

B I N T O U C H W I T H 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 J E C T

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 J E C T

Student Profile: Kimberly J. Ligon, Senior, Brandeis University

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Society for their support of this newsletter.

As a pre-medical student, I am always seeking ways to gain exposure to the exciting world of medicine and scientific research. For example, as a sophomore, I attended the Biomedical Science Careers Project conference. I remember feeling overwhelmed as I learned of the many opportunities that were available for students like myself. I talked to various professionals, and was fortunate to meet Dr. Andrea Reid, a gastroenterologist at Massachusetts General Hospital (MGH). Dr. Reid eased my anxiety with her advice and since then has become my mentor. She also was the first to tell me about the Summer Research Trainees Program (SRTP) at MGH, the program that granted me the opportunity to do research this past summer.

My experience as an SRTP participant was extremely beneficial. I was paired with Dr. Suzanne de la Monte, a neuropathologist at MGH. Dr. de la Monte advised me as I conducted an investigation of cultural-ethnic differences in the incidence of Alzheimer's Disease (AD). I learned a great deal about AD, a disease that is becoming a growing concern in light of the increasing aging population. While doing research, I also discovered that I am interested in epidemiology and public health. I would

like to incorporate these areas of study into my career.

As an SRTP participant, I also enjoyed interacting with various people in the medical community.

A great deal of what I learned this summer came from talking with doctors, lab technicians, medical students, and other pre-medical students from SRTP and other summer programs. The mere sharing of ideas with these people enabled me to quickly accumulate bits of insight

that cannot be found in a textbook. I have established contacts with people who have met the goals I seek to achieve. It is due in part to them that my idea of medicine is no longer abstract, but supported by examples of the work of those whom I have encountered.

I am truly grateful to have had the opportunity to study at MGH. My experience has broadened my perspective and enabled me to learn more about myself and my goals. I am looking forward to pursuing more opportunities in medicine, and my hope is that others will be inspired to do the same. ♦



Kimberly J. Ligon

Mentor Profile: Howard Kyongju Koh, M.D.

Dr. Howard Kyongju Koh, one of Massachusetts' preeminent medical experts and one of the leading Asian American public health pro-



Howard Kyongju Koh

professionals in the United States, became Commissioner of the Department of Public Health in Massachusetts in September. He is a recognized expert in the areas of cancer prevention and control, tobacco control

and public health, malignant melanoma, and Asian-American health issues. And he is the only physician in the U.S. to be quadruple board certified (in internal medicine, hematology, oncology, and dermatology) and also have a public health degree.

Koh also holds a variety of academic, medical and professional appointments. He was the Chair of the Massachusetts Coalition for a

Healthy Future, a statewide organization led by the American Cancer Society, American Heart Association, and American Lung Association; is a member of the Legislative Subcommittee of the Tobacco Control Oversight Council of Massachusetts; the American Cancer Society Skin Cancer Advisory Group; and the American Cancer Society Board of Directors.

A leader in advancing the field of cancer prevention, Dr. Koh has helped coordinate tobacco control activities that have led to a decline in cigarette consumption in Massachusetts at a rate three times faster than the national average. He helped launch national skin cancer screenings that have now reached more than a million people. And he has received numerous grants from the National Cancer Institute and the Center for Disease Control for cancer control research.

Koh comes to his new post after spending 12 years at the Boston University Schools of Medicine and Public Health, where he was professor of Public Health, Dermatology, and Medicine. He also has

been Director of the Cancer Prevention and Control Center at Boston Medical Center.

Koh received his BA from Yale College in 1973 and his MD from Yale University School of Medicine in 1977. He received his Masters in Public Health from Boston University in 1995. ♦

Dr. Koh is the only physician in the U.S. to be quadruple board certified (in internal medicine, hematology, oncology, and dermatology) and also have a public health degree.

Academic Opportunities

Financial Aid

Students looking for financial aid — a significant number these days — can turn to the World Wide Web (the Web) and a variety of sophisticated new Web sites geared toward helping students find both public and private financial aid. The basic form that triggers eligibility for all federal aid programs and hundreds of colleges' scholarships, the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) can be filled in and submitted from the

U.S. Education Department's Web site. It can also be downloaded and filled in leisurely, while not online. Go to <http://www.ed.gov> and click on **Money Matters**.

FastWEB.com (<http://www.fastweb.com>) is a free Web service that matches students to appropriate scholarships. Students register by completing a fairly comprehensive questionnaire. Then, FastWEB periodically scans its database of 180,000 scholarships offered by associations, corporations, service clubs and other pri-

vate sources, and notifies individuals by e-mail of scholarships for which they might qualify.

The Financial Aid Information Page, maintained by Mark Kantrowitz of Carnegie Mellon University for the National Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators, includes links to search services, tuition payment plans, student loan vendors and college Web sites. Find it at <http://www.finaid.org>.

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Academic Opportunities

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Fellowships and Scholarships

The Howard Hughes Medical Institute

Description: Offers fellowships in the biological and biomedical sciences. Awards, based on international competitions, focus on research directed to understanding basic biological processes or disease mechanisms. Fellowships may be held at academic or nonprofit research institutions. Fellowships offered for 1998 include:

◆ **Pre-doctoral Fellowships in Biological Sciences** — up to five years of support for full-time graduate study toward a Ph.D. in biostatistics, cell biology, epidemiology, genetics, immunology, neuroscience, or structural biology. Applicants must not have completed the first year of post-baccalaureate graduate study in biology.

Application deadline:
mid-November

◆ **Post-doctoral Research Fellowships for Physicians** — three years of support for training in fundamental research subsequent to at least two years of post-graduate clinical training and no more than two years of post-doctoral research training.

Application deadline:
early December

◆ **Research Training Fellowships for Medical Students** — an opportunity for medical students in the U.S. to explore interest in fundamental research. Support is awarded for one year of full-time fundamental research in a laboratory at the student's medical school or another institution (except NIH in Bethesda, Maryland).

Application deadline:
early December

◆ **Research Scholars at the National Institutes of Health** — a joint HHMI-NIH program in which medical students in the U.S. spend an intensive year in research in the intramural program at NIH in Bethesda. Residence is provided at the Cloister on the NIH campus.

Application deadline:
early January

For application information for the Pre-doctoral fellowships, call the Hughes Fellowship Program at (202) 334-2872, e-mail them at <infofell@nas.edu>, or visit their Web site, <http://fellowships.nas.edu>.

For application information for all other programs, call HHMI at (301) 215-8889, e-mail <fellows@hq.hhmi.org>, or visit the Web site, <http://www.hhmi.org/fellowships/>.

The Jackie Robinson Foundation

Description: A public, not-for-profit foundation that serves as an advocate for youth in need. The Foundation awards scholarships of up to \$5,000 per year for four years of college, along with ongoing support services for scholars — such as counseling, networking, mentoring, leadership development seminars, summer jobs and post-graduate placement — during and after college.

For more information: Write to the Foundation at 3 West 35th Street, New York, NY 10001. Or call (212) 290-8600.

The NIH Undergraduate Scholarship Program

Description: Scholarship awards to students from disadvantaged backgrounds who are committed to careers in biomedical research. The scholarship pays for tuition and reasonable living and education expenses up to \$20,000 per academic year. In return, recip-

ients are obliged to serve as paid employees in NIH research laboratories during the summers and after graduation. Applications for the 1998-99 academic year will be available in October, 1997 and must be submitted by March, 1998.

For more information, write to National Institutes of Health, Office of Loan Repayment and Scholarship Programs, 750 Wisconsin Avenue, Room 604, Bethesda, Maryland 20892-9121; or send e-mail to: <kk10b@nih.gov>.

The Minority Management Development Program (MMDP)

Description: Established to address the shortage of talented minority managers in the health plan community by providing management training, work experience and industry knowledge through interactive training opportunities. MMDP Fellows are paired with a Mentor/Preceptor who is a senior manager at the Fellows' assigned training site and learn about key policy and management issues from a health plan perspective. There are 26 participating sites.

To qualify for consideration, candidates must be African American, Hispanic American, Native American, Asian/Pacific Islander or Alaska Native. They must also have a baccalaureate or master's degree in business, health care administration or other health-related field, and have at least one year of experience working in a health care entity; or they must have an associate's or RN degree and three or more years of supervisory experience in a health care entity. Applications for the 1998-99 program year will be available in November 1997 and are due in February 1998.

For more information: Contact MMDP at (202) 778-3284. ◆

Upcoming Events and Important Dates

Science & Engineering
Academic Support Network,
6th Annual Conference
Massachusetts Institute of Tech-
nology Stratton Student Center

Saturday, October 4

For more information, call
Emorcia Hill (617) 357-9620

Junior Science and Humanities Symposium

The Harvard Medical School Fac-
ulty Development and Diversity
will be hosting the Southern New
England Regional Junior Science
and Humanities Symposium in
March 1998 for Massachusetts and
Rhode Island high school science
students and teachers.

Application materials can be
requested in mid-October by
calling (617) 432-1319.

Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT)

Dates:

November 1, 1997

December 6, 1997

January 24, 1998

For locations and registration
information, call
The College Board
(617) 890-9150

BSCP Conference

Don't Miss The 1998 Biomedical Science Careers Conference

WHO CAN ATTEND: High school juniors and seniors;
college, graduate and post-graduate students from the
six New England States

DATE: Saturday, February 28, 1997, 7:30 AM - 5:00 PM

LOCATION: Boston Park Plaza Hotel

FOR MORE INFORMATION: Contact Lise Kaye at the
Biomedical Science Careers Project (617) 432-0552

Resources

Getting Into Medical School: A Planning Guide for Minority Students

Getting Into Medical School: A Planning Guide for Minority Students is a comprehensive, reliable resource for minority premedical students. Written by doctors for prospective doctors, it is directed especially to the needs and concerns of students of diverse cultures and backgrounds.

This guide was written while the authors were medical students and presents down-to-earth, practical advice, based on their experiences as minorities in the health professions career path, for minority students who are interested in medical school. It has been enthusiastically endorsed by nationally-recognized specialists in medical education and national medical associations.

To order the book, call:

Betz Publishing at (800) 634-4365;

or fax (800) 447-8438.

Financial Aid for Minorities

Ferguson Publishing Company in Chicago has published a series of booklets for minority students in a number of fields who are looking for financial aid. You can obtain these booklets by contacting:

Ferguson Publishing Co.
200 West Madison, Suite 300
Chicago, IL 60606