

Message from the Director

Spring is the time prospective graduate students commit themselves to programs and institutions for graduate training, and this year Brown has benefitted from the close work between our graduate programs and IMSD. Under-represented minority student admissions to our PhD programs is up to 23% (compared to 17.5% in the pre-IMSD era). These individuals were selected from our largest and most competitive applicant pool that included the highest number of URM and disadvantaged applicants to date. This 'uptick' in URM application numbers, normalized against the general increase of applications, is considered to be an IMSD affect we hope to sustain in future years.

This has also been a year of change as leadership in the BioMed Office of Graduate & Postdoctoral Studies passed from outgoing Associate Dean, and IMSD Co-PI, Nancy Thompson to Elizabeth Harrington. The Brown IMSD program also welcomed Dr. Medeva Ghee to its Internal Advisory Board. Dr. Ghee is Acting Executive Director of the Leadership Alliance, which has a long history of cultivating the talents of under-represented students. Two new members of our External Advisory Board this year are: Drs. Laina King, PhD Director, Diversity in Life Science Programs of the Keystone Symposia on Molecular and Cellular Biology, and Michael Leibowitz, Director of Graduate Academic Diversity and Professor at of the University of Medicine and Dentistry, New Jersey (UMDNJ). Dr. Leibowitz was a featured speaker in the IMSD seminar series where he discussed his current research into the life cycle of malarial parasites. Brown IMSD was also fortunate to host Dr. Winston Thompson of Morehouse School of Medicine this spring. Dr. Thompson presented his research of "Prohibitin Signaling in Folliculogenesis and Gynecologic Disease". Both Leibowitz and Thompson also met with IMSD trainees and shared their wisdom about how to best approach graduate training, career considerations and how to prioritize research interests and future research pursuits.

As the academic year draws to a close, Brown IMSD expresses gratitude to our colleagues, friends, collaborators and supporters and look forward to working with all of you in the coming year.

Andrew G. Campbell, PhD

Everage Receives PhD in Epidemiology



Nick Everage (center) with thesis committee (L to R): Eric Loucks, PhD, Assistant Professor of Medical Science, Annie Gjelsvik, PhD, Assistant Professor of Community Health (Research), Crystal Linkletter, PhD, Assistant Professor of Community Health, Stephen McGarvey, PhD, MPH, Professor of Community Health.

IMSD trainee and senior scholar **Nicholas J. Everage** will receive his PhD in Epidemiology from Brown University in May 2011. Nick successfully defended his dissertation on April 8th and presented his research on "Potential Roles of Racial Discrimination and Sociobehavioral Risk Marker Clustering in the Pathophysiology of Coronary Heart Disease." He is currently interviewing for positions in the scientific consulting field. We all wish Nick the best of luck with his career and future plans.

Brown IMSD modules presentation receives 'National Postdoctoral Association Award'

A presentation of Brown's IMSD skill-based training modules received 1 of 4 "Innovation in Action" poster awards at the 2011 Annual Meeting of the National Postdoctoral Association (NPA) held March 25-27th on

the NIH campus (<http://www.nationalpostdoc.org/no-modules/516-2011am-poster-winners>). The poster entitled "Brown's IMSD Grant Addresses NPA Core Competencies"

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Save the Dates!

Summer Training Modules

"Reading Scientific Publications"
August 22, 24, 26

"Demystifying the PhD Experience"
August 22-26

"Scientific Writing: Key Principles" TBA
"Introduction to Statistical Analysis of Data" TBA

See website for further information:
<http://biomed.brown.edu/imsd>

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ASCB- Preparing Future Trainers of the U.S. Scientific Workforce



Each year the Minorities Affairs Committee (MAC) of the American Society for Cell Biology (ASCB) hosts a Junior Faculty & Postdoctoral Fellows Careers Development Workshop for scientists from a number of institutions.

L: Andrew G. Campbell at ASCB meeting

The competitive selection process culls the applicant pool down to a cohort of energetic and promising young investigators. The 6th annual workshop will be held this year in Atlanta, Georgia June 10th – 11th and features sessions on grant writing, manuscript submission, understanding and navigating the

tenure process, building viable collaborations, teaching and personal & group management. Individual sessions are led by MAC members (http://ascb.org/iweb/Leadership/committeesdetail.aspx?id_committee=COMMITTEE/MINORITIES). AGC ▲

Congratulations

Beverly Gonzalez, IMSD graduate student and senior scholar in Brown University's department of Biostatistics will be awarded an M.S. degree in Biostatistics in May 2011. Congratulations to Beverly also on her recent publication, Cohen RA, de la Monte S, Gongvatana A, Ombao H, Gonzalez B, Devlin KN, Navia B, Tashima KT. 2011. Plasma cytokine concentrations associated with HIV/hepatitis C coinfection are related to attention, executive and psychomotor functioning. *J Neuroimmunol.* 2011

Apr;233(1-2):204-10. Epub 2010 Dec 10.

Angel Byrd, IMSD senior scholar and graduate student in Brown's MD/PhD program, was chosen as a 2011 UNCF/Merck Graduate Science Research Dissertation Fellow. Congratulations to Angel on receiving this prestigious and highly competitive fellowship.

Cyrena Gawuga, an IMSD graduate student and senior scholar in the department of Molecular Pharmacology and Physiology

(MPP), was selected as the Helen Fitzgerald Cserr Memorial Fund Pre-doctoral Fellow for FY11. A meritorious student is designated by the Associate Dean for Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies in consultation with Graduate Program Directors.

Kristin Beale won first place for "Best Graduate Student Oral Presentation" at the Regional Society for Developmental Biology (SDB) meeting March 26-27, 2011. As a result of her winning presentation on "Gamete plasma membrane fusion triggers a block to

polytubey in *Arabidopsis thaliana*" she was also awarded a \$1,000.00 travel grant to present in the national SDB meeting in Chicago summer 2011.

Teresa Ramirez, received a FASEB MARC Travel Award to attend the 2011 Experimental Biology Conference. She was joined by fellow IMSD student and senior scholar, **Diana Lizarazo** who gave oral and poster presentations of her research. Both Teresa and Diana serve as FASEB Peer Mentors. ▲

IMSD Training Modules

The Brown IMSD program offers a slate of 'not-for-credit' training modules throughout the calendar year. These modules, developed initially for IMSD trainees, now include an increasing number of non-IMSD graduate trainees, postdoctoral fellows and even the periodic visiting scholar/faculty. The modules help to refresh earlier training experiences, provide additional foundational training in preparation for advanced/graduate coursework and introduce trainees to new areas that will likely become essential for their success in scientific training. Modules are led by faculty members who are assisted by senior graduate students who serve as IMSD Scholars. Modules have clear goals and are highly interactive.

Depending on content delivered, the total contact hours can be as high as 12 hours over the course of a week. In responding to evaluative feedback from faculty and trainees, we have established a policy where IMSD supported trainees now complete a minimum of three of the currently available eleven training modules. This helps to broaden trainee knowledge base, provide better evidence and relationship between modules and trainee progress, and improve our ability to accurately measure the impact of IMSD support — particularly module work — on student progress. Further information about our training modules can be found at: <http://biomed.brown.edu/imsd/training/> AGC ▲

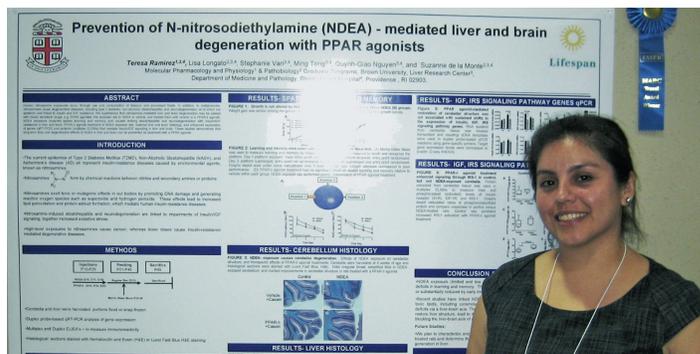


L to R: Senior scholar Leon Toussaint, module participants Rafael Gonzalez Cruz and Nick Labriola, and Bioimaging Facility Manager Geoff Williams look at a biological sample embedded in epoxy resin during "Resources, Tools and Basic Techniques in Molecular Biology."

COMMUNITY

The New England Science Symposium (NESS) 2011 – Supporting the future of science

The 2011 NESS was held April 1st at the Joseph B. Martin Conference Center at Harvard Medical School (http://www.mfdp.med.harvard.edu/med_grad/ness/). The symposium was established in 2002 to promote and sustain career pursuits in biomedical science by postdoctoral fellows; medical, dental and graduate students; post-baccalaureates; college and community college students (especially African-American, Hispanic/Latino and American Indian/Alaska Native individuals). It is a venue for research presentations by trainees and an opportunity to hear from faculty and experts in the field about career choices, navigating the career paths and how to maximize professional success. Brown University was well-represented by IMSD trainees (**Diana Lizarazo** and **Cristina Lopez-Fagundo**) and senior scholars (**Stacy-Ann Allen**, also a member of NESS planning committee, and **Victoria Ruiz**). IMSD PI **Andrew G. Campbell** also attended and participated on a panel “Road to Science: Navigating Your Career”. NESS has grown significantly since its inception in 2002 thanks to the leadership of **Dr. Joan Reed** and her dedicated staff. It now stands as one of the strong regional programs that has developed a national identity in serving underrepresented students in the sciences. AGC ▲



IMSD trainee Teresa Ramirez presents poster of research conducted with Dr. de la Monte.

Continuation of BROWN IMSD

was presented by lead author, **Susan Rottenberg**. Winners were selected based on poster content, especially content relating to emerging programs with the potential to impact the training of postdoctoral fellows. Brown IMSD skill-based modules provide scientific content and foundational training that

benefit participants at many career stages. This feature of the modules raises their appeal among non-IMSD trainees, including postdoctoral fellows. Receipt of the NPA award is an honor for Brown IMSD as it validates the broader value of our modules to training beyond the graduate level in the larger scientific community. ▲

De la Monte featured guest on Dr. Oz show

Dr. Suzanne de la Monte, Professor of Neurosurgery and Pathology & Laboratory Medicine, was a featured guest on the Dr. Oz Show on April 6th. De la Monte, an IMSD faculty trainer and module leader, discussed her ground-breaking research of the possible link between Alzheimer's disease and diet. According to her research, chemicals from processed foods

can affect insulin production in the brain, which may lead to Alzheimer's. “We could be causing this epidemic ourselves just by the convenience of processed foods,” de la Monte says. A full report can be found on-line: www.doctoroz.com/videos/alzheimers-breakthrough-pt-1 ▲



IMSD lunch with seminar speaker Dr. Winston Thompson (L to R): Pamela Gaddi, Anika Toorie, Leon Toussaint, Dr. Winston Thompson, Tania Nevers, Victoria Ruiz, Diana Lizarazo.

COLLABORATION

Funding and Training Opportunities

F31 Predoctoral Individual National Research Service Award (NRSA)

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

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

Dissertation Support:

R36 Dissertation Support

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

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

Individual opportunities may have different deadlines, please check the sites.

National Science Foundation has updated the GRFP Administrative Guide for Fellows and Coordinating Officials and is changing how institutional awards are handled – both at NSF and at the grantee institution. The updated Guide can be found at: http://www.nsf.gov/pubs/2011/nsf11031/nsf11031.pdf?WT.mc_id=USNSF_179.

Conference Travel Awards

Keystone Symposia

Keystone Symposia has announced its line-up of 55 conferences for the upcoming season that runs November 2011 – May 2012. The meetings cover all aspects of the life sciences. (<http://www.keystonesymposia.org/Meetings/ListMeetings.cfm>). The first meeting in the Keystone Symposia Global Health Series, will be held November 7-11, 2011 in New Delhi, India on “Malnutrition, Gut-Microbial Interactions and Mucosal Immunity to Vaccines.”

Global Health Travel Award application deadline: June 7, 2011

Scholarship/URM scholarship application and abstract deadline: July 11, 2011

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

The **2012 Keystone Symposia Fellows Program** will welcome applications beginning June 1, 2011. This unique program allows early-career postdoctoral investigators to shadow the Keystone Symposia program development process for one year, including attending the semi-annual Scientific Advisory Board meetings in Keystone, Colorado, and to receive invaluable mentoring from leading scientists. Fellows do not have to be from an underrepresented minority background, but must be committed to encouraging diversity in the life sciences.

Application deadline: September 1, 2011.

www.keystonesymposia.org/AboutUs/Diversity_Fellows.cfm

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
2011 Society for Developmental Biology Annual Meeting	Chicago, IL	7/20 - 7/24	5/31/11	6/17/11
25 th Annual Symposium of The Protein Society	Boston, MA	7/23 - 7/27	5/31/11	6/3/11
44 th Society for the Study of Reproduction (SSR) Annual Meeting	Portland, OR	7/31 - 8/4		6/17/11
American Society for Bone and Mineral Research 2011	San Diego, CA	9/16 - 9/20		8/5/11
Society for Leukocyte Biology 2011	Kansas City, MO	9/22 - 9/24	7/1/11	7/15/11
ASHG 2011 Annual Meeting/12 th International Congress of Human Genetics	Montreal, Quebec, Canada	10/11 - 10/15	9/1/11	9/9/11
Biomedical Engineering Society 2011 Annual Meeting	Hartford, CT	10/13 - 10/15	9/1/11	9/1/11



L to R: Teresa Ramirez, Lisa Longato, and Diana Lizarazo explore Chinatown during the 2011 Experimental Biology Conference

PROGRAM STAFF:

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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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North Carolina A&T State University