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Cancer Biology Research by Students Shines at National Biomedical and Behavioral Research Conference

Washington, DC (November 28, 2012). The Annual Biomedical Research Conference for Minority Students (ABRCMS) congratulates 19 students who received awards for cancer biology research presented at the 2012 conference, held November 7-10 in San Jose, California. ABRCMS, the largest professional conference of its kind in the nation, is designed to encourage underrepresented minority students to pursue advanced training in the biomedical and behavioral sciences, including STEM disciplines; it also provides faculty with resources for facilitating student success.

More than 3,400 people attended ABRCMS in 2012, including approximately 2,100 students, 550 faculty and program directors, and 540 recruiters for graduate and summer research programs. More than 1,700 of the attending students participated in poster and oral presentations in 12 subdisciplines of the biomedical and behavioral sciences. All undergraduate and postbaccalaureate presentations were evaluated by active-researcher scientists, and the students with the highest scores in each scientific discipline and for each educational level received monetary awards. Twenty-five organizations contributed to awards of $250 each to 277 students for outstanding research, and the awards for the cancer biology discipline — sponsored by the Gerstner Sloan-Kettering Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences, Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center — were presented to the students listed below.

**Oral Presentations**
- Jordan Harbin, Senior, California Polytechnic San Luis Obispo
- Kyle Nakatsu, Sophomore, Southern Methodist University
- Alyssa Dixon, Sophomore, Chaminade University of Honolulu
- Diane Fru, Junior, Iowa State University
- Deborah Kim, Junior, Stony Brook University
- Joshua Leggette, Junior, Tougaloo College
- Rajeswari Murugan, Senior, Nova Southeastern University
- Wyatt Pickner, Senior, University of South Dakota
- Rachel Primacio, Senior, University of California – San Diego
- Ivan Ramirez, Senior, Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis
- Joe Rowles,* Sophomore, University of Missouri – Columbia
- Blake Scott, Senior, East Central University
- Seyedeh Tina Shamszadeh, Senior, University of California, Los Angeles
- Julio Silva, Junior, University of California – Los Angeles
- LaShanale Wallace,* Postbaccalaureate, Virginia Commonwealth University

Asterisks indicate recipients who were recognized with an additional $50 for interdisciplinary research.

“I’m extremely proud of the way that the students at ABRCMS are able to explain and defend their research,” says conference chair Clifford W. Houston, Associate Vice President for Educational Outreach and holder of the Herman Barnett Distinguished Professorship in Microbiology and Immunology, University of Texas Medical Branch. “By meritig recognition for research excellence, it is especially apparent that these presentation awardees are already on the road to successful careers in science.”

ABRCMS is managed by the American Society for Microbiology and supported by a grant from the Division of Training, Workforce Development, and Diversity of the National Institute of General Medical Sciences at the National Institutes of Health. The 2013 ABRCMS will be held November 13-16 in Nashville, Tennessee. For more information, please visit www.abrcms.org.

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