APS Awards More Than $96,000 to Its 2011 Undergraduate Research Fellows

Outstanding Local Student Is One of 24 National Winners

April 22, 2011 – BETHESDA, MD – The American Physiological Society (APS) is pleased to announce its 2011 Undergraduate Research Fellows. Fellowship winners spend the summer in the laboratory of an established scientist and APS member. Now in its 13th year, this program aims to excite and encourage students about careers in biomedical research. In 2011, 48 applicants vied for the 24 research positions.

Selection of participants was based upon academic merit, the perceived quality of the proposed experience and the availability of appropriate faculty mentors. Special consideration was given to applicants whose socioeconomic background, access to educational opportunities, and other life experiences suggest that they would especially benefit from this type of program.

Each fellow receives a $4,000 stipend to cover living expenses during the 10-week fellowship. Fellows also will receive an additional $1,300 in travel funds to present their research at the Experimental Biology 2012 meeting in San Diego, CA, which is expected to attract nearly 14,000 scientists.

During the Program, each Fellow will participate in hands-on research experience in the lab of an established investigator learning to develop a hypothesis, design and troubleshoot experiments, collect and analyze data, write up and present results. They will have opportunities to network with other undergraduates interested in biomedical research, to explore the nature of research and how scientists think about their specific question, to explore career options and what it takes to be successful in those careers, and have their career questions answered by members of the Career Opportunities in Physiology Committee.

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2011 Undergraduate Research Fellows:

Nicholas Clute-Reinig - Pomona College, Claremont, CA
Research Host: Virginia L. Brooks, Ph.D. - Oregon Health Sciences University, Portland, OR

Julia H. Crowley - College of William & Mary, Williamsburg, VA
Research Host: M. Brennan Harris, Ph.D. - College of William & Mary, Williamsburg, VA

Jeff Engle – University of Iowa, Iowa City, IA
Research Host: Kevin P. Campbell, Ph.D. – University of Iowa, Iowa City, IA

Robert Fidelibus – Ohio State University, Columbus, OH
Research Host: Maqsood A. Chotani, Ph.D. - The Research Institute at Nationwide Children's Hospital, Columbus, OH

Jennifer Frielle - Gettysburg College, Hummelstown, PA
Research Host: Sean D. Stocker, Ph.D. - Pennsylvania State University College of Medicine, Hershey, PA

Michael F. Gowen - University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, PA
Research Host: Bill J. Yates, Ph.D. - University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, PA

Maria Gulas - Appalachian State University, Boone, NC
Research Host: Scott R. Collier, Ph.D. - Appalachian State University, Boone, NC

Kaitlyn Kennard - Ursinus College, Collegeville, PA
Research Host: Beth A. Bailey, Ph.D. - Ursinus College, Collegeville, PA

Tiffany Kuo - University of California, Davis, Davis, CA
Research Host: Anne A. Knowlton, M.D. - University of California, Davis, Davis, CA

Mali Lavi - Tel Aviv University, Tel Aviv, Israel
Research Host: Noga Kronfeld-Schor, Ph.D. - Tel Aviv University, Tel Aviv, Israel

Anfei Li - Cornell University, Ithaca, NY
Research Host: Robin L. Davisson, Ph.D., Cornell University, Ithaca, NY

Erin E. McClure - Juniata College, Huntingdon, PA
Research Host: Gregory L. Stahl, D.Phil. - Brigham & Women’s Hospital, Boston, MA

Edward J. McKenna - University of Wisconsin-Madison, Madison, WI
Research Host: William G. Schrage, Ph.D. - University of Wisconsin-Madison, Madison, WI

Stephanie M. Mutchler - College of William & Mary, Williamsburg, VA
Research Host: Robin C. Looft-Wilson, Ph.D. - College of William & Mary, Williamsburg, VA

Bonnie K. Patchen - Williams College, Williamstown, MA
Research Host: Steven J. Swoap, Ph.D. - Williams College, Williamstown, MA

Irina Popovich - University of California, Merced, Merced, CA
Research Host: Rudy M. Ortiz, Ph.D. - University of California, Merced, Merced, CA

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Darcy J. Porter – University of Kentucky, Lexington, KY
Research Host: Francisco H. Andrade, Ph.D. - University of Kentucky, Lexington, KY

Margaret Robotham - Barnard College, New York City, NY
Research Host: Rae Silver, Ph.D. - Barnard College, New York City, NY

Louis A. Ruiz - University of Puerto Rico, Rio Piedras Campus, San Juan, PR
Research Host: Sabzali Javadov, Ph.D. - University of Puerto Rico School of Medicine, San Juan, PR

Amy Shiah - University of California-San Diego, La Jolla, CA
Research Host: Michael C. Hogan, Ph.D. - University of California, San Diego, La Jolla, CA

Casey A. Toombs - University of New England, Biddeford, ME
Research Host: Markus Frederich, Ph.D. - University of New England, Biddeford, ME

Asmae Toumi - McGill University, Montreal, Quebec, Canada
Research Host: Laurie J. Goodyear, Ph.D. - Joslin Diabetes Center, Harvard Medical School, Boston, MA

Rebekah I. Webster - Radford University, Radford, VA
Research Host: Mark A. Cline, D.Phil. - Radford University, Radford, VA

Brian P. Wynia - South Dakota State University, Sioux Falls, SD
Research Host: Richard D. Minshall, Ph.D. - University of Illinois, Chicago, Chicago, IL

The Undergraduate Summer Research Fellowships program is sponsored by the APS Career Opportunities in Physiology Committee and funded by the APS Council. To set up an interview with one of the fellows or their research hosts or to find out more about APS and its educational and award program initiatives, contact Melinda Lowy, APS Higher Education Programs Coordinator (301-634-7787; mlowy@the-aps.org) or log onto www.the-aps.org/education/index.htm.

The American Physiological Society is a professional scientific membership organization devoted to fostering scientific research, education, and the dissemination of scientific information. The APS supports a variety of educational activities including programs and fellowships to encourage the development of young scientists at the undergraduate and graduate levels, with a particular focus on women and underrepresented minorities. APS also supports refresher courses and teaching awards promoting continued excellence in education at the professional level. In May, 2004, APS won the Presidential Award for Excellence in Science, Mathematics and Engineering Mentoring (PAESMEM).

Founded in 1887, the Society’s membership includes more than 10,000 professionals in science and medicine.