

The APS presented awards to minority undergraduate researchers and was a major conference sponsor at the Annual Biomedical Research Conference for Minority Students (ABRCMS) at the Austin Convention Center in Austin, Texas from November 7-10, 2007. ABRCMS is a national conference designed to facilitate increased minority involvement in biomedical and behavioral science careers. This three-day conference encompassed scientific presentations, professional development workshops, poster and oral presentations, and numerous networking opportunities with faculty and administrators from graduate schools, government agencies, scientific societies and foundations.

ABRCMS has grown to one of the largest professional conferences for biomedical and behavioral students since its inception in 2001. Over 2,400 individuals attended the 2007 ABRCMS including 1,288 undergraduate students, 289 graduate students, 76 postbaccalaureate students, and 35 postdoctoral scientists.

The APS, represented by one of the two K-12 Minority Outreach Fellows, **Clintoria Richards-Williams**, was pleased to present \$330 awards to six undergraduate students for the best oral and poster presentations in the physiological sciences during the conference. Students also receive a complimentary one-year print subscription to *Physiology*, an APS denim shirt and are added to the Minority Physiologists Listserv. Fourteen judges, including APS members, **Latanya Hammonds-Odie**, Spelman College, **Evangeline Motley**, Meharry Medical College, **Shyamal Premaratne**, Virginia Union University, **J. Larry Renfro**, University of Connecticut, **Richard B. Robinson**, Columbia University, **Roy L. Sutliff**, Emory University, selected the winners:

Kwesi Blackman (Undergraduate Sophomore)

Kingsborough Community College

Di-(2-ethylhexyl) Phthalate (DEHP) Affects *Drosophila melanogaster* Development Possibly Through Meiotic Defects During Spermatogenesis

Obinna Mmagu (Undergraduate Junior)

University of Delaware

The PPAR α Agonist, Fenofibrate, Increases MUC1 Expression in T47D Breast Cancer Cells

Chau Tran (Undergraduate Junior)

University of California, San Diego

The Role of Matrix Gla Protein in Preventing Systemic Calcification of Soft Tissues

Leslie Amonoo (Undergraduate Senior)

The University of Iowa

MAP2 Expression in Mouse Retina and its Potential Contributions to Blinding Eye Disease

Reyniak Richards (Undergraduate Senior)

Oakwood College

Binding Studies of Aptamer and Universal Antidote Complexes

Debi Thomas (Undergraduate Senior)

University of California, Davis

Perinatal Exposure to 2,2',4,4'-Tetrabromodiphenyl Ether (PBDE-47) Retards Growth and Delays Neurodevelopment of C57BL/6J Mice

The APS congratulates the students on a job well done and wishes them the best in their academic pursuits.

The APS Education office also staffed an exhibit booth, highlighting the following awards, programs and resources for minority groups underrepresented in science:

- **APS/NIDDK Minority Travel Fellowship**, providing travel support for 50-70 students annually. This fellowship provides funds to attend Experimental Biology and the fall APS conferences. Awardees also are paired with a mentor, an APS member, in their area of research. The intent of this program is to increase participation of pre- and post-doctoral minority students in the physiological sciences.
- **Undergraduate Summer Research Fellowship**, supporting up to 12 fellowships each year. Fellowships support full-time undergraduate students to work in the laboratory of an APS member. The goal of this program is to excite and encourage students to pursue a career as a basic research scientist.
- **Porter Physiology Fellowship Program**, supporting minority students pursuing full-time studies toward a Ph.D. in the physiological sciences.
- **APS Minority Listserv**, providing information on APS News, awards, grants, fellowships, science news, positions available and more.

The Career brochure and Career web site, the Archive of Teaching Resources, the Timeline of Physiology, membership for students, and Experimental Biology 2008 also were provided for participants.

The ABRCMS meeting is sponsored by a grant from the National Institute of General Medical Sciences (NIGMS) Minority Opportunities for Research Programs (MORE), which includes the MARC, MBRS:RISE, MBRS: SCORE, MBRS:IMSD, MBRS, and BRIDGES programs and is coordinated by the American Society for Microbiology. For more information see www.abrcms.org. For more information regarding the awards, programs and fellowships administered by the APS Education Office, please visit <http://www.the-aps.org/education/index.htm> or contact the office at education@the-aps.org or (301) 634-7132.