

# 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

# B I N T O U C H W I T H B S C 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

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## An Evening of Hope

BY KATHLEEN O'MALLEY

The Biomedical Science Careers Program held its first fund-raising dinner, an Evening of Hope, at the Westin Hotel-Copley Place in Boston on April 30. The event was also an opportunity to recognize 30 BSCP volunteers, many of whom have been involved with the program since its founding in 1991.

Evening of Hope co-chairs James R. Tobin, president and chief executive officer of Biogen, Inc., and Henri A. Termeer, chairman and chief executive officer of Genzyme Corporation, presented two special awards. Phillip A. Sharp, Ph.D., 1993 Nobel Prize winner in Medicine and Physiology, and professor and head of the Department of Biology at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and Wendell J. Knox, president and chief executive officer at Abt Associates, Inc., were recognized for their lifelong contributions to science and students.

BSCP also awarded five scholarships that were made possible by the generosity of Biogen, Inc., Genzyme Corporation, Millennium Pharmaceuticals, Inc., The Fleming Family Foundation, Inc., The Rowland Institute for Science, and Whitehead Institute. (See sidebar.)

Mistress of Ceremonies Liz Walker, co-anchor at WBZ-TV 4 New England, launched the evening with words of praise for

## BSCP SCHOLARSHIPS

The first BSCP scholarship recipients, who each received two-year scholarships of \$2,500 per year, were:

- *Karlene M. Boswell*, University of Massachusetts at Dartmouth
- *Nilton D. Medina*, University of Massachusetts at Boston
- *Ricardo M. Zayas*, Tufts University
- *Pivel Santos*, Boston High School
- *Mayra E. Lorenzo*, Harvard Medical School

"I look forward to the contributions these five outstanding students will make in their chosen field of study," said Joan Y. Reede, M.D., M.P.H., M.S., BSCP founder and president.

The awards are part of an initiative by local companies and foundations to increase the number of minority students pursuing careers in biomedicine and biotechnology. "It was an obvious way for businesses like ours to make a direct impact on some young, minority individual who had an interest in science where we live and work every day," said Elliott D. Hillback, Jr., senior vice president at Genzyme Corporation in Cambridge. Hillback initiated fundraising for the scholarships.

BSCP's mission. "Someone once said, 'if you believe, you can achieve.' I believe that if you can see you can achieve. So what is going on here with this program is very important because it exposes young people to a world they might not see on their own."

The overall message of the evening was one of support for the importance of programs such as BSCP. "This organization is still very young, but it is already having a tremendous impact on the lives



**Lorenzo, Medina, Boswell, Zayas, and Santos**

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## The Value of Networking

Robin L. Vann, M.P.H., J.D., manager of Diversity and Multicultural Services at Brigham and Women's Hospital (BWH) in Boston, is a true believer in the value of networking.



**Robin Vann**

In her case, the network began with BSCP. After receiving a masters degree in Public Health from Tulane University in 1994, Vann enrolled in law school at Boston University, choosing that school's Health Law concentration. "I was never interested in practicing law," she explains. "I wanted to work in health policy and I thought a law degree would enhance my M.P.H. to pursue work in this area."

### An Evening of Hope

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**Wendell J. Knox**

opportunities."

Added Knox, "Personally, I find it easy to believe in and support BSCP's program strategy, which is grounded in the concept of mentoring those who want to succeed by those who are already enjoying success. But perhaps the most convincing evidence of the value of BSCP's program strategy is demonstrated by the young BSCP participants who have joined us at

The only problem was figuring out how to go about finding an "alternative" career coming out of law school. "I knew I wanted to work in the health industry in Massachusetts, but I didn't know who the players were," she says.

That's where BSCP came in. In the winter of 1997, while she was still in law school, Vann attended BSCP's Business of Health Care Conference. She says the conference appealed to her because "it offered an opportunity to look at the many different ways you could work in the health field that were not just health law. And it identified people in the health world in Massachusetts who were interested in furthering minority participation in the health industry. I was also impressed by the number of employers and perspectives represented there

each table here tonight. As you talk to them it has to be clear why our continued investment in the work of this organization will yield high returns for all of us."

Thirty BSCP volunteers whose involvement and support have been crucial since the program's founding were also recognized.

Dr. Susan Pauker, president of the Harvard Pilgrim Health Care Foundation, was one of those honored. "The program is based on respect, and the best way we can respect patients is by providing them with a diverse array of culturally sensitive and familiar clinicians," she said. "By priming the pump through programs such as [BSCP], we increase the likelihood that candidates of diverse backgrounds will present for admission to medical school and will be better qualified to be accepted, trained and available to care for people throughout our society."

Kathryn Hall, Ph.D., who was chosen to speak on behalf of all BSCP students, was a graduate

—legal, medical, laboratory and pharmaceutical, for example."

Vann took full advantage of the opportunities at the conference, talking to presenters whose subjects appealed to her and collecting a stack of business cards. When it came time to start looking for a job, a year later, Vann turned to that stack. "At the conference, everyone I spoke to said, 'call me.' But I wondered how sincere they were."

It turned out that they were very sincere. To begin her job search, Vann sent letters to many of the people she had spoken to at the BSCP conference. Almost immediately she was invited to meet with Debra Canner, then vice president of Human Resources at Genzyme Corporation and an active BSCP

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**Joan Y. Reede & Phillip A. Sharp**

student at Harvard Medical School when she first became involved with BSCP in 1992. "I came to the first BSCP conference feeling somewhat isolated at Harvard Medical School and was looking for direction, inspiration and opportunity. Over the last six years I've managed to find all three things through this program," she said. Hall added that her greatest accomplishment was to return to BSCP events as a mentor to students who are just beginning to launch careers in biomedicine. ♦

## Academic Opportunities

### MGH Institute of Health Professions

Of all the hospitals in the world, the Massachusetts General Hospital (MGH) has perhaps the greatest name recognition. The MGH Institute of Health Professions is closely affiliated with the renowned institution, offering graduate programs in Nursing, Physical Therapy, Speech-Language Pathology, and Clinical Investigation.

As part of the MGH network, and part of the broader Partners HealthCare System, Inc., the MGH Institute of Health Professions offers an outstanding health care education to full- and part-time students. Known for its strong clinical focus, the Institute offers its students the kind of immediate, "hands-on" approach that brings theory and real-life practice together. To date, the Institution has prepared more than 1,000 alumni/ae for success in a wide range of challenging health care settings – from the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit at MGH to neighborhood clinics in the inner city.

The Institute, which just celebrated its 20th anniversary, is actively recruiting gifted individuals whose lives embrace the values of diversity. Its members are committed to building an environment that reflects the diverse fabric of the U.S. and the world at large. To this end, the Trustees of the Institute have established three Diversity Scholarships to be awarded on the basis of academic/professional merit to individuals of diverse backgrounds.

If you are presently working toward an undergraduate degree and are beginning to consider your next step in terms of education, you might want to consider the Institute's intensive, clinically-based graduate program. College graduates can apply to the Institute to pursue a Master of Science degree in one of the four disciplines above. Those with an interest in the Entry-Level Nursing Program who have a

bachelor's degree in a field other than nursing can apply after completing prerequisite course work during the Institute's "Science Summer" Program.

For more information, or to obtain an application, contact The Office of Enrollment Management and Student Affairs, at (617) 726-3140, or [student@mgh.harvard.edu](mailto:student@mgh.harvard.edu). You can also learn more about the MGH Institute of Health Professions through the Internet, at: [www.mgh.harvard.edu/depts/ihp/mgh.htm](http://www.mgh.harvard.edu/depts/ihp/mgh.htm).

### Fellowships and Scholarships

#### University of Hawaii at Manoa, John A. Burns School of Medicine

◆ **Imi Ho'ola Post-Baccalaureate Program** — Imi Ho'ola is a post-baccalaureate program that provides educational opportunities for individuals from disadvantaged backgrounds who are capable of succeeding in medical school. Each year, 10 students are selected to participate in the 12-month program. Upon successful completion of the program, students will enter the John A. Burns School of Medicine as first-year medical students.

#### Application deadline:

For the 1999-2000 Imi Ho'ola class is November 15, 1998.

For more information, contact: Nanette Kapulani Judd, MPH, PhD, Program Director, at (808) 956-3466 or [judd@hawaii.edu](mailto:judd@hawaii.edu).

#### Minority Fellowship Program

Funded by the NIMH to support doctoral training in neuroscience, the program seeks to increase representation of African American, Alaskan Native, Mexican American, Native American, Pacific Islander and Puerto Rican students in neuroscience. It offers several fellowships:

◆ **The MFP Clinical Training Fellowship** — geared to those pursuing

careers as mental health practitioners and clinical researchers serving ethnic minority populations.

◆ **The MFP Research Training Fellowship** — geared to those pursuing careers in psychology as a research scientist.

◆ **The MFP HIV/AIDS Research Training Fellowship** — geared to those pursuing careers as research scientists in HIV/AIDS research.

◆ **The MFP Summer Program in Neuroscience, Ethics and Survival (SPINES)** — provides training at the Marine Biological Laboratory in Woods Hole, MA.

◆ **The MFP in Neuroscience Post-doctoral Fellowship** — provides postdoctoral research fellowships in neuroscience.

For more detailed information, call (202) 336-6027; or email [mfp@apa.org](mailto:mfp@apa.org).

### Financial Aid

#### Quick Guide for High School Seniors

Educaid offers three types of federal financial aid: Grants and Scholarships, Work-Study, and Loans.

For more detailed information on the aid packages, and application instructions, call 1-800-EDUCAID. ◆

#### IMPORTANT NOTICE

Please mail, fax or email your new home, campus, email addresses, and phone numbers to:

**Biomedical Science Careers Program  
c/o Minority Faculty Development  
Program, Harvard Medical School,  
164 Longwood Avenue, 2nd Floor,  
Boston, MA 02115-5815**

**Fax: (617) 432-3834**

**Email: [lkaye@warren.med.harvard.edu](mailto:lkaye@warren.med.harvard.edu)**

## Upcoming Events & Important Dates

### "Health Care for the Coming Millennium"

Henry Foster, Jr., M.D., Professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology, Meharry Medical College School of Medicine, Senior Advisor to President Clinton on Teen Pregnancy and Youth Issue  
Monday, October 5  
Harvard Medical School,  
Building D Amphitheater  
4:30 – 5:30 p.m.

### Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT)

Dates:

November 7, 1998 — Registration deadline October 2, 1998

December 5, 1998 — Registration deadline October 30, 1998

For more information, go to:  
[www.collegeboard.org/html/testdates000.html](http://www.collegeboard.org/html/testdates000.html)

### ACT Assessment Test

Dates:

December 12, 1998 — Registration deadline November 6, 1998

For more information, go to:  
[www.act.org/aap/REGIST/ACTDates.html](http://www.act.org/aap/REGIST/ACTDates.html)

### Graduate Record Exam (GRE)

Computer Based Dates:

October — January; All month

Paper Based Dates:

November 7, 1998 — Registration deadline October 2, 1998

December 12, 1998 — Registration deadline November 6, 1998

For more information, go to:  
[www.gre.org/testdate/html](http://www.gre.org/testdate/html) ♦

## Networking

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supporter. "I had no idea why I was meeting with her," Vann recalls, "but I was happy to go." At the meeting, Canner told Vann that she was impressed by her initiative and wanted to help in any way she could.

First, Canner arranged for Vann to meet with the general counsel at

Genzyme. He, in turn, suggested that she speak to two members of his department. When Vann expressed her interest in health policy, one of the people she spoke to referred her to a friend of his, whose husband is the director of Community Benefits at Partners HealthCare System, Inc., which includes the Brigham and Women's Hospital and the Massachusetts General Hospital.

From there Vann made the contacts that led to her current job — a newly-created position. "It's exciting to start something," Vann says of her job. "I like the challenges involved in developing the diversity infrastructure that will enable BWH to provide culturally competent health care and culturally informed services to all populations that come to the hospital." ♦

## Job Opportunity

The Biomedical Science Careers Program (BSCP) is seeking an administrative support assistant who has superior computer skills. This position requires an individual who is motivated, pro-active and takes initiative to complete projects. This individual must also have excellent writing skills and excellent telephone communication skills.

Resumes and a writing sample may be faxed to (617) 432-3834 or mailed to:

Lise D. Kaye, Executive Director  
Biomedical Science Careers Program  
c/o Minority Faculty Development Program  
Harvard Medical School  
164 Longwood Avenue, 2nd Floor  
Boston, MA 02115-5818

## Surfing the Web

### The following Web sites may be of interest:

[www.commonscrt.nih.gov](http://www.commonscrt.nih.gov) — The Computer Retrieval of Information on Scientific Projects (CRISP) database includes information regarding federally funded biomedical research projects conducted at universities, hospitals and other research institutions. It allows users to research scientific concepts, emerging trends and techniques, or identify specific projects and/or investigators.

[www.grantsnet.org](http://www.grantsnet.org) — Launched in March, this site offers biomedical funding opportunities. The directory includes 721 programs, with contact information. It is co-sponsored by the American Association for the Advancement of Science and the Howard Hughes Medical Institute.

[www.fastweb.com](http://www.fastweb.com) — fastWeb is the Internet's largest free scholarship search, with more than 275,000 scholarships. It also offers free online applications for 11,000 college scholarships through E-Scholarships. fastWEB's online E-Scholarships are available from the National Hispanic Scholarship Foundation, Glamour Magazine, the Foundation for Independent Higher Education, Arizona State University, and others.