

GEORGE A. SCANGOS, PHD
 JAMIL B. SCOTT, PHD, MPH
 SUZET M. MCKINNEY, DRPH, MPH
 2014 EVENING OF HOPE

BSCP

BIOMEDICAL SCIENCE
 CAREERS PROGRAM

Conversations with the Board

George A. Scangos, PhD

FOR GEORGE A. SCANGOS, PHD, CHIEF executive officer and a member of the board of directors of Biogen Idec, taking over the helm of the Cambridge, Massachusetts, biotechnology company in 2010 was something of a homecoming. He had been working in California for 17 years, most recently as president and CEO of Exelixis, Inc. But Scangos, the son of Greek immigrants, was born in Lynn, Massachusetts, and raised in Connecticut.

Scangos, who became a BSCP Board member in 2012, delivered the keynote address at the 2014 Biomedical Sciences Student Conference. Among other issues, he talked about where he believes the life sciences industry is headed, noting that, "The potential for what our industry can do is astounding." He said there has never before been so much opportunity to do so much good for so many people and stressed the need to attract and develop the brightest minds in the field.

Growing up, Scangos says he was lucky to have a scout master "who opened my eyes to worlds I didn't know existed and to which I had no access. He was an electrical engineer, and had a huge effect on me." The scout master was a recruiter for Cornell University and arranged for Scangos to attend a program there when he was a junior in high school.

Scangos received scholarships to Cornell. He began college intending to major in French, but his freshman biology class excited him so much that he followed it up with genetics. And he was hooked. Scangos earned a PhD from the University of Massachusetts and was a Jane Coffin Childs Post-Doctoral Fellow in the laboratory of Dr. Frank Ruddle, a geneticist at Yale University.

Scangos says he was first introduced to BSCP by Henri Termeer, former CEO and president of Genzyme, shortly after he joined his current company. Biogen Idec was already a longtime supporter of the organization. "It is a great organization that provides financial and other support, information and mentorship to kids from backgrounds where they would otherwise not have access to that kind of help," he says.

As a BSCP Board member, Scangos says, "I can offer a number of things. First and foremost is time and effort, to offer advice and to provide financial support. It also is important for board members to champion the organization. I believe in the mission of BSCP, and I enjoy doing that."

Several BSCP students have held internships at Biogen Idec. The company has also hired two former BSCP students, Eydith Comenencia Ortiz and Shauna Andersson, as full-time employees.



GEORGE A. SCANGOS, PHD

Comenencia Ortiz, who is a research analyst in the Government Affairs group, joined Biogen Idec when she completed her PhD from Tufts in 2012. Andersson, who received an MD and PhD from Tufts in 2013, recently joined the Immunology Research group as a scientist.

As Scangos sees it, "BSCP plays an incredibly important role in nurturing talent and developing our future scientists. These students are the people who will help discover cures to some of our generation's most serious diseases. Our aging population will increase the need to address these serious health issues. The rapid advancement of science and technology will enable innovation. It's a very exciting time to be a young scientist." ■

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



Mastering Career Transitions and Mentoring Relationships

Jamil B. Scott, PhD, MPH

FROM A VERY YOUNG AGE, JAMIL B. Scott, PhD, MPH, enjoyed science. In elementary school, she declared that she was going to be a doctor and attend Harvard. She was correct, but knowing how to get there proved to be a bit of a challenge.

Born and raised in Lansing, Michigan, Scott received her first major scientific training as an undergraduate at Tennessee State University (TSU), where she excelled and experienced caring, committed and supportive mentors, many of whom she remains in contact with today. She completed research projects at TSU, as a MARC (Minority Access to Research Careers) scholar, and during summer internships at Michigan State University, the University of California, San Francisco and Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory. In hindsight, she admits that those years were probably easier than her transition to the PhD program in biological and biomedical sciences at Harvard Medical School (HMS), where she studied basic embryology and earned her degree in cell and developmental biology.

At HMS, Scott found initially that the mentors were “a little more distant and a lot less hands on” than she was used to. She learned that she would have to seek out mentoring relationships in order to make effective career transitions. She was successful academically, even earning graduate fellowships from the National Science Foundation and National Institutes of Health. But at times, despite her best efforts, she says she “frequently struggled and often experienced isolation.”

Scott worked as a resident tutor for Harvard College and was co-chair of the Minority Biomedical Scientists of Harvard (MBSH). She says things became easier

overall when she started participating in BSCP. At her first Biomedical Science Careers Student Conference, in 2006, Scott says she received effective guidance, reconnected with a past mentor, and became active in the planning committee. In 2006, she received a HOPE Scholarship, an accomplishment of which she is very proud.

With a renewed sense of her potential, Scott completed her PhD studies and changed her career focus from basic science to public health. This was a big step, she says, made easier by continued support from BSCP and special mentors. As a research assistant and postdoc, Scott studied the potential role of vitamin D supplementation in preventing negative health outcomes in African Americans, working at both Dana-Farber Cancer Institute and the Harvard School of Public Health, from which she received an MPH in family and community health. Before leaving Harvard, she joined the board of BSCP and continues to work with the organization. She has been a BSCP student advisor and New England Science Symposium planning committee member since 2008.



JAMIL B. SCOTT, PHD, MPH

Scott is now a faculty research specialist at Michigan State University, not far from where she grew up, continuing her work on vitamin D's role in disease prevention. Reflecting back, she says she has “learned to follow her passions, work hard, help others, and step forward, even when the ground feels a bit shaky.” Above all, she notes, “Seeking and mastering effective mentoring relationships is a critical piece to a successful career as a scientist, throughout its many transitions.” ■

2014 EVENING OF HOPE

THE 17TH ANNUAL EVENING OF HOPE FUNDRAISER WILL TAKE PLACE on Thursday, May 1, 2014, at The Westin Copley Place Boston. The event raises money to support BSCP programs and celebrates the organization's successes. This year the event will be co-chaired by Kevin Tabb, MD, president and chief executive officer, Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center, and David P. Meeker, MD, president and chief executive officer, Genzyme, a Sanofi company. This year's honorees will be George A. Scangos, PhD, chief executive officer, Biogen Idec, and George H. Kaye (1943–2014), president, KAYEincorporated.

Where Are They Now?

Suzet M. McKinney, DrPH, MPH

AS AN UNDERGRADUATE AT Brandeis University in 1993, Suzet McKinney, DrPH, planned to become a pediatrician, a lifelong dream. Though a neonatal fellowship figured into her plans, a chance mentorship with a neonatologist at Harvard Medical School caused her to reconsider her options. McKinney's mentor had obtained a Masters in Public Health (MPH) in addition to an MD, and was studying degenerative eye diseases in infants. Fascinated by her mentor's work, McKinney took what she thought at the time would be "a detour on the way to medical school," and decided to pursue an MPH.

McKinney graduated with her degree in June 2001. Three months later, the 9/11 terrorist attacks occurred, followed by the October anthrax attacks. At the time, the country's public health infrastructure was incapable of mitigating a large-scale bioterrorism attack. After 9/11, the federal

government allocated funds to rebuild the U.S. public health infrastructure. Living in Chicago, McKinney recalls that she started seeing job postings for emergency response and public health preparedness jobs, so she applied. "I got into this field by circumstance," she says. "But I stay in it on purpose. It is such fascinating and intriguing work."

McKinney went on to obtain her Doctorate in Public Health from the University of Illinois and today serves as Deputy Commissioner of the Bureau of Public Health Preparedness and Emergency Response at the Chicago Department of Public Health, overseeing and coordinating the preparedness efforts for the department with other city agencies. "Every year [since she took the job] there has been some new disease, attack or phenomenon," she says, citing a smallpox vaccination effort in 2003, two meningococcal outbreaks, two rounds of H1N1, Hurricane



SUZET M. MCKINNEY, DRPH, MPH

Katrina, which necessitated Chicago's government to assist in assimilating those displaced by the storm, and a widespread occurrence of salmonella at a major food festival.

In 2011, McKinney spent nine months in Washington, D.C. working as a senior

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

Keynote Speaker

Yvonne T. Maddox, PhD

YVONNE T. MADDOX, PHD, DEPUTY director of the *Eunice Kennedy Shriver* National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD), National Institutes of Health (NIH), was the keynote speaker on the opening night of the 2014 Biomedical Science Careers Student Conference. Throughout her academic and government career, Dr. Maddox has been a champion of women's and children's issues.

As part of a joint partnership between the United States and India, Maddox leads two teams of international scientists to improve reproductive health and maternal and child health in both countries. She also directs the NICHD Safe to Sleep campaign (formerly the Back to Sleep campaign) to reduce sudden infant death syndrome and the NIH Down Syndrome

(DS) Consortium, a federal/private partnership to advance medical research for those living with DS. Maddox is a spokesperson for the NICHD in the area of health equity and leads several NIH-wide and Department of Health and Human Services' committees and working groups. She chairs the Federal SIDS/Sudden Unexpected Infant Death Working Group, served as co-chair of NIH's working group to develop the strategic plan to eliminate health disparities and executive director of the DHHS Cancer Health Disparities Progress Review Group, and co-chaired the DHHS Initiative to Reduce Infant Mortality.

During her career at NIH, Maddox has received numerous honors and awards, including two of the most prestigious in

the Federal career civil service, the Presidential Distinguished Executive Rank Award and the Presidential Meritorious Executive Rank Award. She is an inductee in the field of medicine to the Historical Black Colleges and Universities Hall of Fame and received the American Academy of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation Distinguished Public Service Award.

Maddox received her BS in biology from Virginia Union University, Richmond, and her PhD in physiology from Georgetown University. She was a visiting scientist at the French Atomic Energy Commission in Saclay, France, and graduated from the Senior Managers in Government Program of the Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University. ■

SAVE THE DATES

Evening of Hope

Thursday, May 1, 2014
The Westin Copley Place
Reception 6:00 p.m.
Dinner and Awards Ceremony 7:00 p.m.

Skills Workshops for College and High School Seniors, Juniors and Sophomores

Fall 2014, Harvard Medical School

New England Science Symposium

Spring 2015, Harvard Medical School

For fellows and medical/dental/graduate/college/community college students

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."

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



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

MCKINNEY

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

advisor to the Department of Homeland Security for emergency preparedness and homeland security issues, specifically biological early detection systems and the implementation of those systems at the state and local levels. When she returned to Chicago, she was asked to oversee the Division of Women and Children's Health in addition to the department's Emergency Preparedness Bureau. This allows her to summon what she learned in the earlier part of her career.

While at Brandeis, McKinney became a BSCP student when she attended a BSCP

conference. There she was paired with a female physician, who she calls "the most amazing person of all time. [She] gave me the idea that I could have a career and a family and still enjoy my life. She was the example for me that a woman could have a high-profile and rewarding career as well as a family life."

McKinney, who is married to her college sweetheart, is now setting the same example for her 12-year-old daughter, a competitive swimmer. "I spend a lot of time at the pool," she laughs. She is also an example for her students at the University of Illinois at Chicago School of Public Health, where she teaches Community Health

Sciences and coordinates the school's Online Emergency Preparedness Certificate Program. And she serves as a mentor at BSCP conferences and at Harvard's National Preparedness Leadership Initiative.

McKinney advises all students to have perseverance and always be prepared. "Going to school is great. But read articles, do online training and seek opportunities to better prepare yourself for the role you want to take... To be here doing this work in the place where I grew up, I can't think of anything better than that." ■