

BSCP

IN TOUCH WITH

BIOMEDICAL SCIENCE CAREERS PROGRAM

April 2002 Volume 7 Number 2

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Special Thanks To

Mintz, Levin, Cohn, Ferris, Glovsky
and Popeo, P.C. and the Massachusetts
Medical Society for their support of this
newsletter.



Risa Lavizzo-Mourey, M.D., M.B.A. (l), Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, with BSCP student

2002 Biomedical Science Careers Student Conference

The sixth biennial Biomedical Science Careers Student Conference, held March 1 and 2 at The Boston Park Plaza Hotel, drew a banner crowd of approximately 700 students from as far away as California, Tennessee, and Florida — with a sizable contingent from the six New England states. Students from high school through post-doctoral programs came to learn as much as they could about possible careers in the medical, biomedical research and biotechnology fields from a distinguished group of academicians and leaders in the biomedical sciences.

According to Joan Y. Reede, M.D., M.P.H., M.S., dean of Diversity and Community Partnership at Harvard Medical School and president of the Biomedical Science Careers Program (BSCP), the objective of the conference is to encourage students — primarily those from underrepresented minorities — to pursue and complete advanced studies by providing them with unusual opportunities to network with both peers and professionals at different stages.

This year marked the 10th anniversary of the conference, and Reede noted with pride that not only was this year's attendance more than double that of the first conference, but

nearly half of the registered attendees had attended previous conferences. Some of this year's advisors and mentors were student participants at previous BSCP conferences. Others, who had received scholarship funds from the BSCP, are currently enrolled in medical and graduate schools. Among the students were three of the "Lost Boys of Sudan," from the Kakuma School in Kenya.



Francis S. Collins, M.D., Ph.D., Director, National Human Genome Research Institute at NIH

This year's keynote speakers were Francis S. Collins, M.D., Ph.D., director of the National Human Genome Research Institute at the National Institutes of Health (NIH); Shirley Ann Jackson, Ph.D., president of Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute; and Risa Lavizzo-Mourey, M.D., M.B.A., senior vice president of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. Dr. Collins, a physician-geneticist who currently oversees what has been called the most important scientific undertaking of our time — mapping and sequencing human DNA and determining aspects of its function — spoke about the Human Genome Project and the impact it will have on everybody's lives.

In her address Dr. Jackson — the first African-American woman to earn a Ph.D. from MIT, become

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STUDENT CONFERENCE continued from page 1

a commissioner of the US Nuclear Regulatory Commission, and serve as president of a national research university — borrowed a theme from the 2002 Olympics, encouraging students to “light the fire within” themselves as they pursue their education and careers. She shared the five keys to success that have worked for her over the years — find role models, study across curricula, develop communication skills, seize available opportunities, and create opportunities for yourselves.

The theme of Dr. Lavizzo-Mourey’s lunchtime speech was respect, which she said was her formula for success. Telling students that the health care field is full of anagrams, she asked that when they think of respect they think of resilience, excellence, strength, passion, empathy, courage, and tenacity — all attributes they will need to succeed in their chosen fields.

In addition to the keynote addresses, students attended panel discussions and workshops on subjects ranging from “Constructing Your Career Agenda” to “Funding and Research Opportunities” to “Fellowships and Postdoctoral Training: Opportunities Beyond a Degree.” They also had time to meet in

small discussion groups with advisors from academia, the Federal government, hospitals/ medical centers, as well as the biotechnology industry.

Despite the long hours and packed schedules, students leaving the conference seemed filled with more excitement and energy than they did when they arrived. ♦



Shirley Ann Jackson, Ph.D., Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute (r), with Joan Y. Reede, M.D., M.P.H., M.S.



Jonathan Wiest, Ph.D. (l), National Cancer Institute, with BSCP student

Resource Room

The BSCP student conference featured a resource room where students could go to gather information about prospective opportunities, ranging from summer internships to academic programs to potential employers. Resource Room participants included:

- Association of American Medical Colleges
- Biogen, Inc.
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
- Dartmouth Medical School
- Genzyme Corporation
- Harvard Medical School
- Harvard School of Public Health
- Harvard University
- Massachusetts College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences
- Massachusetts Institute of Technology
- MGH Institute of Health Professions
- National Cancer Institute
- National Human Genome Research Institute
- National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism
- National Institutes of Health
- New England Board of Higher Education
- Partners HealthCare System, Inc.
- St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital
- Tufts University School of Medicine
- University of Connecticut Health Center
- University of Massachusetts Medical School
- University of Vermont
- Wyeth Genetics Institute

Academic Opportunities

The Harvard-MIT Division of Health Sciences and Technology (HST) has introduced a new predoctoral training program, Bioinformatics and Integrative Genomics (BIG). Funded by the National Human Genome Research Institute, the program will provide talented students

with in-depth education and research opportunities in the domains at the intersection of quantitative techniques, biology and genomics.

BIG requires admission to HST’s graduate Medical Engineering and Medical Physics Program (MEMP) and a depart-

ment at Harvard or MIT. The program will admit seven students per year. For more information, or to apply, contact HST’s Academic Office at (617) 253-2307. ♦

BSCP and HMS Launch New England Science Symposium

On March 1, the BSCP and Harvard Medical School's (HMS) Office for Diversity and Community Partnership held the first New England Science Symposium at The Boston Park Plaza Hotel — a lead-in to the Biomedical Science Careers Student Conference.

The majority of the symposium planning committee members were BSCP students and scholarship recipients — Mayra E. Lorenzo, M.D./Ph.D. candidate at Harvard Medical School; Raymond R. Montoya II, undergraduate at Massachusetts Institute of Technology; Carl E. Reid, scientist at Biogen, Inc.; and Ricardo M. Zayas, Ph.D. candidate at Tufts University.

Nineteen undergraduates, graduate students, medical students, and Ph.D. candidates presented their research on timely topics ranging from "Impact of Acute and Chronic Fear (Stress) on Social Recognition Memory in Rats" to "An

Unusual AIDS-related Lymphoma Specifically Homes *in vivo* in Response to Body Cavit-derived Fluid from Affected Patients."

In addition to the student presenters, attendees listened to keynote addresses from distinguished speakers. James L. Sherley, M.D., Ph.D., assistant professor in the Division of Bioengineering and Environmental Health at the Center for Environmental Health Sciences at M.I.T., delivered a "Demonstration of an Immortal DNA Strand Mechanism in Cells that Cycle with Asymmetric Stem Cell Kinetics." Griffin P. Rodgers, M.D., deputy director, National Institute of

Diabetes, Digestive and Kidney Diseases, and chief of the Molecular and Clinical Hematology Branch of the NIH, spoke on "Hematopoietic Stem Cell Therapy for Sickle Cell Disease: Current Applications and Future Promise."

Everyone involved in the symposium — presenters and attendees — deemed it an unqualified success. ♦



Above: Griffin P. Rodgers, M.D., National Institutes of Health, with BSCP student

Left: James L. Sherley, M.D., Ph.D., with Gordon Gaul, BSCP student and scholarship recipient

An Evening of Hope 2002

The Biomedical Science Careers Program's (BSCP) fifth annual fundraiser, An Evening of Hope, will take place on April 25, 2002, at The Boston Park Plaza Hotel. The fundraiser's four major benefactors are Biogen, Inc., Boston Scientific Corporation, Genzyme Corporation, and Wyeth.

In addition to raising vital funds to support all BSCP programs, the event is an occasion to honor students devoted to the study of biomedical sciences, and to recognize people who have given of themselves to BSCP over the years. HOPE scholarships, sponsored by Biogen, Inc., Boston Scientific

Corp., Genzyme Community Foundation, Millennium Pharmaceuticals, Inc., Pfizer Inc., The Fleming Family Foundation, Inc. and MassMEDIC, and Wyeth, will be awarded to seven academically outstanding minority students. The students will each receive \$5,000 (2,500 per year for two years).

Evening of Hope 2002 co-chairs Alison Taunton-Rigby, Ph.D., president and chief executive officer of Forester Biotech, and Peter J. McDonough, vice president of marketing at The Gillette Company, will present awards to the two distinguished honorees — Jeffrey M. Weisen, Esq., chair-

man of the Biotechnology Group at Mintz, Levin, Cohn, Ferris, Glovsky and Popeo, P.C., and Liz Walker, news anchor at WBZ 4 News. The 2002 Honor Roll members, recognized for their contributions to mentorship, to the community, and to diversity, are Elliott D. Hillback, Jr., Genzyme Corporation; Marc S. Horowitz, J.D., National Institutes of Health; Linda Manning, Harvard Medical School; James McDewitt, Parexel International Corporation; and Winfred W. Williams, Jr., M.D., Massachusetts General Hospital. ♦

Tenth Anniversary Student Conference



Left: Donald Warne, M.D., with BSCP student

Right: Anthony René, Ph.D., with BSCP student

Below: Harold Bibb, Ph.D., with BSCP student



Left: Marshall Wolf, M.D., with BSCP student

Right: Resource Room – Beverlee Turner, Harvard Medical School, with BSCP student

Below: Imperial Ballroom – The Boston Park Plaza Hotel



BSCP Expanding

The BSCP is exploring the possibility of establishing chapters in Washington, D.C. and New Orleans. Anyone interested in working with us in either of these cities should contact Lise Kaye at (617) 432-0552 or lise_kaye@hms.harvard.edu.

ATTENTION ALL STUDENTS

Please send us your e-mail address and any new permanent or campus addresses:

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