

# IMSD View

INITIATIVE TO MAXIMIZE STUDENT DEVELOPMENT

VOLUME 3 ISSUE 1



## MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

### Measuring the Effectiveness of Short-Term Summer Training: Taking Credit, Giving Credit

Short-Term Summer Research training of undergraduates is used to increase student exposure to cutting-edge research and to encourage them to pursue biomedical academic and research-related careers. These training internships have been particularly useful entry-points for students traditionally under-represented in the sciences and they have been helpful in launching the scientific careers of many of these trainees. Institutions sponsoring summer trainees/ interns typically measure the success of their summer programs by measuring the numbers of past participants who join their graduate programs. Too frequently however, past trainees enrolling in graduate programs at other institutions are either not counted, or are not tracked as positive outcomes of the summer training experience. Students pursuing graduate studies at any institution other than the institution hosting them for summer experiences should be recognized as successes. It is a success for both for the sponsoring summer institution and for the institution the students chose to enroll at for graduate studies. This spirit of cooperation and collaboration should be fostered over the current 'win - loss' approach to outcomes and success.

Andrew G. Campbell, PhD  
Associate Professor of Medical Science  
IMSD PI & Program Director



Graduate students gathered for an IMSD community meeting (Spring 2012)

## BROWN IMSD RECEIVES RENEWED SUPPORT

The Brown University IMSD Program has received a 5-year competitive grant renewal from the National Institute of General Medical Sciences that supports the work of the program. This support will allow Brown IMSD to continue increasing the numbers of students from under-represented groups who pursue and complete PhD degrees in the biomedical and behavioral sciences. Continued support also allows us to establish program practices that become institutionalized practices. —AGC

## THE ASCB-MAC SPONSORED JR. FACULTY & POSTDOC CAREERS WORKSHOP: PREPARING THE 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 aspiring academic faculty. A limited number of travel awards are available for members of underrepresented groups in the sciences, members of disadvantaged populations, and for faculty (regardless of ethnicity) at minority-serving institutions. Program sessions range from professional conduct, collaborations, grantsmanship, lab setup & management, leadership, mentoring, tenure and more. This year's workshop will be held June 9–10, 2012, in San Antonio, TX. Application Deadline is May 9th, 2012. Information about the program can be obtained from ASCB Senior Manager Ms. Deborah McCall who can be reached at [DMcCall@ascb.org](mailto:DMcCall@ascb.org). —AGC

### SAVE THE DATES!

#### Summer Training Modules:

- Scientific Writing . . . . . June/TBD
- Intro to Statistical Analysis of Data . . . July/TBD
- Demystifying the PhD Experience. . . Aug 20-24
- Reading Scientific Publications . . . Aug 27-Sep 4

#### IN THIS ISSUE

The ASCB-MAC Sponsored Jr. Faculty & Postdoc Careers Workshop. . . . .	1
Message from the Director. . . . .	1
Brown IMSD Receives Renewed Support . . . . .	1
Congratulations. . . . .	2
McNeal Attends St. Jude National Graduate Student Symposium . . . . .	2-3
MLK Lecturer Discusses Stereotype Threat . . . . .	3
The College of Mount St. Vincent Joins Brown IMSD. . . . .	3
Message from Dean Harrington. . . . .	3
Funding and Training Opportunities. . . . .	4



BROWN

# Excellence

## CONGRATULATIONS

**Natalie Chavez** and **Kirk Haltaufderhyde**, IMSD graduate students in Brown's Molecular Pharmacology and Physiology Graduate Program, have each been awarded 2012 National Science Foundation (NSF) Fellowships. The NSF Graduate Research Fellowship Program recognizes and supports outstanding graduate students in NSF-supported science, technology, engineering, and mathematics disciplines who are pursuing research-based masters and doctoral degrees at accredited US institutions.

**Kirk Haltaufderhyde** was selected as one of two Pharmacia Pre-doctoral Fellows for 2011-2012. The designation of a meritorious student is made by the Associate Dean for Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies with graduate Program Directors. This fund was established in association with the Upjohn Professorship to assist in graduate student funding within the Department of Molecular Pharmacology, Physiology and Biotechnology.



*Dr. Steven Moss and Victoria Ruiz at her doctoral defense in March*

**Victoria Ruiz**, IMSD Senior Scholar and Pathobiology graduate student, successfully defended her thesis entitled: "Immune Response to *Helicobacter pylori* Infection in the Gastric Cancer Prone p27-Deficient Mouse Model". Victoria is a 2009 NIH National Research Service Award (NRSA) fellowship recipient and conducted her dissertation research in the lab of Dr. Steven Moss. She received her undergraduate degree from IMSD partner institution St. John's University

and will return to New York to begin her postdoctoral training with Dr. Guillermo Perez-Perez at NYU Medical Center. —MWC



*(L to R): Pam Gaddi, Kim Sherwood, Leon Toussaint and Heather Bennett celebrate following Kim's successful doctoral defense.*

**Racquel Kim Sherwood**, IMSD Senior Scholar and graduate student in Molecular Biology, Cell Biology & Biochemistry, received her PhD after successfully defending her dissertation thesis on April 10th. Research for Kim's thesis entitled "Regulation of the Sexual Life Cycle in *Candida Iusitaniae*" was performed in the lab of Professor Richard Bennett. Dr. Sherwood has accepted a postdoctoral position at Yale University.

**Teresa Ramirez**, an IMSD student in the Molecular Pharmacology and Physiology graduate program, has been awarded the 2012 Hope Scholarship from The Biomedical Science Careers Program, Inc. (BSCP). The BSCP was founded in 1991 by the Harvard Medical School Minority Faculty

Development Program in collaboration with the Massachusetts Medical Society and the New England Board of Higher Education to identify, inform, support and provide mentoring for academically outstanding minority students and fellows ranging from middle school to postdoctoral level from the six New England states.

**Breann Brown**, IMSD senior scholar and graduate student in Molecular Pharmacology & Physiology, has been awarded the 2012 Joukowsky Family Foundation Outstanding Dissertation Award for her doctoral dissertation entitled, "The E. coli mqsRA Operon Defines a Novel Family of Toxin:Antitoxin Modules". This annual prize is awarded by the Graduate School for superior achievements in research by students who are completing their Ph.D.s.

**Leon Toussaint**, Pathobiology graduate student and IMSD Senior Scholar, successfully defended his thesis "Invariant Natural Killer T Cell Development is Uniquely Regulated by Y-Chromosome Genes and SHIP-1". Leon is currently applying to postdoc positions.

## MCNEAL ATTENDS ST. JUDE NATIONAL GRADUATE STUDENT SYMPOSIUM

**Sam McNeal**, doctoral candidate in Brown's Pathobiology program, was selected to attend the 11th Annual St. Jude National Graduate Student Symposium in Memphis, TN. Reflecting on his experience Sam noted:



*Brown Graduate Students at the 11th Biomedical Science Careers Student Conference. (L to R): Sandra Torres, Stacy-Ann Allen, Angel Byrd, Teresa Ramirez, Jessica Chery and Margaret Oti*

*St. Jude's mission is "Finding Cures. Saving Children." and that mission becomes apparent when you visit. The majority of the buildings on the campus are dedicated for researching catastrophic pediatric diseases. St. Jude attracts high caliber scientists to conduct research, and does everything in its power to support their investigators. This support is evident in their state of the art core facilities which include, animal imaging, bioinformatics, and high throughput screening capabilities. Consequently, St. Jude is an attractive destination to do your*

*post-doctoral training. All of the postdoctoral fellows I met there were happy, and spoke of what attracted them to St. Jude. From listening to the fellows I realized a postdoctoral fellowship is not merely the job you take after your defense. This is your opportunity to establish yourself as an investigator, which comes with more autonomy in the direction of one's project. What I took away from my visit was; in order to make a comfortable transition from graduate student to postdoctoral fellow you need to do a self-inventory about who you are, and what you*

*want to get out of your postdoctoral experience. Nobody else can decide for you, well, they can but, that will guarantee a miserable experience. If you feel you need to get more experience with a certain animal model, you should explore labs that have that expertise. Likewise with lab dynamics, if you had a PI you thought was a micromanager, you may want to seek out a different management style. These are all things you have the power to address if you spend some time to know who you are, and what will enhance your scientific career. —SM*



## MLK LECTURER DISCUSSES STEREOTYPE THREAT

Dr. Claude Steele, noted author, scholar and I. James Quillen Dean of the School of Education at Stanford University, was the featured speaker for Brown's 2012 Martin Luther King Jr. lecture. Brown IMSD co-sponsored his talk entitled "Whistling Vivaldi and Other Clues to How Stereotypes Affect Us", which examined the influence of negative stereotypes on academic performance. Steele's research has demonstrated that the anxiety and distraction caused by negative stereotypes can significantly diminish performance, just as positive stereotypes can boost confidence and self efficacy to improve performance. This effect tends to be more pronounced in situations that are perceived as stressful and high stakes. Steele offered suggestions for simple actions that can be taken to combat the effects of stereotype threat. For example, we can help individuals create a "positive narrative" about their identities so they will be less likely to be influenced by others' perceptions. On an institutional level we can continue to support diversity initiatives that will help us achieve a critical mass of individuals from underrepresented groups and improve the campus climate for all. A video of Dr. Steele's lecture can be viewed at <http://brown.edu/web/livestream/archive/2012-steele.html> —KZB

## THE COLLEGE OF MOUNT ST. VINCENT JOINS BROWN IMSD'S PARTNER INSTITUTIONS

The College of Mount St. Vincent (CMSV): <http://www.mountsaintvincent.edu/index.php> has recently joined the Brown University IMSD's effort to increase the numbers of under-represented students who go on to pursue graduate training in the biomedical and public health sciences. CMSV, a federally designated Hispanic Serving Institution (HSI), is an outstanding institution that was first founded as the Academy of Mount Saint Vincent by the Sisters of Charity of New York (<http://www.scny.org/>) in 1847. The institution stands out for its excellence in education and the mission entrusted to it by the Sisters of Charity. Over 60% of CMSV students are the first in their families to attend college, 62% are of minority backgrounds, and of those, 34% are Hispanic/Latina/o. A 2010 National Science Foundation funded study reported that CMSV has the highest proportion of science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) degrees awarded to Latina/o students of any Hispanic Serving Institution (HSI). The College also ranked first among the 25 HSI's identified in the study as models of effective practices. The Brown IMSD program, and its other partner institutions, looks forward to its work with CMSV to diversify the graduate ranks and professional fields. —AGC



## MESSAGE FROM DEAN HARRINGTON

I am pleased to report, that 55 students from Graduate Programs within the Division of Biology & Medicine are slated to receive their Ph.D. diplomas at the 2012 Brown University commencement; this group of students represents the largest graduating class in the Division to date! Of the graduating students, 17% are from underrepresented groups and 4 obtained their bachelor degrees from York College and St. Johns University, IMSD partner institutions.

I congratulate all of the newly minted Ph.D. recipients for their hard work, scientific achievements, and determination along the road to attaining their degrees. In addition, a big "Thank you!" to Drs. Pamela Gaddi, Kim Sherwood, Tania Nevers, Victoria Ruiz, Leon Toussaint, and Breann Brown whose efforts, outside of their graduate studies, have contributed to the overall success of the IMSD program. I wish the entire graduating class of 2012 many future successes!

Elizabeth O. Harrington, Ph.D.  
Associate Dean for Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies  
Associate Professor of Medicine (Research)  
IMSD PI



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) 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](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

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

#### Aging Research Dissertation Awards to Increase Diversity (PAR-11-291)

These dissertation awards will ensure that a diverse pool of highly trained scientists is available in appropriate scientific disciplines to address NIA's mission of research on the basic biology of aging, on chronic, disabling, and degenerative diseases of aging.

<http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PAR-11-291.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. 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
Mitochondria: Energy, Signals and Systems (Official ASBMB Meeting)	Lansing MI	6/27 – 6/29		5/16/12
Intelligent Systems for Molecular Biology (ISMB) 2012 (Official ISCB Meeting)	Long Beach CA	7/13 – 7/17	6/1/12	6/1/12
ASBMR Topical Meeting: Bone and Skeletal Muscle Interactions	Kansas City MO	7/17 – 7/18		6/1/12
Society for Developmental Biology (SDB) 71st Annual Meeting	Montreal, Quebec, Canada	7/19 – 7/23		6/7/12
Yeast Genetics and Molecular Biology Meeting (Official Genetics Society of America Conference)	Princeton NJ	7/31 – 8/5		6/19/12
Society for the Study of Reproduction 45th Annual Meeting	State College PA	8/12 – 8/15		6/29/12
Environmental Mutagen Society (EMS) 43rd Annual Meeting 2012	Belleve WA	9/17 – 9/13		7/17/12

### Gordon Research Conferences

The Gordon Research Conferences (GRC) provide an international forum for the presentation and discussion of frontier research in the biological, chemical, and physical sciences, and their related technologies. For information and a list of upcoming meetings, visit the website:

<http://www.grc.org/grs.aspx>

#### 2012 Gordon Research Seminar on Science & Technology Policy

August 4-5, 2012; Waterville Valley Resort, Waterville Valley, NH

The theme of the 2012 meeting is "The International Context of Science and Technology Policy". The keynote will discuss conflict, cooperation, collaboration and competition in science and technology policy. Registration deadline is July 7, 2012. Further information can be found at:

[http://www.grc.org/programs.aspx?year=2012&program=grs\\_scipol](http://www.grc.org/programs.aspx?year=2012&program=grs_scipol)

### Keystone Symposia

A listing of upcoming meetings of the Keystone Symposium on Molecular and Cellular Biology can be found on their web site:

<http://www.keystonesymposia.org/Meetings/ListMeetings.cfm>.

Information about URM travel scholarships can be found at:

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

#### PROGRAM STAFF:

##### Andrew G. Campbell, PhD

Program Director, Associate Professor of Medical Science, Bio Med Molecular Microbiology & Immunology

##### Elizabeth O. Harrington, PhD

Co-Program Director, Associate Dean for Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies Division of Biology and Medicine

Karen Ball – Program Coordinator

#### PARTNER INSTITUTIONS:

[St. John's University](#)

[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 PhDs from groups underrepresented in biomedical and behavioral research. The program is funded by a five-year continuation grant (2 R25 GM083270-05) by the National Institute of General Medical Sciences, National Institutes of Health (NIGMS/NIH).

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