

Conversation with the Board

Corinne Broderick

CORINNE BRODERICK, WHO HAS been with the Massachusetts Medical Society (MMS) since 1984, and executive vice president since 2002, was involved with the Biomedical Science Careers Program (BSCP) before the organization was incorporated. In fact, when she first started working with Joan Y. Reede, MD, MPH, MBA, in 1991, the 'P' stood for Project, which the nascent group was.

The two women knew each other through Reede's Massachusetts Medical Society membership. The MMS is the oldest continuously operating state medical society in the United States, with a membership of more than 24,000 physicians and medical students. Founded in 1781, it owns and publishes the *New England Journal of Medicine*, the Journal Watch family of professional newsletters, including *Journal Watch AIDS Clinical Care*. As Broderick recalls, "Joan wanted to hold a conference for students and she wanted Mass. Medical Society and the New England Board of Higher Education to help out." Those two groups, with the Harvard Medical School Minority Faculty Development Program, became BSCP's founding sponsors. Several events and a little over two years later, BSCP was officially incorporated. Today, Board

members represent the full range of the biomedical industry and related professions.

Broderick has spent her career in the health and safety field. She is a past chair of the board of the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), the international nonprofit association that produces fire safety codes and standards including the Life Safety Code and the National Electrical Code. In addition to BSCP, she serves on the board of directors of Physician Health Services, Inc., in Waltham. She is also a member of the American Association of Medical Society Executives, the American Society of Association Executives and the New England Society of Association Executives.

"Mentoring is part of people's lives and BSCP was founded on that concept," Broderick notes. "[It provides] extraordinary opportunities for informal networking in the biomedical community." One indicator of the program's success, she continues, has been the growing interaction over the years between students and people who have gone through the program and established their professions.

MMS works with BSCP in a number of ways. Through its medical student sections, the Society makes members aware of



CORINNE BRODERICK

BSCP and its events, and it awards CME credits to physicians in postdoctoral training, fellows and junior faculty who attend BSCP Career Development Series. The Society also encourages its physician members to become involved as mentors, speakers and panelists at conferences and other events.

"I think that the program has gone beyond what anyone ever thought it would be," Broderick says. "It's very rewarding to see an idea that Joan had develop. Across the country, people want to emulate this. The benefit to the professions is recognized nationally." ■

EDITOR

Andrea Pyenson, CorPublications

EDITORIAL BOARD

Corinne Broderick, Executive Vice President
 Massachusetts Medical Society

Emorcia V. Hill, PhD, Director
 Converge, Harvard Medical School

EDITORIAL BOARD, CONTINUED

Lise D. Kaye, Executive Director
 Biomedical Science Careers Program

Joan Y. Reede, MD, MPH, MBA
 Dean for Diversity and Community Partnership
 Harvard Medical School
 President and Chair
 Biomedical Science Careers Program

SPECIAL THANKS TO

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



Where Are They Now?

Ria Roberts

RIA ROBERTS, WHO RECEIVED A BA in biology from Brandeis University in 2010, went to the Biomedical Sciences Student Careers Conference that year “not knowing what I would do after college and left knowing exactly what I was going to do,” she says. Currently a first-year student at George Washington University School of Medicine and Health Sciences, Roberts spent the two years between college and medical school conducting research in infectious diseases, thanks to Anthony Rene, PhD, the BSCP mentor seated at her table during that conference.

She says Rene told her about research supplements that were available from the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and how to apply for them. The two also discussed the importance of finding a research mentor. After graduation, Roberts found her place in the laboratory of Dennis Kasper, MD, at Harvard Medical School, studying *Francisella tularensis*, the bacteria that cause tularemia, a potentially serious illness. She explains that the NIH is particularly interested in the bacteria because there is concern that they could be used as a form of bioterrorism.

While at Harvard, she says Kasper “encouraged me to attend classes, seminars and conferences. With all the intellectual stimulation, I knew it was time to pursue my dream.” Medical school.

A native of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Roberts emigrated to the United States with her parents and two older sisters in 2004, when she was 16. They lived in Brooklyn, and she attended Manhattan Comprehensive High School in Union Square, Manhattan, which catered to immigrant students adapting to life in their adopted country. “They were from everywhere,” Roberts says of her classmates.

Roberts, who graduated as class valedictorian, had been on a science track at Lowmans Leeward Anglican School and at the St. Vincent Girls’ High School in St. Vincent and the Grenadines, and her interest in this area continued to blossom in New York. She became involved in a laboratory animal science high school program at Rockefeller University, where she learned about the use and care of animal models in scientific research. Roberts graduated at the top of the program there and received certification as an assistant laboratory

animal technician.

She was also involved in a Summer Academy in Molecular Biology Program at Weill Medical College of Cornell University. And, she was a finalist in the Laureates of Tomorrow Nobel Essay Contest, in which she received Honorable Mention for her essay on Ronald Ross, the 1902 Nobel Laureate who discovered that the Anopheles mosquitoes transmit malaria. She says these experiences influenced her decision to pursue medical research after college.

But first, she attended Brandeis University in Waltham, Massachusetts — as a first-generation college student. She says she was attracted to the school by its science offerings. As an undergraduate, she learned about BSCP from the Student Support Services Program at Brandeis, and attended her first conference in 2008.

Roberts finds medicine very intriguing, but says she has not yet decided on a field of concentration. ■



RIA ROBERTS

BSCP Testimonial

By Michelle Lira, Bachelor of Science, Pharmaceutical Sciences, 2012, Massachusetts College Pharmacy and Health Sciences

MY NAME IS MICHELLE LIRA AND I am a part of the first class of post-baccalaureate students in the Gap Year Scholar program at the Novartis Institutes for Biomedical Research (NIBR). I want to stress that the position I currently hold is in large part due to my participation in the Biomedical Science Careers Program (BSCP) Skills Workshops offered in the fall of 2010. It was here, walking unexpectedly into a workshop on how to write an effective cover letter, that I learned about the Scientific Summer Internship program

offered by NIBR. With the skills I learned from that BSCP workshop, I immediately got to work and began applying to various internships. In the summer of 2011, I was offered my first internship at NIBR. During the interview process, my mentor mentioned that the reason he had chosen my application was in large part due to my cover letter, which to him, was very well written and expressed passion in the field. This exemplifies the important role BSCP workshops played in achieving this career milestone.

The program I’m a part of allows me to perform basic biology research under the direction of an established scientist at NIBR. The opportunities available here are unparalleled, focusing on the importance of the inclusion of first-generation college students, students from socioeconomically disadvantaged backgrounds, underrepresented minorities and those with learning disabilities. As a first-generation college student, I cannot express enough the impact that working

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE



In the News

Medical School Enrollment on the Rise

THERE'S GOOD NEWS FOR STUDENTS interested in going to medical school — particularly those who thought it might be beyond their reach. A report released late last year by the Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC) stated that in 2012, the number and diversity of people applying to and enrolling in medical schools increased markedly.

Last year, 45,266 people applied to medical schools in the United States — a 3.1 percent increase. There was a 3.4 percent increase in first-time applicants, which is considered to be a barometer of interest in medicine, and first-time enrollment grew to an all-time high. Every racial and ethnic group saw higher numbers of applicants and enrollees as well. A record amount of Black/African American students and Hispanic/Latino students applied to medical schools, and both groups saw new highs in enrollment. After decreased levels of applicants and enrollments in 2011, the numbers of American Indian and Alaska Native applicants increased and enrollment grew. The AAMC noted that, at the current rate, medical schools are on track to increase total enrollment by 30 percent by

2016. With the country facing a shortage of 90,000 doctors over the next decade, that's good news all around.

One potential blip is the fact that in 1997 Congress imposed a 15-year cap on residency training positions. If that is not lifted, according to Darrell G. Kirch, MD, AAMC president and CEO, the growth in medical school enrollment won't translate into any new doctors to care for patients. Mark Melendez, MB, MBA, Clinical Fellow-Microsurgery, The Johns Hopkins Hospital Department of Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery, and former BSCP student and current advisor, says that the 2012 match rate (pairing medical school graduates with residency positions) was the highest it has been in years. However, he cautions, there are positions in internal medicine and primary care that are being left unfilled. He believes this is because graduates, many of whom have large education debts, look for positions in higher paying subspecialties. "I think medical schools should implement more case studies that focus on internal medicine because that's the basis of all medicine," he says.

Melendez became involved with BSCP when he was in a post-baccalaureate program at Boston University School of Medicine in 1998. "As I climbed up the ladder of success, there were very few Latinos and Hispanics that could provide me the guidance and support that I needed. We have to meet the direct need by bringing Hispanic, African American [and other] teachers and mentors. BSCP has met that need."

He says that attending medical school "has to be a serious commitment. Ultimately it has to be the individual's choice. It takes a toll. I would not change what I did as far as decisions I made along the way. I'm pursuing my dream."

For anybody else with that dream, this seems like a good time to follow it. ■



TESTIMONIAL CONTINUED

at NIBR has had on me, especially in the decision to further my education in biomedical sciences to the doctorate level.

However, it's not only good science that drives my passion. It is the individuals who I have had the pleasure of working with, the mentors who have taken the time to shape my scientific thinking. I would like to recognize Anastacia Berzat, program manager of the training programs at NIBR. Her support comes two-fold; she is trained as a PhD scientist, having received her doctorate in Genetics and Molecular

Biology from UNC Chapel Hill and then holding a post-doctoral fellowship at the Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center in New York. The programs she manages focus on scientific excellence and the ability of students to express their research interests effectively and with the high level of professionalism necessary. Dr. Berzat serves as an amazing resource for the development of a young scientist, focusing on not only the science, but also the proper self-representation skills necessary to achieve success.

Attending the 2010 BSCP workshops taught me valuable lessons and skills for interviewing and application preparation. It has proven to be the essential jump start necessary to get me to where I am today. BSCP and NIBR have been invaluable resources to me, both personally and professionally. Through them, I have been given opportunities that may have otherwise been overlooked, and for that I am grateful. ■

SAVE THE DATES

New England Science Symposium
The Joseph B. Martin Conference Center
at Harvard Medical School
Saturday, March 2, 2013

Audience: Postdoctoral fellows,
medical/dental/graduate students,
post-baccalaureates, college and commu-
nity college students

For registration information, visit
www.NewEnglandScienceSymposium.org.

Evening of Hope

The Westin Hotel Copley Place
Monday, April 22, 2013

For information, contact Lise Kaye
at (617) 432-0552 or
lise_kaye@hms.harvard.edu.

Reminder

Please remember to update your contact
information and post your resume at
www.bscp.org. Click on "Update/Submit
Your Information," then enter your
information under "Current and Former
BSCP Participants."



NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
BOSTON, MA
PERMIT #53157

BSCP
Biomedical Science Careers Program
c/o Minority Faculty Development Program
Harvard Medical School
164 Longwood Avenue, 2nd Floor
Boston, MA 02115-5818

Summer Opportunities

Harvard Catalyst: The Harvard Clinical and Translational Science Center Program for Faculty Development and Diversity at Harvard Medical School is accepting applications for:

- **Summer Clinical and Translational Research Program** for college sophomores, juniors and seniors, and
- **Visiting Research Internship Program** for first- and second-year medical students.

For information, contact Rachel Milliron, program coordinator, at (617) 432-1892 or rachel_milliron@hms.harvard.edu or visit www.mfdp.med.harvard.edu/Catalyst. The application deadline for both programs is January 23, 2013. Notification of program acceptance is March 1, 2013.

Project Success places high school students (particularly under-represented minority and disadvantaged students) living in Boston or Cambridge, Massachusetts, at Harvard research sites to complete paid, mentored summer research projects, attend science and career development seminars, and enhance their speaking and writing skills. The application deadline is February 8, 2013. For information, contact Dr. Sheila Nutt, director of educational outreach programs, at (617) 432-4634 or sheila_nutt@hms.harvard.edu.

