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JOSEF H. VON RICKENBACH, chairman and CEO of PAREXEL, the Waltham, Massachusetts-based global biopharmaceutical services organization that he cofounded in 1982, has been a BSCP board member for nearly 15 years. He says he was recruited by friends and industry colleagues Henri A. Termeer, former chairman, CEO and president of Genzyme Corporation, and James R. Tobin, former CEO and president of Boston Scientific Corporation, both BSCP board members. A graduate of Lucerne University of Applied Sciences and Arts and Harvard University Graduate School of Business Administration, von Rickenbach worked for Schering-Plough and ERCO before cofounding PAREXEL.

The multinational company provides contract research, consultation and medical communication services to the pharmaceutical, biotechnology and medical device industries throughout the world. To help develop the industry's future workforce, PAREXEL maintains the PAREXEL Academic Institute. Through the Institute, PAREXEL recently partnered with Salem State University to offer a post-graduate certificate program in clinical trial management.

When he was approached by Termeer and Tobin, von Rickenbach says he agreed

to join the BSCP board because, "The life sciences industry has an obligation and self-interest to facilitate diverse talent in the workplace. By fostering diversity of thought, we grow as an industry. In fact, different perspectives force organizations to think differently — and that is a key to innovation."

But bringing out the individual potential of students means providing encouragement, support and guidance. It is a long-term commitment. "That's why BSCP's mission is so important and one we wholeheartedly support," he says.

PAREXEL employees attend Biomedical Science Careers Conferences and New England Science Symposia as panelists, mentors and judges. "It allows our company to contribute to the organization," he says. "Giving time and talent is as important as giving money."

But von Rickenbach also says he sees that much of his value as a board member is to "help with fundraisers. I've been trying to support that as much as I can. We also rallied around BSCP during the financial crisis. The guidance provided by the organization to students was especially important during the economic downturn."

In March, von Rickenbach was honored by the Massachusetts Biotechnology



JOSEF H. VON RICKENBACH

Council for his commitment and contributions to the state's biotechnology industry. In 2010, he was named executive of the year in North America at the seventh annual International Business Awards, which celebrate managerial excellence worldwide. And he won the Ernst & Young New England Entrepreneur of the Year Award in 1997, and has also served as a judge of the program. ■

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Student Profile

Angel Byrd

GROWING UP IN JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI, Angel Byrd used to accompany her mother, a social worker, to homeless shelters around town. She says the people and situations she saw there inspired her to study medicine. After graduating as class valedictorian from her high school, Byrd attended Tougaloo College, a small, historically black college that has a long-standing partnership with Brown University and early identification program for future study at its Warren Alpert Medical School. She was accepted into medical school there during her sophomore year of college, and graduated *magna cum laude* in 2004.

As an undergraduate, Byrd, who is in a combined MD/PhD program at Brown's Warren Alpert Medical School, was selected for the Leadership Alliance Research Early Identification Program, which provides opportunities for underrepresented minority students to perform scientific research, and the Minority International Research Training Program. Through the former, she performed research at The Weight Control and Diabetes Research Center at Brown. The latter enabled her to

spend a summer in Beijing, at the Peking University Health Science Center. "I really, really spread my wings," she says of that experience. "It was different in so many ways." Yet she deems it "one of the most memorable research experiences I've ever had." Through these combined experiences, Byrd says, "I fell in love [with research]."

Byrd learned about BSCP at a recruiting fair at the end of her first year of medical school. In 2006, she attended her first Biomedical Science Careers Student Conference and learned she didn't have to choose between research and practicing medicine. A BSCP Hope Scholarship recipient in 2011, Byrd delivered poster presentations at the New England Science Symposium in 2010–2012, and won the Ruth and William Silen, MD, first prize award for her oral presentation in 2013. She says she is "thankful and grateful... for all that the BSCP has done for me. They have been a major support, providing mentors, financially, and are always there whenever I call on them."

This future doctor admits that coming to Rhode Island from Mississippi was an

adjustment, but doing it in stages helped. She spent the second semester of her junior year as an exchange student at Brown. Still, coming north for medical and graduate school was a pretty dramatic transition. "New England was very different culturally. It was something I had to get used to," she says.

Once she graduates (she expects to have her PhD in March 2014 and MD in May 2016), Byrd says, "I absolutely want to try to do both [practice medicine and research]. I know they're two daunting fields, but I do not want to sacrifice interacting with patients or pursuing research." She wants to focus on pediatric endocrinology/diabetes and childhood obesity. At some point, she adds, "I want to go back and give back to home, especially thinking about the staggering numbers of childhood obesity in Mississippi." ■



ANGEL BYRD

Innovations from a BSCP Participant

Rafael Luna, PhD

WHILE IT IS AN ACCEPTED AXIOM that every picture tells a story, Rafael Luna, PhD, maintains that every scientific paper tells a story as well. He has formed a company, Luna Scientific Storytelling LLC, to spread the word. To date, he has delivered his message to more than 500 science, medical and postdoctoral students in the U.S. and Norway, and, he says, "My dance card is pretty full." His book, "The Art of Scientific Storytelling," is about to be released.

Luna, 41, is a postdoctoral research fellow in biological chemistry and molecular pharmacology at Harvard Medical School,

studying the biochemical mechanisms of cancer. Two years ago, he submitted his postdoctoral research manuscript for publication in a top journal, and it was rejected. He had been working with five professors, and "we all spoke different languages," he recalls. "Once I got one to agree, another disagreed. Everyone wrote it in their own language." Luna says the feedback he got from the reviewers was that the manuscript was badly written.

He had been working on the paper for two years and says that after the rejection and all the hard work, he was exhausted.

Thinking science might not be the right field for him, Luna enrolled in creative writing courses. The courses inspired him to rewrite the manuscript and resubmit it for publication. On his own, he "took chunks out, moved things around, finished the manuscript," then sent



RAFAEL LUNA, PHD

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the edited version to his collaborators. They all liked it. This time, it was published.

Luna, whose first love as a youth was storytelling, realized there was nobody in the sciences teaching people how to deliver their information in a way that others could relate to. In 2012, Luna Scientific Storytelling was officially launched. "It's science moving forward," he says. "You can't describe science like you used to. You have to have a story."

Born in Washington, D.C., to a mother from El Salvador and a father from the Dominican Republic, Luna's first language was Spanish. His father operated a video store out of the family home, and Luna watched all the movies they rented so he would be able to recommend them to customers. This gave him an early appreciation for stories, he says, not science. When he was applying to college, he wanted to major in English or history, but the only scholarships available were in science. He attended Southern University in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, on a biology scholarship and, he says, "I fell in love with science."

After graduation Luna worked at the National Institutes of Health and deepened his appreciation for biomedical science. He went on to earn a PhD in biological sciences, with a concentration in microbiology, at Louisiana State University. He describes his work now as "deciphering biochemical mechanisms by moving proteins around and making stories out of them. Now I really love what I do."

When Luna got to Harvard Medical School in 2005, he became involved with BSCP. "Because I'm an underrepresented minority, it was so great to connect with others with diverse backgrounds," he says. "Dr. Reede and Lise [Kaye] are incredible people. The combination of Lise and Dean Reede... is probably the reason I'm still here."

The one aspect of Luna's life that is a bit lacking, he acknowledges, is sleep. "I eat, dream and sleep storytelling." ■

2013 Hope Scholarship Winners

Te-Ana A. Harris, MD Candidate Tufts University School of Medicine Sponsored by The Fleming Family

Te-Ana Harris, a native of Boston, Massachusetts, is a second-year medical student at Tufts University School of Medicine. She graduated from Connecticut College, where she designed her own major, biopsychosocial studies. After graduating, she was a substitute teacher for Boston Public Schools and a science instructor with the Upward Bound program at Roxbury Community College and Boston Urban Scholars program at the University of Massachusetts. She is a 2003, 2004 and 2007 Project Success alumna at Harvard Medical School, where she studied Kaposi's sarcoma, cancer risk among truck drivers and incidence of smoke-related disease. Te-Ana attended the Biomedical Science Careers Student Conference in 2002, 2004, 2006, 2010 and 2012. She is passionate about global health issues, which she was first exposed to working in a public clinic in Peru.

Djadé I. Soumana, PhD Candidate University of Massachusetts Medical School Sponsored by Biogen Idec Foundation

Djadé Soumana has spent his life shuttling between New York City and Niger, in West Africa. In 2004, he received an undergraduate degree in biochemistry from the University of Massachusetts Amherst. After working in Harvard Medical School's genetics department, Djadé was inspired to pursue a graduate education in biomedical research. He is a doctoral candidate in biochemistry and molecular pharmacology at the University of Massachusetts Medical School. Djadé has received several training scholarships. Djadé attended the BSCP Conference in 2008 and 2010, and the New England Science Symposium (NESS) in 2011 and 2012. At the 2013 NESS, he was awarded a Ruth and William Silen, MD, Award. He aspires to work on global health issues in an academic setting.

Vivian Ortiz, MD Candidate Meharry Medical College Sponsored by Vertex Pharmaceuticals

Vivian Ortiz, born in Bogotá, Colombia, moved to the United States in 2000. She is a second-year medical student at Meharry Medical College. In 2010, she graduated with honors from Brown University, where she majored in biochemistry and molecular biology. For two years after college, Ortiz received a Diversity Supplement from the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism to explore the mechanisms of viral susceptibility to hepatitis C in alcoholics at the Liver Research Center of Rhode Island Hospital and the Warren Alpert Medical School of Brown University. She attended the Biomedical Science Careers Student Conference in 2010 and 2012, and presented her research at the NESS in 2010–2013. She has served on the NESS planning committee since 2011. Vivian aims to pursue scientific research and academic medicine.

Fabian Ortega, PhD Candidate Stanford University Sponsored by Genzyme, a Sanofi company

Fabian Ortega, born in Peru, moved to New York with his family in 2003, when he was 12. He is a PhD candidate at Stanford University. He graduated from Yale University, where he studied molecular biophysics and biochemistry, in 2013. At Yale, Fabian examined the molecular mechanisms of the process that generates antibody diversity. He was also involved with the student-run organization, MAS (Math and Science) Familias, which encourages students to pursue careers in medicine and research and aims to add diversity to careers in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM). Fabian attended the Biomedical Science Careers Student Conference in 2010 and 2012. He presented his research at the NESS in 2011 and submitted an abstract in 2013. He received the 2013 Howard Hughes Medical Institute Gilliam Fellowship for Advanced Study. ■

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, high school seniors and juniors.

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

Evening of Hope

Thursday, May 1, 2014, The Westin Copley Place

Reception: 6:00 p.m.

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

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

ABSTRACT DEADLINE: January 9, 2014

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

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.

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Biomedical Science Careers Student Conference

Friday, April 4 and Saturday, April 5, 2014, The Westin Copley Place

BSCP WILL HOLD ITS 12TH BIENNIAL Biomedical Science Careers Student Conference for postdoctoral fellows; medical, dental, and graduate students; post-baccalaureates; college and community college students; and high school seniors and juniors (particularly African-American, Hispanic/Latino or American Indian/Alaska Native students/fellows) on Friday, April 4 and Saturday, April 5, 2014 at The Westin Copley Place in Boston, Massachusetts. The conference will offer breakout and plenary sessions, keynote addresses, group meetings between

mentors/advisors and students and a program featuring science resources that will include internships, summer programs and after-school activities. The first objective of this conference is to provide the students and fellows with an opportunity to network with advisors and role models from the basic and clinical sciences, medicine, public health, academic administration and biotechnology. The advisors and role models will encourage students to complete advanced studies and provide concrete advice and information on available resources, professional opportunities and

career paths in biomedical and other science-related fields. The second objective is to enable students to meet, inspire and network with one another, thus decreasing minority student isolation and fostering a system of support.

There is no registration fee for this program but pre-registration is required. Applications will be available in October 2013. For more information, please contact Lise D. Kaye, executive director, Biomedical Science Careers Program, at lise_kaye@hms.harvard.edu or (617) 432-0552.