PREP Symposium Set for June 7

The 2013 Postbaccalaureate Poster Symposium and Luncheon will be held on Friday, June 7. This is a chance for the 2012–2013 PREP Scholars to present their projects to the medical community, and to celebrate their accomplishments over the past year.

The Postbaccalaureate Research Education Program (PREP) is in its tenth year and is funded by a training grant from the National Institute of General Medical Sciences. 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. Drs. Debra Diz and TanYa Gwathmey-Williams direct the program.

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

The students participate for 1–2 years gaining research experience (meant to be the majority of their time). We also arrange for a GRE preparation course if needed to enhance these scores, and students are encouraged to participate in one or two graduate level courses in their field of interest (or an undergraduate course in a subject that is a pre-requisite to entry into a graduate program). The students also attend a biweekly journal club during the fall semester and research presentation sessions in the spring semester.

Did You Know?

As of this writing, 3 of the 2012-13 class of PREP participants have been accepted into PhD programs and 4 will remain in the program for a second year. Congratulations to all of this year’s scholars for a fantastic year!
PREP Scholars: Recent Activity

Meetings/Presentations


Anabel Flores, PREP 2011–2013, presented her poster, “Potential activation of the pro-apoptotic BIM protein by combination of P13K and protein synthesis inhibitors” at the Annual Biomedical Research Conference for Minority Students (ABRCMS) 2012 held in San Jose, California, on November 7–10, 2012.

Lourdes Flores, PREP 2011–2013, presented her poster, “Effects of antenatal clugocorticoid and diet-induced obesity on skeletal muscle insulin signaling pathways” at the Annual Biomedical Research Conference for Minority Students (ABRCMS) 2012 held in San Jose, California, on November 7–10, 2012.


Conferences/Publications


PREP Scholars: Recent Activity, continued

Kara Morrison from the PREP program, along with Stephen Simington, a post-baccalaureate student in our department, two current graduate students (and former PREP participants) Bryan Wilson (Molecular Medicine) and Ricquita Pollard (Molecular Pathology), and one additional former PREP participant, Dr. Exazevia Logan, Assistant Professor at Winston Salem State University attended the Mid-Atlantic PREP and IMSD Research Symposium at Virginia Polytechnic Institute on May 20-21. Bryan and Ricquita gave oral presentations of their work, and the rest presented posters.

Translational Biomedical Training for Underrepresented Minorities (Translational Biomedical Scholars [TBS] Program)

Current Brazilian exchange students working with faculty at WFSM, Leonardo Castro and Sofia Leal have requested and received extensions to stay until June 1, 2013. Deborah Hukuda and Rariane deLima have requested and received extensions to stay until July 31, 2013.

On February 26, 2013, Izadora de Assis Ribeiro Batista joined our group of Brazil students and will be staying until September 1, 2013.

We have two U.S. students who are currently studying in Brazil as part of this program. Brittani George, a biology major from Winston-Salem State University, and Lesly Apaez, a nursing student, also from WSSU. Both are participating in research with faculty at Mackenzie University/INCOR in Sao Paulo, Brazil. There are also four students from Wright State University in Dayton, Ohio, a partnership school, who are participating in the TBS Program at Mackenzie University/INCOR.

Excellence in Cardiovascular Sciences Summer Research Program 2015

The Excellence in Cardiovascular Sciences Summer Research Program is sponsored by the National Institute of Health/Heart, Blood and Lung Institute. The 2015 program will begin May 27, 2015 with twelve students from colleges and universities throughout the United States. We also welcome additional students participating through partnerships with Johnson C. Smith University, Fayetteville State University or Fisk University, as part of NSF, MARC or RISE programs.
Training Opportunities at the Hypertension & Vascular Research Center

Do you know a student with an interest in the biological sciences? Do you want to serve as a mentor for a trainee? Please contact Nobie Sarver at 336-716-1080 and nsarver@wakehealth.edu.

The Hypertension & Vascular Research Center has several opportunities for undergrads and graduates:

**Post-Baccalaureate Research Education Program (PREP Scholars)**

- **Duration:** one year
- **Designed for:** recent graduates; under-represented minorities
- **Number of openings:** 9
- **Application deadline:** March 1, 2014
- **Program Directors:** Debra Diz, PhD, ddiz@wakehealth.edu/336-716-2150 and TanYa Gwathmey-Williams, PhD, tgwathme@wakehealth.edu/336-716-9524

**Excellence in Cardiovascular Sciences (EICS Program)**

- **Duration:** one summer
- **Designed for:** undergraduates; under-represented minorities
- **Number of openings:** 12
- **Application deadline:** January 30, 2015
- **Program Directors:** E. Ann Tallant, PhD, atallant@wakehealth.edu/336-716-2108 and Debra Diz, PhD, ddiz@wakehealth.edu/336-716-2150

**Translational Biomedical Sciences (TBS Program)**

- **Duration:** one semester; study abroad in Brazil
- **Designed for:** undergraduates and graduate students; under-represented minorities
- **Number of openings:** flexible
- **Application deadline:** flexible; apply for either fall or spring semester
- **Program Director:** Mark Chappell, PhD, mchappel@wakehealth.edu/336-716-9236

For more information on these or other training and research programs with the Hypertension & Vascular Research Center, please use the contact information above or visit the website at http://www.wakehealth.edu/Hypertension-and-