

Keynote Speaker

Freeman Hrabowski III, PhD

IN 1962, WHEN HE WAS 12 YEARS old and a self-described “nerdy ninth grader loving math,” Freeman Hrabowski III’s parents dragged him to church in their hometown of Birmingham, Alabama — in the middle of the week! To appease him, they kept him happy in the back of the room with math problems and peanut M&Ms. But then he heard the minister say, “If we can get the children to participate in this peaceful demonstration... we can show America that even children know the difference between right and wrong and that children really do want to get the best education.” And something clicked.

The minister was Martin Luther King, and he inspired the young Hrabowski, who persuaded his parents to let him join that peaceful demonstration (a monumentally difficult decision for them to make). He was arrested and spent five nights in jail — which shaped the course of his life.

Looking back 50 years, Hrabowski says that King’s words resonated within him so forcefully because, “I was always bothered that we got hand-me-down books. Children of color were being told in so many ways that we were not as good.” After hearing King, he says, “For the first time I looked at myself in the mirror and thought things could be different.”

Hrabowski, who is president of the University of Maryland, Baltimore County (UMBC), will deliver the Saturday luncheon keynote address at the Biomedical Sciences Careers Student Conference. He has devoted much of his career to helping underrepresented minority students achieve success in science and engineering. During his 20-year tenure, UMBC has been identified by *US News & World Report* as the top up-and-coming university in the country. UMBC graduates the highest proportion of students in computer and information science in Maryland, and its percentage of students in math and science is among the highest in the country. UMBC is also one of the top schools graduating African Americans who go on to earn PhDs in the natural sciences and engineering. Roughly 15 percent of the 11,000 undergraduates are African American, four to five percent are Hispanic and three percent are Pacific Islanders. Twenty (20) percent of the 3,000 graduate students are underrepresented minorities.

In 1988, when he was vice provost of UMBC, Hrabowski co-founded the Meyerhoff Scholars Program with philanthropist Robert Meyerhoff. The program is open to all high-achieving students who want to pursue advanced degrees and research careers in science and engineering, and to advancing underrepresented



FREEMAN HRABOWSKI III, PHD

minorities in these fields. It has become a national model. In addition to educators who visit UMBC to learn what they can by observation, universities including University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and Pennsylvania State University have partnered with the program to replicate the model on their own campuses.

The university president says he always knew he wanted to teach math because he loved it so much. But his ambition increased when he was 14. In a National Science Foundation-funded program, a

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2014 Biomedical Science Careers Student Conference

THE 12TH BIENNIAL BIOMEDICAL Science Careers Student Conference will take place on Friday evening, April 4, and Saturday, April 5, at The Westin Copley Place, Boston. The conference is intended for postdoctoral fellows; medical, dental and graduate students; post-baccalaureates; and college and community college students. Yvonne T. Maddox, PhD, deputy director, Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development, National Institutes of Health, will be the keynote speaker Friday night. George A. Scangos, PhD, chief executive officer, Biogen Idec and BSCP board member, will speak on Saturday morning. H. Richard Nesson, MD, Award recipient Freeman A. Hrabowski, III, PhD, president, University of Maryland, Baltimore County, will be the keynote speaker at the Saturday luncheon.

In addition to the speakers and opportunities for networking with professionals from academic institutions, the National Institutes of Health and biotechnology companies, the conference will feature breakout and plenary sessions, small group meetings between mentors/advisors and students, and a program featuring science resources, including fellowships, job and research opportunities, internships and summer programs. Postdoctoral fellows and medical/graduate students should take note of the following workshops:

Friday evening:

- Approaching Residency Selection and Interviews
- Options after Graduate School
- Technology in Science and Medicine

Saturday:

- Residency Training and Beyond
- Fellowships and Postdoctoral Training
- Finding the Right People to Build your Career

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Where Are They Now? Alexander Tejada

ALEX TEJEDA, A 2012 GRADUATE OF Dartmouth College and longtime BSCP participant who grew up in Boston, says medical school has always been his goal. Currently a participant in the Bridges to Graduate School post-baccalaureate program at Dana-Farber Cancer Institute (DFCI), Tejada hopes one day to become a physician scientist whose clinical research improves patients' quality of life. He is also interested in improving health equity, examining in particular health disparities that are more prevalent among individuals with lower socioeconomic status.

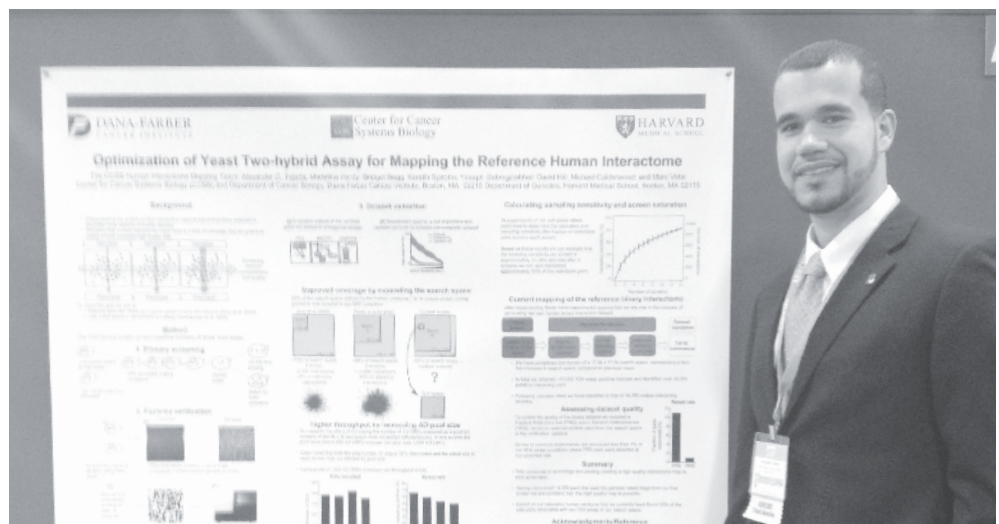
Tejada explains that his mother, who works in the public health field, greatly influenced his desire to work in medicine and address health disparities, as did family history. When Tejada was in the eighth grade, his father had two strokes. His step-mother spoke limited English, and when his father was first taken to the hospital in Boston, the family had to wait a long time for a translator to arrive. In the interim, Tejada's mother stepped in to do the translating. As Tejada recalls, it just seemed wrong to him that "the ex-wife should be the one" providing such a vital service.

At DFCI, Tejada is working in the laboratory of Marc Vidal, PhD, conducting

systems biology research. He is also mentoring a ninth-grade boy through the Dudley Street Neighborhood Initiative and coaching a seventh-grade boys' travel basketball team (the same team he played on when he was younger). A Latin American, Latino and Caribbean Studies major at Dartmouth, with a biology minor, Tejada studied in Argentina during his sophomore year, which he says set him back slightly in some of his science courses. He is preparing for the MCATs now and plans to begin applying to medical school in the summer.

Tejada's relationship with BSCP began when he was in high school and participated in Harvard Medical School's Project Success for three consecutive summers, conducting research on neutrophils in the laboratory of Dr. Luo at Boston Children's Hospital. Tejada says he found out about Project Success after participating in Harvard Medical School's PRISM program the summer after he finished middle school. During high school Tejada also attended BSCP Skills Workshops for College and High School Students, calling the programs "impactful. They really gave me a sense of where I could apply [to college] at a very early age."

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FORMER BSCP STUDENT ALEXANDER TEJEDA

2014 New England Science Symposium

THE 13TH ANNUAL NEW ENGLAND Science Symposium (NESS) will take place on Sunday, April 6, at the Joseph B. Martin Conference Center at Harvard Medical School. Intended for postdoctoral fellows, medical/dental/graduate students, post-baccalaureates, college and community college students, the symposium is co-sponsored by the Biomedical Science Careers Program, the Harvard Medical School Minority Faculty Development Program of the Office for Diversity Inclusion and Community Partnership, and Harvard Catalyst at The Harvard Clinical and Translational Science Center.

NESS gives participants the opportunity to share their biomedical and health-related research activities through oral or poster presentations. Attendees can also network and have discussions related to career development in the sciences. Since its inception, NESS has had 4,400 participants from more than 25 states and several countries.

This year, Jose R. Lemos, PhD, principal scientist at the Worcester Foundation for Biomedical Research and curriculum director in the Neuroscience Program and

professor of Physiology and Pharmacology — both at University of Massachusetts Medical School, will deliver the keynote address (see accompanying story).

Every year, several awards are presented at the symposium: the Ruth and William Silen, MD, Awards for outstanding oral presentations and exceptional scientific posters; the Dana-Farber/Harvard Cancer Center Awards for outstanding cancer-related oral and poster presentations; the Novartis Institutes for BioMedical Research Postdoctoral Awards for outstanding scientific posters presented by postdoctoral participants; the Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center Department of Neonatology Award for outstanding neonatology-related presentation; the Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center Division of Nephrology Award for outstanding kidney function or kidney disease-related poster presentation; and the Parcell Laboratories Stem Cell and Regenerative Medicine Award for outstanding stem cell and regenerative medicine presentation.

For more information or to register, visit www.NewEnglandScienceSymposium.org. ■

with it." In general, he says of the conferences, "Meeting people that are your age and share common interests is very valuable. The mentors I have met through BSCP have provided me with key guidance to help me get to where I am today and I know they will continue to aid me as [I] pursue a career as a physician."

More tangibly, after his sophomore year in college, Tejeda participated in the Summer Enrichment Program at the University of Massachusetts Medical School. He had met the program's director at the BSCP Conference. He was a HOPE Scholarship recipient in 2011, and has used his award to pay for his post-graduate classes. ■

Keynote Speaker

Jose R. Lemos, PhD

A CUBAN-BORN SCIENTIST WHO WAS raised in California, Jose R. Lemos, PhD, recalls his first day of school in the United States in nightmarish terms. He was in the third grade and knew no English. "They didn't know what to do with me so they gave me a seat in the back of the room and an abalone shell to play with," he says. Things improved dramatically from there.

Lemos was a very good student in high school and received a BA in psychology from Occidental College. After one year of law school, which he did not like, he traveled around the world. A neuroscientist he met in Spain inspired him to apply to graduate school to study science. He received a PhD in psychobiology from Wesleyan University. Though he had never studied biology before graduate school, he says that as a psychology major he was always interested in the relationship between behavior and the brain.

Today Lemos is a principal scientist at the Worcester Foundation for Biomedical Research and curriculum director in the Neuroscience Program and professor of Physiology and Pharmacology at University of Massachusetts Medical School. He is studying drugs of abuse, like alcohol and opiates, focusing on how they affect the brain and why they are addictive.

Lemos advises students considering careers in the biomedical sciences not to be afraid to take some time off and pursue other interests before settling into their careers, as he did. He warns that they should not let what others tell them dictate what they accomplish. And he cautions underrepresented minority students to never get discouraged, but to take advantage of all opportunities. ■

TEJEDA

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As a high school student, Tejeda received an NIH Minority Scholarship and he conducted research at the Center for Sickle Cell Research at the Boston Medical Center. "If it wasn't for the programs I have done, I don't think I would have gotten into Dartmouth," he says.

While he was at Dartmouth, Tejeda attended two BSCP Conferences and was a poster presenter at the New England Science Symposium twice. At the 2010 conference, he remembers being inspired by keynote speaker Alfredo Quiñones-Hinojosa, MD. "I had a rough freshman year in terms of grades," he recalls. "Those words of encouragement helped me stick

SAVE THE DATES

Biomedical Science Careers Student Conference

Friday, April 4, and Saturday, April 5, 2014

The Westin Copley Place

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

APPLICATION DEADLINE: February 5, 2014

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

New England Science Symposium

Sunday, April 6, 2014

The Joseph B. Martin Conference Center at Harvard Medical School

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

REGISTRATION DEADLINE: April 2, 2014

For information and to submit an abstract or register, go to www.NewEnglandScienceSymposium.org.

Evening of Hope

Thursday, May 1, 2014

The Westin Copley Place

Reception: 6:00 p.m.

Dinner and Awards Ceremony: 7:00 p.m.

Reminder

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

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

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CONFERENCE

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- Funding and Research Opportunities
- Science Careers in Industry
- Special Session for Postdocs: Networking and Career Discussion

To apply, participants must fill out a four-page application. Applications are used to match participants to an advisor based on their responses. The deadline is **February 5, 2014**.

To request an application, send postal mailing address and academic level to Lise D. Kaye at lise_kaye@hms.harvard.edu. Even though the deadline is approaching, *there is still plenty of time to request an application and apply.* ■

FREEMAN HRABOWSKI

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professor teaching a summer course in mathematics to high-achieving black students wrote a complex math problem on the blackboard that nobody in the class could solve individually. While most of the students were frustrated by the difficulty, Hrabowski says, "I was dazed by it. It was like music to me. We finally discovered that we could solve it if we worked together." Somebody told the young student that the man held a PhD. "That day I determined I'd get a PhD and be a dean of a college," he recalls. He earned his PhD in higher education administration and statistics from the University of Illinois at

Urbana-Champaign and became a dean at age 26 at Coppin State.

Hrabowski's remarkable life story is played out in the work he does and his love for his work is evident when he speaks. "Even children can be empowered to believe they can have an impact on their education," he says. "That informs what I do in education." ■