APS Awards $31,800 to Its 2015 Undergraduate Research Excellence Fellows

Six Fellows in the 2015 Cohort

Bethesda, Md. (May 20, 2015)—The American Physiological Society (APS) is pleased to announce its 2015 Undergraduate Research Excellence Fellowship (UGREF) winners. Fellowship recipients spend the summer in the laboratory of an established scientist and APS member. Now in its second year, this program seeks to encourage students to pursue careers as basic research scientists. In 2015, 28 applicants worldwide vied for the six research positions.

2015 UGREF Fellows:
(APS member-hosts are listed under each Fellow’s name)

Alexa J. Anderson – The University of Utah
Sarah Franklin, PhD – The University of Utah

Slavina B. Goleva – University of Kentucky
Jeffrey L. Osborn, PhD – University of Kentucky

Kashif Osmani – University of Illinois at Chicago
Mrinalini C. Rao, PhD – University of Illinois at Chicago

Shahana Prakash – University of Cincinnati
Bryan Mackenzie, PhD – University of Cincinnati College of Medicine

Elisa Viveros – Universidad ICESI
Barbara E. Ehrlich, PhD – Yale School of Medicine | Yale University

Nicholas Yee – University of Calgary
Richard L. Hughson, PhD – University of Waterloo

Participants are selected based on academic merit, the quality of the proposed experience and the availability of appropriate faculty mentors. Students must have at least nine months or more of research experience in a lab to be eligible.

Each Fellow receives a $4,000 stipend during the 10-week fellowship and an additional $1,300
in travel funds to present his or her research at the Experimental Biology 2016 meeting in San Diego, which is expected to attract nearly 14,000 attendees. Research hosts receive $300 for student lab supplies.

UGREF 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 undergraduates 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 Career Opportunities in Physiology Committee,
- learn about common ethical issues in figure and text preparation, and
- write a mini-manuscript based on previous data.

The UGREF 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 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 Melinda Lowy, APS Senior Program Manager, Higher Education Programs (301-634-7787), or visit the APS UGREF 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. In May 2004, APS won 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.