APS Awards $142,500 to Its 2016 STEP-UP Undergraduate Research Fellows

25 Fellows in the 2016 Cohort

Bethesda, Md. (May 25, 2016)—The American Physiological Society (APS) is pleased to announce its 2016 Short-Term Education Program for Underrepresented Persons (STEP-UP) Fellows. Fellowship winners spend the summer in the laboratory of an established scientist and APS member or other biomedical researcher. The STEP-UP program recruits undergraduate students nationwide from disadvantaged backgrounds and from underrepresented racial and ethnic groups and students with disabilities to work with researchers in the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases (NIDDK) mission areas of diabetes, endocrinology and metabolic disease; digestive diseases and nutrition; and kidney, urologic and hematologic diseases.

2016 STEP-UP Fellows:
(Research hosts are listed under each Fellow’s name)

Nana Acquah – University of Pennsylvania
Grace Zhang, PhD – George Washington University

Pravleen Bains – Illinois State University
Peter Aronson, Ph.D. – Yale University

Benchaa Boualam – University of Maryland, College Park
Grace Zhang, PhD – George Washington University

Rosemary Carter – Rochester Institute of Technology
Jason Kim, PhD – University of Massachusetts Medical School

Efe Disi – University of Kentucky
Jeffrey Osborn, PhD – University of Kentucky
Elizabeth Escobar – University of Notre Dame
Xiaonan Wang, PhD – Emory University School of Medicine

Ibrahim Finley – Jackson State University
Frank A. Anania, MD – Emory University School of Medicine

Laura Galarza-Paez – Emory University
Douglas Eaton, PhD – Emory University

Juan Infante – Harvard University
Brian R. Noga, PhD – University of Miami School of Medicine

Daenique Jengelley – Tuskegee University
Carmella Evans-Molina, MD, PhD – Indiana University

Maria Andrea Jurado – Columbia University
Benjamin Fogelgren, PhD – University of Hawaii

Zulikayida Maimaiti – Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Solange P. Brown, MD, PhD – Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine

Marda Mengesha – University of Maryland, College Park
Rebecca Brown, MD – NIDDK

Clayton Moralez – University of Arizona
Heddwen L. Brooks, PhD – University of Arizona

Prisca Obi – Harvard College
Gordon Freeman, PhD – Dana-Farber Cancer Center

Alexander Pabón – University of Puerto Rico in Bayamon
Jorge Duconge, PhD – University of Puerto Rico, Medical Sciences Campus

Cayra Ramirez Santiago – University of Puerto Rico, Rio Piedra Campus
Mark W. Miller, PhD – University of Puerto Rico School of Medicine

Mariela Rosa – University of Puerto Rico, Rio Piedra Campus
Polina Lishko, PhD – University of California, Berkeley

Maia Schumacher – Seattle University
Wendy Thomas, PhD – University of Washington

Whitney Sheets – West Virginia University
Paul Chantler, PhD – West Virginia University

Fuad Sirmolo – University of Maryland at Baltimore
Sheng Wu, PhD – Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine
Fellows are selected based on academic merit, a personal statement, resume/CV and references. Each Fellow receives a $4,500 stipend during the 8–12-week summer research experience and an additional $1,200 in travel funds to present his or her research at the STEP-UP Summer Research Symposium, July 31 – August 4, 2016 in Bethesda at the National Institutes of Health (NIH). Research hosts receive $500 for student lab supplies.

STEP-UP Fellows participate in hands-on research and learn to develop a hypothesis, design and troubleshoot experiments, collect and analyze data, and write and present results. In addition, Fellows have the opportunity to:

- network with other APS undergraduate Fellows interested in biomedical research,
- explore the nature of research and the scientific process,
- investigate career options and what it takes to find career success,
- pose their career questions to members of the APS Porter Physiology Development and Minority Affairs Committee and Advisory Board, and
- learn about common ethical issues in figure and text preparation.

*The STEP-UP program is supported by a grant from the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases (NIDDK; 1 R25 DK95492-01).*

To set up an interview with one of the Fellows or a research host or to find out more about APS and its educational and award program initiatives, visit the APS website or contact Brooke Bruthers, APS senior program manager, diversity programs (301-634-7226), or Miranda Byse,
APS program manager, Life Science Teaching Resource Community and professional skills training (240-743-8045), or visit the APS STEP-UP website.

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**About the APS Education Department:** 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.

APS is a proud past recipient of the Presidential Award for Excellence in Science, Mathematics and Engineering Mentoring (PAESMEM).

**About the APS:** Physiology is the study of how molecules, cells, tissues and organs function in health and disease. Established in 1887, the American Physiological Society (APS) was the first U.S. society in the biomedical sciences field. The Society represents more than 11,000 members and publishes 14 peer-reviewed journals with a worldwide readership.