molecular_Biology/Grad_Program/). Dr. Johnson served as one of SACNAS' roundtable session leaders. IMSD trainees **Teresa Ramirez**, **Kristin Beale** and **Beverly Gonzalez** were also among the more than 3000 individuals in attendance. This conference has emerged as the major science and educational venue for Hispanics/ Chicanos & Native people in the U.S. The growth of SACNAS (<http://sacnas.org>) as an organization and the popularity of its annual meeting raises the visibility of

its members in the larger national scientific community and provides early training opportunities for students from many backgrounds. In launching the careers of these trainees, the organization plays a vital role in preparing our future scientific workforce. Subsequent long-term scientific mentoring, cultivation and investment will ensure that these trainees join the ranks of our university faculty, science policy makers, and governmental and non-governmental labs. ▲



SACNAS poster presenter Beverly Gonzalez (center) with fellow IMSD trainee Teresa Ramirez (L), and postdoc judge Dr. Becky Marquez (R).

Andrew G. Campbell, PhD

COMMUNITY

Winter Training Modules Provide Skill-Building Opportunities for Grads and Postdocs

Photo Credit: Susan Rottenburg



IMSD senior scholar Kristin Beale leads discussion on "Professionalism"

For many graduate students, the winter intercession provided an opportunity to hone skills and competencies that will help to further their professional development. **IMSD PI, Dr. Nancy Thompson** offered a module on "Professionalism: Maximizing Your Impact in Professional Settings". The National

Postdoctoral Association (NPA) recognizes "professionalism" as an essential core competency for career success, and due to the high level of interest, this training module was open to postdocs as well as graduate students. Participants engaged in role playing activities to practice using body language, effective introductions, networking techniques, and interviewing strategies to their advantage in professional situations such as scientific meetings and job interviews. Other recent IMSD modules provided training on topics including experimental design and critical analysis, designing and delivering scientific presentations, graphic presentation of scientific data, and defending your research proposal and critiquing those of others. Faculty instructors commented on the important contributions of the senior scholars who served as peer mentors and assisted with planning and teaching of the modules.

KZB

SUMMERS PRESENTS FALL SEMINAR

Dr. Michael Summers, HHMI Investigator and Professor of Chemistry and Biochemistry at the University of Maryland, Baltimore County, was a featured guest speaker for IMSD's fall seminar series. Summers presented a scientific seminar that was co-sponsored by IMSD and UMBC's IMSD and Meyerhoff Fellows Program, and took this opportunity to share information and best practices with Brown IMSD program staff. KZB



L to R: Ann Catherine Saunders, Dr. Michael Summers, Kim Sherwood, Leon Toussaint

ABRCMS 2010 continued...

hosted a reception for attendees from the partner institutions including prospective new partner The College of Mount Saint Vincent. More than 60 students, faculty and administrators took advantage of this opportunity to engage in informal conversation and

networking. The Brown Graduate School is pleased to be considering many competitive applications from students at the partner institutions, including several prospective candidates for IMSD. We look forward to continuing these fruitful collaborations. AGC



LEFT: Dr. Mary Smith, Associate Professor of Biology at NC A&T, views student poster at ABRCMS.

RIGHT: IMSD trainee and FASEB peer mentor Diana Lizarazo (Center) with undergraduate mentees at ABRCMS



COLLABORATION

Funding and Training Opportunities

F31 Predoctoral Individual National Research Service Award (NRSA)

Diversity Deadlines: April 13, August 13, December 13

Standard Deadlines: April 8, August 8, December 8

AIDS-related applications: May 7, September 7, January 7

- Ruth L. Kirschstein National Research Service Awards for Individual Predoctoral Fellowships (F31) This individual predoctoral research training fellowship provides 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

International Foundation for Ethical Research (IFER) Graduate Fellowship Program

IFER is currently offering **Graduate Fellowships in Alternatives in Scientific Research**. IFER is dedicated to the development and implementation of scientifically valid alternatives to the use of animals in research, product testing, and education. IFER is also committed to programs designed to increase public awareness of such alternatives. The purpose of these fellowships is to provide monetary assistance to graduate students whose programs of study seem likely to have an impact in one or more of these areas. <http://www.ifer.org/fellowships.html>

Dissertation Support:

R36 Dissertation Support

Standard Deadlines: Feb. 16, June 16, Oct. 16

AIDS-related applications: May 7, Sept. 7, Jan. 7

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

- Mental Health Dissertation Research Grant to Increase Diversity (R36)

Letters of Intent Deadline: 30 days before receipt date

Deadlines: April 22, 2011; August 24, 2011

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

PROGRAM STAFF:

Andrew G. Campbell, PhD –
Program Director
Associate Professor of Medical Science
Bio Med Molecular Microbiology & Immunology

Nancy L. Thompson, PhD –
Co-Program Director
Professor (Research), Pathology
and Laboratory Medicine

Karen Ball – Program Coordinator
Michele Curry – Program Assistant
Tracey Cronin – Manager, Bio Med
Graduate Studies

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 four-year grant (R25GM083270) and a two-year ARRA (3R25GM083270-02S1) supplement awarded by the National Institute of General Medical Sciences, National Institutes of Health (NIGMS/NIH).

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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

Conference Travel Awards

FASEB MARC Travel Awards:

FASEB MARC Program Travel Awards are currently being offered on a "conditional/contingent upon funding availability" basis. See FASEB website for a complete list of upcoming eligible national meetings. <http://www.faseb.org/marc/home.aspx>

Eligible National Meetings	Mtg. Location	Mtg. Dates	Adv. Reg. Deadlines	MARC Deadlines
Experimental Biology 2011	Washington, DC	4/9 - 4/13	2/9/11	3/4/11
Great Lakes Bioinformatics Conference/ISCB	Athens, OH	5/2 - 5/4	4/4/11	4/1/11
Immunology 2011: 98 th Annual Meeting of The American Association of Immunologists	San Francisco, CA	5/13 - 5/17	3/15/11	4/1/11
Cyto 2011: International Society for Advancement of Cytometry	Baltimore, MD	5/21 - 5/25	3/21/11	4/1/11
Endo 2011: 93 rd Annual Meeting of The Endocrine Society	Boston, MA	6/4 - 6/7	4/5/11	4/22/11
Genetics Society of America: Mouse Genetics 2011	Washington, DC	6/22 - 6/25	4/12/11	4/29/11

Keystone Symposia

Keystone Symposia for 2011 include 55 meetings on topics ranging from genetics/genomics to cardiovascular disease to cancer (www.keystonesymposia.org/2011meetings). For information about URM travel scholarships see: <http://www.keystonesymposia.org/Scholarships/MinorityTravel.cfm>

New England Science Symposium

Friday, April 1, 2011

The Joseph B. Martin Conference Center at Harvard Medical School, 77 Avenue Louis Pasteur, Boston, MA

This symposium promotes careers in biomedical science. There is no registration fee to attend, but pre-registration is required. http://www.mfdp.med.harvard.edu/med_grad/ness/