

IMSD View

INITIATIVE TO MAXIMIZE STUDENT DEVELOPMENT

VOLUME 2 ISSUE 2



MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

The Brown IMSD program has established partnerships with institutions that educate students from a variety of backgrounds and have a long history of serving under-represented and disadvantaged students (URM/Ds). A high proportion of these students show an interest in the biomedical and public health sciences, but few pursue careers that match these interests. A byproduct of IMSD's partnerships has been the relationships that have begun to develop between individual Brown graduate programs and faculty and individual departments at our partner institutions. These relationships arise as a result of shared interests between faculty and students, which track along research and educational training themes. Establishing these types of relationships is one of IMSD's long-term goals. In meeting this goal we are able to respond to the need to 1) address shortages in the scientific workforce and 2) increase the numbers of URM/Ds who pursue science careers.

There are two major reasons why the proportion of URM/Ds who hold PhDs and academic positions are low relative to their peers: a) URM/Ds are not enrolling in graduate training programs in the biomedical and public health sciences and b) URM/Ds are less prepared and less equipped to succeed in these fields. Aptitude is certainly not a factor since many of these same students pursue and succeed in other closely related scientific areas including medicine and engineering.

Brown IMSD's ability to build relationships between faculty and partner institution faculty & students helps to motivate undergraduate students, especially URM/Ds, to sustain their interests in the biomedical and public health sciences. These relationships are also important ways to validate these students as meaningful future stakeholders in the larger scientific community.

Andrew G. Campbell



IMSD module leaders and scholars participate in a workshop at the Sheridan Center.

NEW TRAINING MODULES FOR 2011

As a result of the growing popularity of our skill-based training modules, the Brown IMSD program will develop a new module entitled 'Professionalism: Preparing for the Postdoctoral Training Experience'. This new module is actually an offspring of our current module entitled "Professionalism: Maximizing your Impact in Professional Settings" which is being split into two separate modules. One will serve the interests of early and mid-career graduate students and teach them about the expectations of professional behavior throughout their graduate career. The second module will be offered to advanced graduate students who are preparing for and will soon be entering postdoctoral training. This format change is the result of feedback the program received following module evaluation by participants. AGC

SAVE THE DATES!

IMSD Partners Meeting Sept. 21-23
 Annual IMSD Welcome Luncheon Sept. 22
 IMSD Seminar Series Avery August – Oct. 13
 Tyrone Hayes – Nov. 18

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CONGRATULATIONS

Senior Scholars **Noelle Hutchins** and **Leon Toussaint** attended the 98th Annual American Association of Immunologists (AAI) meeting from May 13-17 in San

Photo credit: Noelle Hutchins



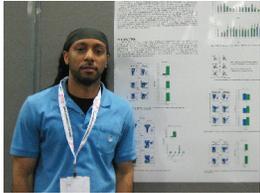
Noelle Hutchins with IMSD alumnus Courtney Newsome ('10) at AAI meeting

Francisco. Noelle received an AAI Trainee abstract award and presented an oral and poster

presentation of her research in Dr. Alfred Ayala's lab entitled, "Liver sinusoidal endothelial cells undergo apoptosis during sepsis, leading to organ dysfunction."

Leon received an IMSD travel award to present a poster of his work in Dr. Laurent Brossay's lab entitled, "Development of iNKT cells: influence of Y-chromosome genes."

Photo credit: Noelle Hutchins



Leon Toussaint poster at AAI meeting

Senior Scholar **Tania Nevers** and her mentor, Dr. Surendra Sharma, attended the 31st Annual Meeting of the American Society for Reproductive Immunology (ASRI) held May 19-22 in Salt Lake City, Utah. Tania was a recipient of the prestigious John Gusdon Memorial New Investigator Award for her



Photo credit: Jennifer Foukhdar

Tania Nevers receiving award at ASRI meeting

presentation entitled "Do inflammatory triggers alter uterine regulatory T cells in adverse pregnancy outcomes?"

Heather Bennett, IMSD Senior Scholar and graduate student of Dr. Anne Hart attended the 18th International C. elegans Meeting in Los Angeles California on June 22-26, 2011. Heather was selected to give a poster presentation of her work entitled "A role for heterochronic genes in regulating C. elegans quiescence." Heather told us "it was truly an inspiring experience. I received lots of great feedback. At the end of the conference, I felt excited and eager to return to the bench to try out all the new ideas I had for my own research."

Bethany Wilcox, IMSD trainee and graduate student in the Biomedical Engineering program presented her research at the 35th Annual Meeting of the American Society of Biomechanics (ASB), August 10-13 in Long Beach, CA. Bethany delivered both oral and poster presentations on "Joint Specific Toy Controller for Pediatric Upper Extremity Rehabilitation."

IMSD Advisory Board member, **Valerie Petit Wilson**, has accepted the position of Deputy Division Director for Graduate Education at the National Science Foundation (NSF). Dr. Wilson was most recently the Associate Provost and Director of Institutional Diversity at Brown University, and occupied a number of critical positions focused on advancing diversity both at Brown and in higher education more generally. We all wish Val much success in her new role at the NSF.



Photo Credit: Michele Curry

Angel Byrd talks with B.E.T.

IMSD Senior Scholar and UNCF Merck Fellow **Angel Byrd** was recently interviewed by Black Entertainment

Television (B.E.T.) for a feature that will air September 25th. Also interviewed for this story was Leadership Alliance Executive Director, Dr. Medeva Ghee. For further details, check out the B.E.T. web site: <http://www.bet.com/>

Thanks to Danielle Gutelius for contributions regarding graduate students in the Pathobiology Program. Additional Pathobiology Program News can be found on their website: <http://blogs.brown.edu/pathobionews/>.

IMSD WELCOMES NEW STUDENTS

The Brown IMSD extends a warm welcome to our newest community members. Incoming graduate student **Maya Almaraz** recently completed her undergraduate training at UC Berkeley and is the first IMSD participant to matriculate in the Ecology & Evolutionary Biology graduate program. Maya conducted research in Dr. Stephen Porder's lab in Puerto Rico over the summer where they examined nutrients limiting plant growth in the tropics and the effects of parent material

and topography on nutrient limitation. The incoming class for 2011-2012 also includes two students from our IMSD partner institutions. **Kirk Haltaufderhyde**, who received his B.S. from York College/CUNY, will join the PhD program in Molecular Pharmacology and Physiology. **Eric James**, a recent graduate of St. John's University, is now a pre-doctoral student in Brown's Neuroscience program. Congratulations and best wishes to all. KZB

MESSAGE FROM BETH HARRINGTON



Elizabeth O.
Harrington

While I have been involved with the IMSD Program at Brown University since the start of the program serving as a module leader, this spring I expanded my role by becoming the Co-Program Director. In this new role, I am excited to participate in furthering the overall mission of the program, assisting the excellent leadership of Professor Andrew Campbell, IMSD Program Director, working with the Partner Institutions, and most importantly, supporting the IMSD trainees and scholars here at Brown University. I look forward to meeting and working with you, as well as learning from you all, as we begin another academic year! Please introduce yourselves to me, as I would love to hear about the work you are doing at Brown and learn about your future plans.

— Beth

THE LEADERSHIP ALLIANCE AT 20

In 2012 The Leadership Alliance's flagship program, the Summer Research Early Identification Program (SR-EIP) (<http://www.theleadershipalliance.org>) will celebrate 20 years of excellence in training young outstanding under-represented trainees



who join our scientific workforce. The program's special contributions have been recognized for some time in the scientific community and beyond. Most recently in 2009, the Alliance was honored with the Presidential Award for Excellence in Science Mathematics and Engineering Mentoring (PAESMEM) Organizational Award. Headquartered at Brown, the Alliance

was established by former Brown University president Vartan Gregorian. At the time of its creation it united historically black colleges and universities (HBCUs) with elite universities across the U.S. Today, the Alliance continues its work, serving the scientific community by meeting the needs of students at HBCUs, Hispanic Serving Institutions, Tribal Colleges and majority institutions by supporting student research internships for undergraduates in the biological sciences, physical sciences, engineering, humanities and social sciences through its menu of programs. The Alliance systematically identifies, trains and mentors talented underrepresented and underserved individuals at all stages of the higher education pipeline, offering support and career-affirming mentoring at successive stages of the training pathway. AGC

IMSD STUDENTS ON THE MOVE

We all know that exercise has many benefits, and summer is the perfect time to take a break from the bench. We asked our IMSD students and senior scholars how they incorporate exercise into their busy schedules and discovered that we have a very active group!



Natalie Chavez
(MPPB) on a run

IMSD participant, **Natalie Chavez**, enjoys weight lifting and running. She observes that, "pushing myself on the running track has translated to greater energy and endurance in lab." Natalie's new favorite activity is "social running" which she describes as running with a friend (or two) at a pace that is conducive to short conversations. She notes, "I have strengthened bonds with colleagues in my department this way as well as make new friends, while getting a great workout."



Cristina Lopez-Fagundo (R) with lab mate Julie Richardson at 5K Race in LA on 4th of July

Bethany Wilcox, a graduate student in Biomedical Engineering, completed her fifth full marathon in May. She also enjoys playing in the Rhode Island Women's Soccer League and notes "it's great to have a competitive league that gives women a place to play after college."

IMSD senior scholar **Noelle Hutchins** (Pathobiology) says "I think it's important that graduate students engage in physical activity at least 3 times a week (yoga, pilates, some strenuous cardio for at least 40 minutes, etc.) I prefer to run (with a little bit of light weight training of legs and arms to tone muscles), since it relieves my stress, and gives me an opportunity to think outside of the laboratory environment."

Mike Lopez, an IMSD graduate student in Biostatistics, points out that exercise often has unanticipated benefits as well. He began running as "a way of staying in shape and a way of maintaining my competitive spirit". He adds, "I also met my wife through running as I spent — and still spend — most of my time trying to keep up with her!" KZB



BROWN

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: Oct. 16, Feb. 16, June 16

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

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

Drug Abuse Dissertation Research: Epidemiology, Prevention, Treatment, Services, and Women and Sex/Gender Differences (R36) (PAR-10-020) The purpose of this Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA) is to invite applications for support of drug abuse doctoral dissertation research in epidemiology, prevention, treatment, services, and women and sex/gender differences. <http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PAR-10-020.html>

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. See FASEB website for a complete list of upcoming eligible national meetings for travel awards: <http://www.faseb.org/marc/home.aspx>

| Eligible National Meetings | Mtg. Location | Mtg. Dates | Adv. Reg. Deadlines | MARC Deadlines |
|---|--------------------------|---------------|---------------------|----------------|
| ASHG 2011 Annual Meeting/12th International Congress of Human Genetics | Montreal, Quebec, Canada | 10/11 – 10/15 | 8/30/11 | 9/9/11 |
| Biomedical Engineering Society 2011 Annual Meeting | Hartford, CT | 10/13 – 10/15 | 9/1/11 | 9/1/11 |
| SACNAS 2011 National Conference | San Jose CA | 10/27 – 10/30 | 10/6/11 | 9/9/11 |
| ABRCMS 2011: Annual Biomedical Research Conference for Minority Students | St. Louis MO | 11/9 – 11/12 | 10/17/11 | 9/30/11 |
| ASIP/AMP: American Society for Investigative Pathology/ Association for Molecular Pathology | Grapevine, TX | 11/17 – 11/19 | 9/15/11 | 10/10/11 |
| International Society for Computational Biology (ISCB): Rocky II | Aspen, Snowmass CO | 12/8 – 12/10 | 11/8/11 | 10/14/11 |

AAAS Leadership Seminar in Science and Technology Policy

November 14-18, 2011; Washington, DC

The AAAS Leadership Seminar in Science and Technology Policy is a "crash course" in science and technology (S&T) policy. Space is limited to 30 to 35 participants, applicants are admitted on a rolling, space-available basis.

Registration Fees: Member: \$1795, Non-Member: \$1895

<https://www.signup4.net/Public/ap.aspx?EID=AAAS14E>

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>

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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

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 supplement (3R25GM083270-02S1) awarded by the National Institute of General Medical Sciences, National Institutes of Health (NIGMS/NIH).

