

The Postbaccalaureate Research Education Program (PREP) is in its ninth year and is funded by a training grant from the National Institute of General Medical Sciences. Drs. Debra I. Diz and TanYa Gwathmey direct the program. The goal is to increase diversity in our graduate school programs by providing research training and academic enhancements for students interested in careers as biomedical scientists.

Additional student support for their research projects comes from individual research grants to the faculty mentors.

Of the 2011-12 class of participants, 3 will enter Ph.D. programs at Meharry University, University of South Carolina, and University of Pittsburgh, 1 will enter an M.D. program at Ross University, 4 will remain in PREP.

Of the 61 students who have completed the PREP, 29 entered Ph.D. programs, 16 entered Masters programs and 8 entered professional schools. Twenty-one were offered positions in programs at Wake Forest University. Fifteen accepted those offers and 11 of those students have already received their degrees (9 Ph.D., 1 Masters and 1 M.D.).



**2012  
POST-BACCALAUREATE  
RESEARCH EDUCATION  
PROGRAM  
(PREP) SCHOLARS  
POSTER SYMPOSIUM**

June 8, 2012

Nutrition Center  
Exhibit Hall, E Floor

Wake Forest Biotech Place  
Piedmont Triad Research Park

## **PARTICIPANTS**

### **Crystal Conaway, B.S.**

mentor: Weiling Zhao, Ph.D.  
*Thoracic Radiation of FVB/N Mice Led to Chronic Lung Injury and Foam Cell Formation*

### **Anabel Flores, B.S.**

mentor: George Kulik, Ph.D.  
*Potential Activation of the Pro-apoptotic BIM Protein by Combination of PI3K and Protein Synthesis Inhibitors*

### **Lourdes Flores, B.S.**

mentor: Jorge Figueroa, M.D., Ph.D.  
*Effects of Antenatal Glucocorticoids and Diet Induced Obesity on Skeletal Muscle Insulin Signaling Pathways*

### **James Johnson, B.S.**

mentor: James Daunais, Ph.D.  
*Ethanol Stress Interaction in a Rhesus Macaque Model of Self-Administration*

### **Kara Morrison, B.S.**

mentor: David Mount, Psy.D., M.A.  
*Prevalence Differences Among Predominantly Low Income Women with Controlled and Uncontrolled Type 2 Diabetes: Findings from the North Carolina Neurocognition Risk Reduction Diabetes Study*

### **Sophy Perdomo, B.S.**

mentors: Carol Milligan, Ph.D.  
Ronald Oppenheim, Ph.D.  
*The Role of Pericytes in SOD1 Vascular Damage*

### **Stephen W. Simington, B.S.**

mentors: Carlos M. Ferrario, Ph.D.  
Jasmina Varagic, M.D., Ph.D.  
*Plasma Ang-(1-12) is Produced Independently of Renin from the Customized Ang-(1-20)*

### **Jose L. Torres-Castillo, B.S.**

mentors: Patricia E. Gallagher, Ph.D.  
E. Ann Tallant, Ph.D.  
*Effect of TI-600176 on Blood Pressure and Cardiac Damage in Ang II-induced Hypertension*