Career Development Grants for Postdoctoral Women

2017 AWARDEES
(listed alphabetically)

Valerie C. Cortez

Institution: St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital, Memphis, TN  
Advisor: Stacey Schultz-Cherry  
Research Areas:
  • Determine the incidence and duration of astrovirus infections in St. Jude patients (retrospective and prospective), which will then be correlated with clinical information (i.e., symptoms, cancer diagnosis, and demographic data) to define the significance of these infections, as well as how they affect the patients’ cancer treatments  
Use of Award:
  • Attend the Gordon Conference on Viruses and Cells, Gordon Seminar on Viruses and Cells in Lucca, Italy

Erica L.-W. Majumder

Institution: University of Missouri, Columbia  
Advisor: Judy Wall

Research Areas:
  • Study sulfur chemistry & thioredoxin proteins in sulfate-reducing bacteria uranium reduction process  
  • Deduce energy flows and involved genes in uranium reduction mechanisms  
  • Determine cellular thiol chemistry and role of thioredoxin proteins in SRB with metabolomics, proteomics, biochemical and genetic techniques  
  • Culture & characterize microbial isolates & flocculants from contaminated sites

Use of Award:
  • Attend the International Society of Subsurface Microbiology 2017 Conference in Rotorua, New Zealand
Emily M. Nowicki

**Institution:** University of Texas at Austin  
**Advisor:** Marvin Whiteley  
**Research Areas:**  
- Study the transition of the oral microbiome from health to periodontal disease through both phylogenetic (16S rDNA and rRNA sequencing) and metatranscriptome analysis of dental plaque  
- Develop a new mouse infection protocol to study the fitness of bacterial pathogens during latent and acute herpesvirus infection  
- Work with an undergraduate researcher to study the fitness of Pseudomonas species in soil  
**Use of Award:**  
- Attend and present at the ASM Conference for Undergraduate Educators (ASMCUE); Denver, CO

Lori Shapiro

**Institution:** North Carolina State University  
**Advisor:** Rob Dunn  
**Research Areas:**  
- Characterize the ecological conditions and genetic mechanisms that have facilitated the recent emergence of *Erwinia tracheiphila* (Et) into susceptible crop plant populations  
**Use of Award:**  
- Travel to co-teach Biocontrol Course and then conduct field work through The International Organization for Biological Control (Asia and Pacific Region) and the International Center for Tropical Agriculture (CIAT); Hanoi, Vietnam