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SPECIAL THANKS TO

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Mentor Profile

James L. Sherley, M.D., Ph.D.

"I ALWAYS LEAVE [BSCP] EVENTS rejuvenated and ready to take on my own battles," says James L. Sherley, M.D., Ph.D., associate professor of Biological Engineering at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT). "BSCP brings together so many bright students, and it's empowering for minority professionals to be in the midst of so many bright students."

Sherley has been involved with the Biomedical Science Careers Program (BSCP) for about four years, since one of his students, who was a BSCP student, invited him to deliver the keynote address at the New England Science Symposium. Since that time he has attended several other BSCP events and has been a mentor at the BSCP Science Careers Student Conference.

A professor at MIT since 1998, Sherley says he "always wanted to be a scientist." He has always enjoyed working in research labs because he loves "the thrill of doing discovery." But after heading his own laboratory, he discovered that he really loved to teach. "I enjoy training young people to become scientists," he says. "The most fun thing I do is interacting with students."

Sherley was born and raised in Memphis, Tennessee. He received his B.A. in Biology from Harvard, and his M.D. and Ph.D. in Molecular Biology and Genetics from the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine. His lab at MIT is focused on adult stem-cell biological engineering for cancer research and drug development. He works with under-graduates, graduate students and post-doctoral fellows.

With all his accomplishments, Sherley notes that he still encounters racism in his field,

though not as frequently as he used to. He says that when he delivers presentations at scientific conferences, scientists who are white consistently ask him whose lab he works in. "It is still unusual for there to be an African American presenting at these conferences," he says.

"There's always somebody out there who doesn't think that I can be the lab head." To avoid that question, Sherley now includes an opening slide in his presentation that makes it clear that he is the head of his lab, which he says is unusual.

As a mentor, one challenge for Sherley is "to not place your experience as an expectation for your students. One of the more important changes is those of us in underrepresented minorities [now] have the highest expectations for ourselves. I tell students whatever it is they want to do, they should expect to be able to do it."

His relatively long-term involvement with BSCP has given Sherley some perspective on the organization and its students. "I've really seen some students develop over time with BSCP," he says. "You can't develop trust with a program over just one weekend, but you can over three or four years. BSCP doesn't have its focus in just one area. There is a range of students from very small to very large colleges [and high schools and universities]. This program is very special that way." ■



JAMES L. SHERLEY, M.D., PH.D.

UPCOMING EVENTS

CAREER DEVELOPMENT SERIES

Tuesday, October 11, 2005

Longwood Galleria Conference Center

Federal Funding Opportunities

Audience: Physicians in post-doctoral training, junior faculty, residents, and fellows (clinical and research)

BIOMEDICAL SCIENCE CAREERS STUDENT CONFERENCE

Friday, March 10, and Saturday, March 11, 2006

The Boston Park Plaza Hotel

The 8th biennial Biomedical Science Careers Student Conference for post-doctoral fellows, medical/dental, graduate and college students and high school seniors and juniors, sponsored by the Biomedical Science Careers Program, encourages students to pursue and complete advanced studies. In addition to keynote addresses, students will attend panel discussions and workshops designed to lead them through the process of applying and gaining acceptance to college, medical, and graduate schools as well as to competitive, advanced training programs. Participants will be matched with advisors/role models from academia, hospitals/medical centers, the federal government, and the biotechnology industry. There is no registration fee, but pre-registration is required. Applications will be available in October.

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

Student Profile

Lili Peng

LILI PENG, WHO GRADUATED FROM the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) in June 2005 with a bachelor's degree in Chemical Engineering, was introduced to the BSCP when she attended the 2004 Biomedical Science Careers Student Conference at the suggestion of her former professor, James L. Sherley, M.D., Ph.D. Sherley was also the faculty advisor of the MIT Biomedical Engineering Society (BMES), a student group of which Peng was an active member throughout college.

The conference was an eye-opener for Peng, who is from Columbus, Ohio. "I never knew there was such involvement in biomedical sciences." At the conference, Peng met several people from the biomedical industry, including those from Genzyme Corporation and Biogen Idec. She also met students from high school, medical school, and other colleges and universities. Peng



LILI PENG

adds, "It wasn't until the conference when I realized the breadth of people's involvement in the biomedical sciences. The BSCP conference taught me that the key players involved in the biomedical sciences are not only from academia, but also medicine and industry."

At the conference, Sherley introduced Peng to BSCP executive director Lise Kaye, and the two have kept in touch ever since. Kaye invited Peng to the 2004 Evening of Hope fundraiser. Later in the year Peng also attended the BSCP Skills Workshops at Harvard Medical School.

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Take Them Out to the Ballgame

ON AUGUST 14 AT FENWAY PARK, 15 Biomedical Science Careers Program (BSCP) students and their guests were treated to a day of mentoring, networking, and baseball. The occasion was the Scientists for Science Day, hosted by Boston Scientific Corporation, a Red Sox sponsor whose chief executive officer, Jim Tobin, is on the BSCP Board.

Boston Scientific hosted 100 attendees, including the BSCP students and their guests, and employees from its Research and Development group. The objective of the day was to give the students the opportunity to interact with industry professionals in a fun environment and to learn about some of the opportunities in the field of biomedical sciences. At the same time, it allowed the scientists to meet some of the talented pool of future workers



BSCP STUDENTS AT FENWAY PARK

from which they may draw in the near future, as interns, part-time and/or full-time employees.

The BSCP students and their guests arrived at Fenway Park a few hours before the afternoon game between the Red Sox and the Chicago White Sox. They assembled with representatives from Boston Scientific for a photograph in front of the company sign. Then they were given a private group tour of the country's most famous ballpark. Just before game time, the BSCP students, Joan Y. Reede, M.D., M.P.H.,

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Summer Internship Recruitment

STUDENTS, THIS IS FOR YOU. WITH memories of summer fresh in your minds, and school routines still not set, next summer's job is probably the last thing you want to think about. But it is important to know that sometimes biotech companies are as anxious for good students as students are for good internships.

To that end, a group of BSCP sponsor companies — Biogen Idec, Genzyme Corporation, Abt Associates and Boston Scientific — got together last year to see what they could do to increase their pool of BSCP student interns and to expose interested students to biotechnology companies. The result was "A Day at Biogen Idec" and a half-day at Genzyme, co-sponsored with Abt. These events allowed students to gain insight into the three companies so they could see what their options would be if they were interested in pursuing summer and possible long-term employment.

On March 3, 2005, 15 BSCP students (most of them undergraduates) who had been invited to Biogen Idec were treated to a day of events geared toward giving them a comprehensive view of the company. Students were selected

based on how closely their interests matched the work being done at the company. According to Tricia Healey in the Human Resources department, who helped plan and run the day, "We wanted to choose students we could potentially select as interns."

The day began with an introduction from the company's executive vice president of Development, Burt Adelman. Then students were divided into two groups and given tours of the facility. After lunch, they had a chance to hear speakers from several different areas, including Medical Research, Immunology, Dermatology and Fibrosis, Drug Safety, and Clinical Trials.

Nancy Duran, who planned the day with Healey, said, "We could not have been more pleased with the responses we got. It's unbelievable how talented these kids are." Six BSCP students worked as Biogen Idec interns this past summer.

Genzyme/Abt's program took place on March 8, at Genzyme's facility in Cambridge. Fifty undergraduate and graduate students attended the session, which was run by Ellen Reifsneider, Genzyme's vice president of Staffing Programs and Professional Development, and Carolyn Churcher, director of Staffing. Cabot West, manager of Human Resources Operations at Abt Associates, also participated.

Reifsneider opened the day with a presentation about Genzyme and its internship program, followed by a question-and-answer session. Then West delivered a similar presentation on Abt. After that, students were given a tour of Genzyme's new state-of-the-art facility.

"I think it was a really good opportunity [for students] to get to see people in an informal way and to get to see the building," Reifsneider said. "It was much better than doing things over the phone. I think that personal contact really made a difference." She said Genzyme received several impressive resumes that day, and seven BSCP students worked at the company this past summer.

Both Biogen Idec and Genzyme plan to repeat the programs in 2006. Stay tuned to the January issue of this newsletter for details. ■

UPCOMING EVENTS

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NEW ENGLAND SCIENCE SYMPOSIUM

Sunday, March 12, 2006

The Conference Center at Harvard Medical

Deadline for abstract submission, December 2, 2005.

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

EVENING OF HOPE

Thursday, April 27, 2006

The Boston Park Plaza Hotel

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

MAYRA E. LORENZO, M.D., PH.D., received a Hope Scholarship from the BSCP in 1998 while she was in her third year of an M.D./Ph.D. program at Harvard Medical School (HMS). She graduated from HMS in June 2004. She was a panelist at the 2002 and 2004 Biomedical Science Careers Student Conferences and on the Planning Committee for the 2002, 2003, 2004, and 2005 New England Science Symposia. She also was a moderator at the 2003, 2004, and 2005 Symposia. In July 2005, Mayra began a Dermatology Residency at the University of Massachusetts Medical School. Committed to maintaining her ties to the BSCP, she will be an advisor at the 2006 Biomedical Science Careers Student Conference in March.

BALLGAME

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M.S., Tobin and his wife, Janet, were honored in pre-game ceremonies.

"This was a great day for our students," said Lise Kaye, executive director of the BSCP. "We are always happy when we can give them the opportunity to network and meet people in the biomedical sciences, but this time it was in a completely different setting with its own kind of excitement."

"The Red Sox game was a terrific opportunity for our scientists to interact with BSCP students in a fun environment," said Jim Tobin, president and chief executive officer of Boston Scientific. "We are proud to host this event for future scientists and to support the BSCP in its mission to help these students and others pursue their interest in the biomedical field." ■

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In 2005, Peng was a Hope Scholarship recipient at the Evening of Hope dinner, which led to her internship this past summer at BioProcessors Corporation, a company that delivers micro-engineered solutions for biopharmaceutical process development applications for the biotechnology and pharmaceutical industry. Two of the company's executives were at the dinner and noticed, in Peng's bio in the program book, that her experience and background were a good fit with the company.

After the dinner, Peng met with Christianne Baruqui, vice president of Human Resources, and

was offered a position for the summer. "This job is using all the skills I learned in college and is a preview of graduate school," she says.

Peng is starting a Ph.D. program in Bioengineering at the University of California at San Diego this month. After completing graduate school, she hopes to work as a technical consultant for a consulting firm or as an engineer for a biotech company. But no matter where she ends up, she will not forget the people who helped her get there. "The people at BioProcessors have given me the opportunity to develop my skills and use what I've learned," she says. "I definitely will keep in touch with James Sherley and Lise Kaye because I would not be in the position I'm in today if it were not for them." ■

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Prestigious Awards to Joan Reede and Lise Kaye

JOAN Y. REEDE, M.D., M.P.H., M.S., DEAN for Diversity and Community Partnership, Harvard Medical School, and president and chair, Biomedical Science Careers Program (BSCP), and Lise D. Kaye, executive director, BSCP, were both honored recently with prestigious awards.

Reede received the Herbert W. Nickens, M.D., Award from the Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC) and the Herbert W. Nickens, M.D. Award from the Society of General Internal Medicine (SIGM). Both awards are named in memory and honor of the late Dr. Herbert W. Nickens. The first award is presented to an individual who has made outstanding contributions to promote justice in medical education and health care. The second award recognizes

exceptional commitment to cultural diversity in medicine, and honors an individual or representative of an organization who has demonstrated exceptional commitment to cultural diversity in medicine or to improving minority health.

Kaye received the National Institutes of Health (NIH) Undergraduate Scholarship Program (UGSP) Recognition Award, which was presented to her at the UGSP Recognition Ceremony at the NIH on August 4, 2005. The award recognizes exemplary support of the UGSP. The program's goal is to cultivate a diverse population of undergraduate scholars to become part of the next generation of biomedical researchers in the NIH's Intramural Research Program. ■