

## 2009 APS/NIDDK Minority Travel Fellows Attend Experimental Biology in New Orleans

The APS regularly awards Travel Fellowships for underrepresented minority scientists and students to attend APS scientific meetings with funds provided by the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases (NIDDK). These Fellowships provide funds for registration, transportation, meals, and lodging for travel to a meeting location, as well as complimentary meeting registration. Forty Fellows attended the APS annual meeting, "Experimental Biology" (EB) in New Orleans, LA from April 18-22, 2009.

Fellows in the NIDDK Minority Travel program not only received financial support to attend these meetings, but were also provided professional guidance through pairings with APS members who served as meeting mentors to the Fellows for the duration of the conference. Thanks to the time and expertise offered by mentor volunteers, Fellows were able to expand their network of professional colleagues.

During EB, Fellows attended an orientation and reception on Saturday afternoon, a networking breakfast on Monday, and a luncheon on Wednesday. This year, the luncheon speaker was Adriana Briscoe, Univ. of California, Irvine. Briscoe's speech, "Pursuing a Life in Science: Lessons from my Teachers," reflected on mentoring and networking in the scientific community.

The travel awards are open to graduate students, postdoctoral students, and

advanced undergraduate students from minority groups underrepresented in science (i.e., African Americans, Hispanics, Native Americans, and Pacific Islanders). Students must be US citizens or permanent residents. The specific intent of this award is to increase participation of pre- and post-doctoral minority students in the physiological sciences. For more information, contact Brooke Bruthers in the APS Education Office at 301-634-7132 or [bbruthers@the-aps.org](mailto:bbruthers@the-aps.org), or visit [www.the-aps.org/education/minority\\_prog/index.htm](http://www.the-aps.org/education/minority_prog/index.htm) on the APS website.

**APS Travel Fellows at "Experimental Biology 2009:** Adebowale Adebisi, Univ. of Tennessee Health Science Center; Imo Akpan, Univ. of Pennsylvania; Gustavo R. Ares, Henry Ford Hospital; Sydella Blatch, National Institutes of Health; Krystal N. Brinson, Medical College of Georgia; Raquel M. Brown, Southern Illinois Univ.; Heidi L. Contreras, Univ. of California, Irvine; Zeliann Rivera Craig, Univ. of Arizona; John H. Dubinion, Univ. of Mississippi Medical Center; Jorge L. Gamboa, Univ. of Kentucky; Fernanda RC Giachini, Univ. of Sao Paulo/Medial College of Georgia; Shea Gilliam-Davis, Wake Forest Univ. School of Medicine; Albert L. Gonzales, Colorado State Univ.; Helmut Bandeira Gottlieb, Univ. of the Incarnate Word; Dolores Doane Guest, Univ. of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign; TanYa Gwathmey,

Wake Forest Univ.; Andres Hernandez, Auburn Univ.; Marcela Herrera, Henry Ford Hospital; Michael Hoffman, Univ. of Wisconsin-Madison; Debra L. Irsik, Univ. of Nebraska Medical Center; Erin M. Keen-Rhinehart, Harbor UCLA Medical Center; Anna K. Leal, UT Southwestern; Natasha Lugo-Escobar, Univ. of Puerto Rico Medical Sciences Campus; Jeffrey B. Mason, Univ. of Pennsylvania School of Veterinary Medicine; Keisa Mathis, LSUHSC; Cathy C. Moore, Univ. of North Carolina at Charlotte; Norma B. Ojeda, Univ. of Mississippi Medical Center; Karl D. Pendergrass, Wake Forest Univ.; Arthur J. Pope, Univ. Of Florida; Clintoria L. Richards-Williams, Univ. of Alabama at Birmingham; Lilliana Sanchez, Univ. of New Mexico; Olga I. Santiago, Ponce School of Medicine; Aerial L. Singleton, New Mexico State Univ.; Mesia M. Steed, Wake Forest Univ.; Carmen M. Troncoso Brindeiro, Univ. of Nebraska Medical Center; Carla M. Trujillo, New Mexico State Univ.; Johana Vallejo-Elias, Midwestern Univ.-Arizona Osteopathic School of Medicine; Vabren L. Watts, Meharry Medical College; Letitia Weigand, Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health; Leslie D. White, Univ. of Florida-College of Medicine; Justin L. Wilson, Howard Univ.

**APS Meeting Mentors at "Experimental Biology 2009:** Adebowale Adebisi, Univ. of Tennessee Health Science Center; Moshe Levi,



APS/NIDDK Minority Travel Fellows at the EB 2009 Luncheon.