

B I N T O U C H W I T H P

B I O M E D I C A L S C I E N C E C A R E E R S P R O G R A M

Leader Profile

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CLAY E. SIMPSON, JR., M.S.P.H., Ph.D.

Minority students across the United States, including those who study under Joan Reede, M.D., M.P.H., at Harvard and through the BSCP, can thank Clay E. Simpson, Jr., M.S.P.H., Ph.D., for hands-on experience and enrichment activities that helped define their career paths. Simpson, deputy assistant secretary for Minority Health at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, has managed and helped create numerous programs that support the development of minority health care practitioners and policy makers.

Through Reede, Simpson has invited several students to Washington for a variety of "externships." "Part of the mission of the Office of Minority Health is consistent with goals of students who are pursuing graduate degrees in minority health policy," he states.

The Office of Minority Health was started in 1985. Simpson has been in his position since 1995. In addition to the "externships" for Reede's students, the Office, working with the National Association for Equal Opportunity in Higher Education, Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities, and other organizations, sponsored internships for promising college students. "We also invite as many high school juniors and seniors as we can afford to come work with us during the summer," he explains. "We try to give them appropriate experiences that are commensurate with their

career aspirations." The Office also sponsors a "Stay-in-School" program during the academic year, which offers interesting, stimulating projects for high school students.

Before joining the Office of Minority Health, Simpson helped create the Health Resources and Services Administration's Health Careers Opportunity Program (HCOP), and the Centers of Excellence (COE) Program. HCOP provides academic enrichment services to more than 10,000 students annually in more than 200 projects throughout the U.S. and the Trust Territories in the Western Pacific. COE provides support to minority health professions schools that have trained a significant number of the country's minority health professionals.

HCOP, which is part of the Bureau of Health Professions, focuses on increasing the number of underrepresented minorities in the health professions, including medicine, osteopathy, dentistry, and allied health. A major part of the effort is devoted to helping "students at risk." HCOP attempts to reach students at historically black colleges and universities who get good grades but do not score competitively on



Clay Simpson

continued on page 2

Student Profile

RAYMOND R. MONTOYA II

When he was 10 years old, Raymond R. Montoya decided that he



Raymond Montoya

was going to be a physician. Seven years later, having amassed a string of honors in math and science, he is still interested in the medical field, but his interests have expanded. Two summers ago the Boston-based high school senior had

his first exposure to clinical gene research and is now leaning towards a career in biomedical science.

Montoya is a BSCP student who has attended the 1997 BSCP "Skills for the Future Conference," the 1998 "Biomedical Science Careers Student Conference," and the 1998 BSCP Skills Workshops. During Montoya's freshman year in high school, his father came across a flyer for Project Success, a program run by Harvard Medical School and the National Institutes of Health for minority students who show promise in the sciences. That year, despite his advanced standing in school, Montoya was too young to be considered for

Project Success. But he applied during his sophomore year and was accepted.

"I have always been interested in the sciences – that's why I pursued Project Success," Montoya explains. "The program is very research-oriented, and I wasn't sure whether I'd enjoy research. But I found that I do."

During his first summer as a Project Success student, Montoya was assigned to an endocrinology lab at Children's Hospital in Boston. Working with a supervisor, Dr. Sally Radovick, and a mentor, Dr. Andrew Wolfe, Montoya was exposed to a biomedical research environment as well as clinical medical practice. "In addition to my lab work, I had the chance to shadow operations such as a Coronary Artery Bypass Graft and a Video Arthroscopy of a knee," he recalls. "But most importantly, through this program I was assigned to scientists and physicians who encouraged me to be a critical thinker."

Montoya enjoyed his experience so much that last summer he participated in Project Success again. This time he requested to be placed back in the endocrinology lab, working again under the supervi-

sion of Drs. Radovick and Wolfe. And he has continued to work there after school. "I'm in my senior year and the first part of the year has been very busy," he says. "I am involved in several academic activities through my school, and I volunteer at a homeless shelter on weekends. So I only work at Children's Hospital twice a week, for two hours a day. But after this semester is over, I hope to spend at least three days a week there."

"I have always been interested in the sciences – that's why I pursued Project Success," Montoya explains.

"The knowledge and experience I have gained through Project Success and the BSCP have been immeasurable," he continues. "My exposure to lab research at the Children's Hospital helped me focus among the wide spectrum of careers in the sciences. The experience has paved a foundation for my future endeavors in the health sciences field." ♦

Leader Profile

continued from page 1

the MCATs or other professional school admission tests," Simpson explains. "We try to enrich their experiences with summer programs that help prepare them for acceptance into – and graduation from – professional schools. We believe we have made some gains," Simpson says, "but we haven't reached population parity yet."

The COE program works primarily with medical schools – or with larger schools that have medical centers – helping them address the changing needs of a racially and

culturally diverse population. In many cases, this means changing curricula to reflect students' needs to be trained biculturally and bilingually. Many of these Centers of Excellence have gone out of their way to recruit minority students and are working hard to provide them with education and training that meet their needs and prepare them to treat patients in underserved communities.

Though Simpson will retire from his current position at the end of this month, and though he would like to "be retired for at least a year," his commitment, and demands for his expertise, suggest

that he won't be out of action for too long. His advice to students interested in a career related to minority health is, first and foremost, "major in chemistry or the physical sciences. The exams are more geared to analytical reasoning and you will be better prepared for that by focusing on physical, rather than biological, sciences."

"Younger students should take as many computer and Spanish classes as they can," he continues, "and be committed to service. Medicine is not a field you go into because it's lucrative any more. And it's not an easy curriculum... but it's a rewarding one." ♦

Academic Opportunities

Fellowships and Scholarships

NEBHE Doctoral Scholars Program

Advanced undergraduates and master's students – are you interested in earning a Ph.D. in science, math or engineering? If so, the New England Board of Higher Education (NEBHE) has a program you should investigate.

NEBHE's Doctoral Scholars Program is for underrepresented minorities (U.S. citizens). The benefits include: a full financial package for all years of doctoral work, professional development travel budget, clustering of minority Scholars at a limited number of doctoral departments in New England, and frequent community-

building events and reunions for all Scholars.

NEBHE program director JoAnn Moody explains, "We work closely with each of our 50 Scholars. We also help the Scholars' doctoral departments adopt 14 Good Practices that build an environment of support for minority and majority graduate students." This departmental environment of support "is what makes this program unique," according to Maronda Brown, a Mount Holyoke College graduate who is now a Molecular and Cell Biology Doctoral Scholar at the University of Connecticut.

A Middlebury College graduate, James Mack, is now in his third year of chemistry doctoral studies at the University of New Hampshire. "I feel very welcome and feel

my department really wants me to succeed," he says.

Having earned bachelor's and master's degrees at Duke University, Andrew Jones is close to completing his doctorate in Applied Math at Brown University.

"NEBHE is wise to cluster a minimum of four to six minority Scholars in each of its departments," he notes. "The peer support is great."

Sunshine Menezes, who graduated from Michigan State University, is working on her doctorate in Biological Oceanography at the University of Rhode Island. She is impressed by "NEBHE's coaching of majority faculty that helps them become more confident in their mentoring of non-majorities."

continued on page 4

Mentor Profile: Kenneth I. Maynard, MSc., Ph.D.

Maybe it was fate that led Kenneth I. Maynard, MSc., Ph.D., to the BSCP Career Development Conference in December 1994. At the time, the Trinidad-born, British-educated Maynard was a post-doctoral student and teaching fellow at Harvard University. Today he is assistant professor in Surgery and assistant neuroscientist at Massachusetts General Hospital, a teaching affiliate of Harvard Medical School.

In 1994, Maynard was working to form an organization now known as Minority Biomedical Scientists at Harvard (MBSH). A colleague told him about Joan Reede and the BSCP, and Maynard contacted her to see whether their organizations could form a collaborative relationship.

After an initial meeting, Reede invited Maynard to sit in on a planning meeting for the BSCP Career Development Conference. As a result, he helped plan the conference and was a presenter. What he could not predict was that a meeting

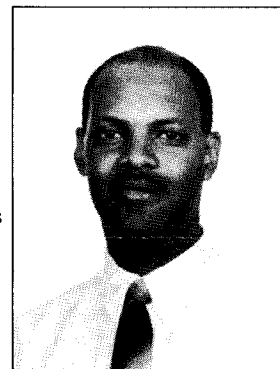
arranged by Reede at the conference would cement his career at Harvard.

"I had submitted a grant proposal to Lydia Villa-Komaroff, a senior Harvard faculty member, who attended the conference. Joan introduced us, and Professor Villa-Komaroff reviewed my grant and gave me some advice. I followed her advice and believe that my subsequent promotion to instructor at Harvard was a direct result of her advice," he asserts. "My association with Joan and Professor Villa-Komaroff also gave me an insight into understanding what was needed to advance my career, which in the end made a difference between continuing my career here or leaving to go elsewhere."

This winter Maynard is again working with BSCP to plan "Skills Workshops" for Science graduate students and post-docs (see related notice on page 4). Working with Kenneth Bridges, M.D., of Brigham and Women's Hospital, Maynard previously organized a

series of MBSH-sponsored "how-to" seminars. "We held sessions offering advice on writing papers, theses, and grant applications, as well as how to apply for a first post-doctoral job," Maynard explains. "The sessions were very successful. The BSCP Skills Workshops will be similar to those seminars, with a focus on how to write a paper for submission to a journal and applying for post-doctoral positions."

While Maynard is quick to point out that students who attend programs like the MBSH seminars and the BSCP conferences and workshops should not go expecting to come away with a job offer, they can at least expect to leave with invaluable information, advice, and networking resources. ♦



Kenneth Maynard

Academic Opportunities

continued from page 3

NEBHE's participating departments include: Chemistry at University of New Hampshire and Wesleyan; Biology at the University of Connecticut and University of Rhode Island; Mathematics at Dartmouth College and Brown University; Geological Sciences at Brown University; Chemical Engineering at Northeastern University; and Physics at the University of Maine. For more information about the program, contact Amanda Burton at NEBHE (aburton@nebhe.org); or 617-357-9620).

Howard Hughes Medical Institute Research Training Fellowships in Biological Sciences

The Howard Hughes Medical Institute in Washington, D.C., offers pre- and post-doctoral training fellowships in biological sciences for graduate students, medical students (at schools in the U.S.), and physicians. Application deadlines vary according to the program.

For information on pre-doctoral fellowships, contact:

Hughes Fellowship Program
The Fellowship Office
National Research Council
2101 Constitution Avenue
Washington, D.C. 20418
Telephone: 202-334-2872
Fax: 202-334-3419

Email: infofell@nas.edu

For other programs, contact:

Howard Hughes Medical
Institute Office of Grants and
Special Programs
Department PO99
4000 Jones Bridge Road
Chevy Chase, MD 20815-6789
Telephone: 301-215-8889
Fax: 301-215-8888

Email: fellows@hhmi.org

W.K. Kellogg Foundation Fellowship in Health Policy Research

National Medical Fellowships, Inc. will offer a unique opportunity for minority students to earn a

Save the Dates for BSCP Events

Skills Workshops
Resume Writing and Interviewing Skills — Manuscript Writing
for Science Graduate Students and Post-Docs

Friday, March 5, 1999

8:30am- 1:00pm

Boston Park Plaza Hotel

Career Development Series
Interacting Effectively with the Media to Advance your Career
for Physicians in Post-doctoral Training, Junior Faculty and Residents

Monday, April 12, 1999

3:00pm- 6:00pm

Longwood Galleria Conference Center

For information contact: Lise D. Kaye, BSCP, (617) 432-0552

Evening of Hope

On Wednesday, May 5, 1999

BSCP will hold its second annual *Evening of Hope*
at the Westin Hotel, Copley Place, in Boston.

Honorees: Henri A. Termeer,
Chairman and CEO of Genzyme Corporation
and Benaree P. Wiley, President and CEO of The Partnership.

Ph.D. or Dr.P.H. in health policy research. Application and additional information will be available this month. For more information call Jennifer Collins, project administrator, at 212-714-0933.

1999 Biotechnology Essay Contest

The Biotechnology Industry Organization (Bio) is sponsoring an essay contest for high-school seniors in the U.S. Essays should describe how a biotechnological application might solve a problem created and expressed by the writer. Eight cash prizes of \$1,000 will be awarded, and eight \$500 prizes will be awarded to the winners' teachers. The deadline for submitting essays is March 1, 1999. Winners will be announced on April 30, 1999.

Entries should be sent to: Essay Contest, BIO, 1625 K Street, N.W., Suite 1100, Washington, D.C. 20006-1604. For more information, visit the Bio website at <http://www.bio.org>. ♦

BSCP Events

Skills Workshops

On Saturday, November 21, 1998

BSCP offered a "Skills Workshops"

program at the Daniel C. Tosteson Medical Education Center at Harvard Medical School. More than 175 college and high school students from throughout New England attended.

Johnye I. Ballenger, M.D., Instructor in Pediatrics at Harvard Medical School and Assistant in Medicine at Children's Hospital, was the presenter at the Opening Plenary. Alfredo Quinones, Harvard Medical School student, was the lunchtime keynote speaker. Four concurrent workshops for high school students and four concurrent workshops for college students were offered in the morning and afternoon. The event ended with a student panel. ♦



Students at Workshop