A Look Into the Past, Highlighting Fellows Accomplishments

ASM Fellowship Programs (2011-2013)
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American Society for Microbiology, 1752 N Street, N.W. Washington, D.C. 20036
ABOUT THE AMERICAN SOCIETY FOR MICROBIOLOGY
The American Society for Microbiology (ASM) is the oldest and largest single life science membership organization in the world. Membership has grown from 59 scientists in 1899 to more than 43,000 members today, with more than one third located outside the United States. The members represent 26 disciplines of microbiological specialization plus a division for microbiology educators.

The Society’s mission is to advance microbiological sciences through the pursuit of scientific knowledge and dissemination of the results of fundamental and applied research.

ASM will:
- Support programs of education, training and public information;
- Publish journals and books;
- Convene meetings, workshops and colloquia;
- Promote the contributions and promise of the microbiological sciences;
- Recognize achievement and distinction among its practitioners; and
- Set standards of ethical and professional behavior.

ABOUT THE CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION
The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is the nation’s premier public health agency—working to ensure healthy people in a healthy world. Its mission is “to promote health and quality of life by preventing and controlling disease, injury, and disability.”

LETTER FROM THE CHAIR OF THE EDUCATION BOARD

In the most recent formulation of the Education Board’s Strategic Plan, the Board reaffirmed its commitment to provide exceptional educational opportunities and professional development to individuals interested in careers in the field of microbiology.

Currently the Board offers four fellowship programs to undergraduate and graduate students as well as postdoctoral scientists and one research capstone program, and undergraduate research capstone institute. All of the fellowships/capstone, with the exception of the ASM/CDC Postdoctoral Fellowship Program, are funded by ASM.

The Education Board has worked hard to increase the quality of the fellowship program since its inception. This would not have been possible without the continued support of the ASM leadership, the many volunteer members, and ASM staff who spent numerous hours processing and reviewing applications submitted to the various programs.

I would also like to acknowledge the very important work done by the ASM faculty mentors who work with our fellows to guide and encourage them in their pursuit of careers in the microbiological sciences.

The Board is proud to highlight the accomplishments of the 2011 – 2013 fellows and is looking forward to yet another successful year in 2014.

Sincerely,

Neil R. Baker, Ph.D.
Chair, Education Board
Executive Summary of Fellowship Programs
(Information Based on Longitudinal Study Conducted in 2013)

ASM/CDC Postdoctoral Research Fellowship Program

In 1993, ASM entered into a cooperative agreement with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), to manage the ASM/CDC Resident Postdoctoral Research Fellows Program in Infectious Diseases and Public Health Microbiology.

The ASM/CDC Postdoctoral Research Fellowship Program is a comprehensive training program that provides opportunities to participate in interdisciplinary training on global public health issues. The program provides postdoctoral fellows opportunities to conduct novel research with the overall objective of developing practical application of microbiology, immunology, and epidemiology for the diagnosis and prevention of infectious diseases. Fellows perform research in residence at one of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention locations.

Fellow positions are for 2 years, and the annual stipend ranges from $44,890 to $47,642. Up to $5,500 of additional money is available for professional development and health insurance benefits. In this report, we will focus on the 2011-2013 recipients. Twenty-one (100%) were tracked via the online survey and via email.

Below is a summary of the survey findings.

Current Status Overall:
Of the 21 fellows who responded, 6 are employed full-time, 16 are in a first or second postdoctoral position, and 1 is seeking a postdoctoral position or full-time employment.

Employment Information:
Of those employed, 1 is employed by an academic institution, 3 are employed by the government. Of the fellows pursuing research training, 17 are currently pursuing a first postdoctoral position.
Demographics:
Of the 21 fellows who received the fellowship between 2011-2013, 6 were male and 15 were female. Three of respondents identified themselves as African American, 14 as Caucasian, 2 as foreign nationals, 1 as Hispanic, and 1 as Asian.

Total Number of Awards (2011 – 2013)
In 2011, forty-five applicants applied to the program and eight were awarded. In 2012, sixty-six applicants applied to the program and eight were awarded. In 2013, fifty applicants applied to the program and six were awarded.

ASM Robert D. Watkins Graduate Research Fellowship Program

Thirty years ago in 1980, the ASM launched the first national fellowship program for minority graduate students in the microbiological sciences. It was first titled the ASM Minority Predoctoral Fellowship Program. Today, the program is titled the Robert D. Watkins Graduate Research Fellowship. The Watkins fellowship encourages senior-level graduate students from underrepresented groups to conduct research in the microbiological sciences. The goal of the fellowship is to increase the number of graduate students from underrepresented groups completing doctoral degrees in the microbiological sciences.

The program provides a total stipend up to $63,000 ($21,000 a year) for a 3-year period and travel support to attend the ASM General Meeting. Additional travel support is available to attend the ASM Kadner Institute or the ASM Scientific Writing and Publishing Institute one time during the 3-year tenure of the fellowship.

In this report, we will focus on the 2011-2013 recipients. Nineteen (100%) were tracked via the online survey and via email.
Below is a summary of the survey findings.

**Current Status Overall:**
Of the 19 fellows who responded, 14 are senior graduate students and 5 are postdoctoral scientists.

**Demographics:**
Of the 19 fellows who received the fellowship between 2011-2013, 6 were male and 13 were female. Four of respondents identified themselves as African American, 1 as Black, 1 as Black/White, 2 as Foreign National, 6 Latino/Hispanic American, 1 as Hmong, 1 as Native American, and 3 as Pacific Islander.

**Total Number of Awards (2011 – 2013)**
In 2011, forty-four applicants applied to the program and seven were awarded. In 2012, twenty-four applicants applied to the program and five were awarded. In 2013, thirty-three applicants applied to the program and seven were awarded.
ASM Undergraduate Research Fellowship Program

In 1993, ASM established a second undergraduate research fellowship called the Undergraduate Research Fellowship (URF) Program. This fellowship encourages undergraduate students to pursue careers or advanced degrees in the microbiological sciences by providing an opportunity to participate in a research project with an ASM faculty member at their home institution and gain experience in presenting the results of their research at the ASM General Meeting.

The program offers up to $4,000 stipend, 2-year ASM student membership, and up to $1,000 in travel expenses to attend the ASM Research Capstone Institute and the ASM General Meeting.

In this report, we will focus on the 2011-2013 recipients. One hundred ten out of one hundred twenty-eight (86%) were tracked via the online survey and via email.

Below is a summary of the survey findings.

Current Status Overall:
Of the 110 fellows who responded, 5 (5%) are employed full-time, 35 (32%) are undergraduate students, 3 (2%) are pursuing postbaccalaureate programs, 38 (35%) are pursuing graduate studies (e.g. nursing school, M.D. or M.D/Ph.D.), and 29 (26%) are seeking laboratory research positions.

Employment Information:
Of those employed, 4 are employed by the government, 3 by academic institutions.

Demographics:
Of the 128 fellows who received the fellowship between 2011-2013, 57 (45%) were male and 71 (55%) were female. Four (3%) of respondents identified themselves as African American, 28 (22%) as Asian, 7 (5%) as Latino/Hispanic American, 86 (67%) as Caucasian, and 3 (2%) as Other.
Total Number of Awards (2011 – 2013)
In 2011, sixty-eight applicants applied to the program and thirty-eight were awarded. In 2012, one hundred twenty-two applicants applied to the program and fifty-three were awarded. In 2013, one hundred thirty-six applicants applied to the program and thirty-seven were awarded.

ASM Undergraduate Research Capstone Program

The ASM Undergraduate Research Capstone Program (UR-Capstone) is the successor program to the ASM-Microbiology Undergraduate Research Fellowship Program, formerly the Minority Undergraduate Research Fellowship program from several years ago.

The goal of this program is to help students maintain sustained engagement with ASM and further professional development skills in the microbiological sciences. This program, in contrast to the MURF program, seeks to enhance the presentation skills of students after their research experiences.

The program provides up to $1500 travel support to cover hotel accommodation, transportation, and the ASM General Meeting registration, 2 year ASM student membership, and attendance to ASM Research Capstone Institute and ASM General Meeting.

In this report, we will focus on the 2012 and 2013 recipients. Twenty-two out of twenty-three (96%) were tracked via the online survey and via email.

Below is a summary of the survey findings.

Current Status Overall:
Of the 22 fellows who responded, 11 (50%) are senior undergraduate students and 7 (32%) are pursuing graduate studies, 1 (4%) is employed by industry, 3 (14%) are post baccalaureate students.
Demographics:
Of the 23 capstone awardees who received the award in 2012 and 2013, 9 were male and 14 were female. Seven of respondents identified themselves as African American, 8 as Latino/Hispanic American, 5 as Caucasian, 1 as foreign national, and 1 as Asian.

Total Number of Awards (2012 – 2013)
In 2012, eight applicants applied to the program and six were awarded. In 2012, thirty-two applicants applied to the program and seventeen were awarded.
ASM/CDC POSTDOCTORAL RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM

The ASM/CDC Postdoctoral Fellowship Program is managed by the American Society for Microbiology (ASM) and sponsored by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). The goal of the program is to support the development of new approaches, methodologies, and knowledge in infectious disease prevention and control in areas within the public health mission of the CDC. The program allows fellows to perform research in residence headquartered at a CDC location.

Eligible fields of study include:
- Bacterial and mycotic diseases
- Viral and rickettsial infections
- Nosocomial infections
- HIV/AIDS
- Vector-borne infectious diseases
- Parasitic diseases

The fellowship provides an stipend (up to $46,106 annually), health benefits (up to $3,000 annually) for up to 2 years, relocation benefits (up to $500), and professional development funds (up to $2,000 annually) for a maximum of 2 years.

Funds are provided by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

REVIEW COMMITTEE

Peter J. Tattersall (chairperson)
Yale University Medical School

Paul C. Montgomery
Wayne State University School of Medicine

Shelley Payne
University of Texas at Austin

Maria Fatima Lima
Meharry Medical College

Peter W. Mason
Novartis Vaccines & Diagnostics

Burton Wilcke, Jr.
University of Vermont

Highlights and Accomplishments

Angela Bosco-Lauth is a postdoctoral fellow at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in Fort Collins, CO.

Conferences/Symposia
- Arbovirus Research in Australia and Mosquito Control Association Symposium, 2012 (oral)
- Colorado State University Veterinary Medicine and Biomedical Sciences Research Day, 2012 (poster) and 2011 (oral)
- American Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene Annual Meeting, 2011 (oral)
- National Wildlife Disease Program Annual Meeting, 2011 (oral)

Publications
- *PLOS ONE* (2012), 7(8):e43207
- *Veterinary Pathology* (2011), 48:1061-1074

Heather Carleton-Romer is a postdoctoral fellow at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in Atlanta, GA. Upon completion of the ASM/CDC Postdoctoral Research Fellowship Program, Carleton-Romer intends to develop next-generation techniques for foodborne disease surveillance.

Conferences/Symposia
- Association of Public Health Laboratories Annual Meeting, 2014 (invited plenary session speaker)
- Sequencing, Finishing, and Analysis in the Future Meeting 2014 (poster)
- ASM/CDC Postdoctoral Research Fellowship Research in Progress Conference, 2014 (invited speaker)
- InFORM meeting, 2013 (invited speaker, poster, oral)
Xiangyu Deng is employed as an assistant professor in the University of Georgia Center for Food Safety.

Conferences/Symposiums
- Waterborne and Environmental Disease (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Meeting), 2011 (oral)
- IAFP (International Association for Food Protection) Annual Meeting, 2011 (oral)

Publications
- Food Microbiology (2012), 30(1):311-315

Elizabeth Dietrich is a postdoctoral fellow at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in Fort Collins, CO.

Conference/Symposium
- Rocky Mountain Virology Club Meeting, 2013 (oral)

Kelly Dunford is the owner of EntoEndeavors, LLC, a entomological consulting business. EntoEndeavors offers researchers, organizations, and private entities a resource for contracting entomological projects to experts trained on a wide variety of insect-related topics. Fieldwork, lectures, brochures, images and other materials are completed on request. Dunford also consults on a wide variety of entomological topics, and in special cases, offers gratis work for education-related projects.

Publication
- Journal of Natural History (2012), 1111:1128

Achievements
- Recipient of State of Florida teaching certificates for K-12 General Sciences and 6-12 Biological Sciences
- Recipient of over 20 grants, scholarships, awards and academic honors, including a $35,000 NSF GK-12 Science Partners in Inquiry-based Collaborative Education (SPICE) Fellowship

Tammi Johnson is completing her postdoctoral fellowship at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in Fort Collins, CO, investigating the mechanisms of transmission of Y. pestis by flea vectors.

Conferences/Symposiums
- American Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene Conference, 2013 (oral)
- Fellows/Science Day CDC, 2013 (oral)

Joanie Kenney a service fellow working in the lab of John-Paul Mutebi, Ph.D., at the Centers for Disease Control in Fort Collins, CO.

Conferences/Symposiums
- American Society for Virology Meeting, 2014 (oral)
- American Society of Tropical Medicine Annual Meeting, 2013 (poster) and 2011 (oral)
- University of Texas Medical Branch, Dissertation Defense, 2011 (oral)

Publications
- PLOS ONE (2014), 9(6):e100802
- Advances in Virus Research (2014), 89:39-83
- PLOS Neglected Tropical Diseases (2013), 7(4):e2318
- PLOS Neglected Tropical Diseases (2012), 6(4):e1606
Luke Kingry is a postdoctoral fellow working as a microbiologist/contractor, research scientist at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in Fort Collins, CO.

Conferences/Symposiums
- American Society for Microbiology General Meeting, 2013 (Poster)
- International Conference on Tularemia, 2012 (Poster)
- ASM Kadner Institute for Graduate Students and Postdoctoral Scientists in Preparation for Careers in Microbiology, 2012 (Oral)
- Cell and Molecular Biology Research Symposium, 2011 (Poster)

Publications
- Frontiers in Immunology (2013), 4:90

Anna Lauer is a postdoctoral fellow at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in Atlanta, GA. Lauer is conducting research in the Special Bacteriology Reference Laboratory of the Bacterial Special Pathogens Branch, determining the mechanisms of sulfonamide resistance in Nocardia species.

Conference/Symposium
- International Symposium on Staphylococci and Staphylococcal Infections, 2012 (poster)

Publication
- Infection and Immunity (2014), 82(1):316-332

Kelly Liebman is a postdoctoral fellow at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in Atlanta, GA.

Conferences/Symposiums
- MIS, 2014 (poster)
- American Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene Conference, 2013 (oral)
- Pacific Branch Meeting, Entomological Society of America, 2012 (oral)
- World Malaria Day, 2012 and 2011 (oral)
- American Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene Meeting, 2011 (poster)

Publications
- Parasites and Vectors (2013), 6:268
- PLOS Neglected Tropical Diseases (2012), 6:e1472

Rebecca Mitchell is a postdoctoral fellow at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in Atlanta, GA.

Publications
- BMC Veterinary Research (2013), 9:245
- BMC Veterinary Research (2013), 9:234
- Applied Environmental Microbiology (2013), 79(12):3544-3552
- Preventive Veterinary Medicine (2013), 108(2-3):148-158
- Preventive Veterinary Medicine (2012), 106(1):64-74
- Epidemiology and Infection (2012), 140(2):231-246
Shatavia Sharday Morrison is a postdoctoral fellow at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in Atlanta, GA, where she is the bioinformatics and computational biologist data analyst in the Pneumonia Response and Surveillance Laboratory.

Conferences/Symposiums
- Research in Computational Molecular Biology Conference, 2011 (poster)
- Vibrios in the Environment, 2010 (oral)

Publication
- *PLOS ONE* (2012), 7(5):e37553

Achievements
- Lucille P. and Edward C. Giles Dissertation Year Fellowship, 2012
- Outstanding Teaching Assistant Award, University of North Carolina-Charlotte College of Computing and Informatics, 2012
- GAANN (Graduate Assistance in Areas of National Need Scholar) Fellowship, 2009-2011

Justine Pompey is a postdoctoral fellow in the Division of Parasitic Diseases and Malaria at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in Atlanta, GA.

Conference/Symposium
- Keystone Symposia, 2011 (poster)

Publications
- *PLOS Pathogens* (2013), 4:e1000219

Ha-Jung Roh is a postdoctoral fellow at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in Atlanta, GA.
Amy Schuh is a postdoctoral fellow at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in Atlanta, GA.

**Publications**
- *PLOS Neglected Tropical Diseases* (2013), 7:e2411
- *PLOS Neglected Tropical Diseases* (2012), 6(2):e1477
- *PLOS ONE* (2011), 6(9):e25739

**Achievement**
- Scherer/Hardy Award from the American Committee on Arthropod-Borne Viruses (for outstanding doctoral graduate work), 2013

Jessica Spengler is a postdoctoral fellow at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in Atlanta, GA. Upon completion of the ASM/CDC Postdoctoral Research Fellowship Program, Spengler intends to continue with a molecular research career.

**Conferences/Symposiums**
- American Society for Virology Conference, 2013 and 2012 (oral)

**Publication**

Eldin Talundzic is a postdoctoral fellow at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in Atlanta, GA. Upon completion of the ASM/CDC Postdoctoral Research Fellowship Program, Talundzic hopes to obtain a permanent bioinformatician/research position at the CDC.

**Publications**
- *PLOS ONE* (2012), 7(2):e31565

Theodros Solomon Tsegaye is a postdoctoral fellow at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in Atlanta, GA. Upon completion of the ASM/CDC Postdoctoral Research Fellowship Program, Tsegaye intends to pursue employment or other postdoctoral opportunities in the microbiology, specifically in the field of virology/immunology.

**Conferences/Symposiums**
- Conference on Retroviruses and Opportunistic Infections, 2013 (attendee) and 2012 (poster by the working group and attendee)

**Publication**
- *Retrovirology* (2013), 10:48

**Achievements**
- ASM Kadner Institute for Graduate and Postdoctoral Scientists in Preparation for Careers in Microbiology, 2013
- Completed the First Flow Cytometry Training, 2013
- Completed the ASM/CDC two year postdoctoral research training in laboratory science and public health microbiology at the CDC headquarters in Atlanta, GA, 2013

Janna Whitworth is a postdoctoral fellow at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in Atlanta, GA.

**Conferences/Symposiums**
- Recreational Water Quality Conference, 2013 (poster)
- Global Health Laboratory Forum, 2013 (poster)
- Annual Meeting of the Southeastern Branch of the American Society for Microbiology, 2012 (oral)

**Publications**
Treasures: South Florida Marine Habitats. IAN Press, Cambridge, MD.
- *Environmental Microbiology* (2010), **12**: 964-974

Zachary Weiner is completing his postdoctoral fellowship at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in Fort Collins, CO, investigating mechanisms involved in *Borrelia burgdorferi* escape from the tick midgut.

**Conference/Symposium**
- Gordon Research Conference: Biology of Spirochetes (poster)

Jacklyn Wong is a postdoctoral fellow at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in Atlanta, GA, conducting laboratory and field research on malaria transmission in Africa.

**Conferences/Symposiums**
- American Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene Conference, 2013 (oral) and 2011 (poster)

**Publications**
- *Malaria Journal* (2013), **12**:e143
- *PLOS Neglected Tropical Diseases* (2012), **6**:e1632
- *Journal of Medical Entomology* (2012), **49**:85-93
- *PLOS Neglected Tropical Diseases* (2011), **5**:e1015
- *Journal of Medical Entomology* (2011), **48**:45-52
2011-2013 ASM/CDC Postdoctoral Research Fellowship Program

Angela Bosco-Lauth
(preceptor, Aaron Brault)
CDC, Fort Collins

Xiangyu Deng
(preceptor(s), Patricia Fields and Efrain Ribot)
CDC, Atlanta

Janna Futch
(preceptor, Vincent R. Hill)
CDC, Atlanta

Tammi Johnson
(preceptor(s), Rebecca Eisen and Ken Gage)
CDC, Fort Collins

Joan Kenney
(preceptor(s), Aaron Brault and Claire Huang)
CDC, Fort Collins

Luke Kingry
(preceptor, Jeannine Petersen)
CDC, Fort Collins

Theodros Tsegaye
(preceptor, Ellen Kersh)
CDC, Atlanta

Jacklyn Wong
(preceptor, John Gimnig)
CDC, Atlanta

2012-2014 ASM/CDC Postdoctoral Research Fellowship Program

Heather Carleton
(preceptor, Efrain Ribot)
CDC, Atlanta

Elizabeth Dietrich
(preceptor, Aaron Brault)
CDC, Fort Collins

Kelly Dunford
(preceptor, Ellen Dotson)
CDC, Atlanta

Kelly Liebman
(preceptor, Audrey Lenhart)
CDC, Atlanta

Mahamoudou Ouattara
(preceptor, Bernard Beall)
CDC, Atlanta

Justine Pompey
(preceptor, John Barnwell)
CDC, Atlanta

Amy Schuh
(preceptor, Jonathan Towner)
CDC, Atlanta

Jessica Spengler
(preceptor, Eric Bergeron)
CDC, Atlanta

2013-2015 ASM/CDC Postdoctoral Research Fellowship Program

Rebecca Mitchell
(preceptor, Ya Ping Shi)
CDC, Atlanta

Shatavia Morrison
(preceptor, Natalia Kozak)
CDC, Atlanta

Ana Posada
(preceptor, Brent Lasker and Natalia Kozak)
CDC, Atlanta

Ha-Jung Roh
(preceptor, Yury Khudyakov)
CDC, Atlanta

Eldin Talundzic
(preceptor, Kumar V. Udhayakumar)
CDC, Atlanta

Zachary Weiner
(preceptor, Robert D. Gilmore)
CDC, Fort Collins
ASM ROBERT D. WATKINS
GRADUATE RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP
PROGRAM

The goal of the ASM Robert D. Watkins Graduate Research Fellowship Program is to increase the number of underrepresented groups completing doctoral degrees in the microbiological sciences. The fellowship is aimed at highly competitive graduate students who are enrolled in a doctoral program and who have completed their graduate coursework in the microbiological sciences. The fellowship encourages students to continue and complete their research project in the microbiological sciences.

Fellows are required to:

- Submit an abstract each year to ASM for presentation at the annual ASM General Meeting
- Attend the ASM Kadner Institute for Graduate Students and Postdoctoral Scientists in Preparation for Careers in Microbiology or the ASM Scientific Writing and Publishing Institute one time during the three-year tenure of the fellowship

The program provides a total stipend of up to $63,000 for a three-year period ($21,000 annually), travel support to attend the ASM Research Capstone Institute, the ASM General Meeting, and the ASM Kadner Institute or the ASM Scientific Writing and Publishing Institute one time during the three-year tenure. Stipends cannot be used for tuition and fees. Travel support is contingent upon abstract acceptance for the General Meeting and also upon application acceptance for the Kadner or Scientific Writing and Publishing Institute.

Funds are provided by the American Society for Microbiology.

REVIEW COMMITTEE

Beronda L. Montgomery (chairperson)
Michigan State University

Gary R. Matyas
Walter Reed Army Institute of Research

Michael Belshan
Creighton University

Lorena Navarro
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Cynthia N. Cornelissen
Virginia Commonwealth University

Jonathan Stiles
Morehouse School of Medicine

Craig Ellermeier
University of Iowa

Rita Tamayo
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, School of Medicine

Hansel Fletcher
Loma Linda University

Paul Turner
Yale University

Claressa Lucas
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

Wilmore C. Webley
University of Massachusetts Amherst
Highlights and Accomplishments

Nicole Abreu is a graduate student at the University of California, Berkeley.

Conferences/Symposiums
- Magnetotactic Bacteria Meeting, 2012 (poster)
- American Thoracic Society International Conference, 2010 (poster)
- Annual Biomedical Research Conference for Minority Students, 2009 (poster)
- American Society for Microbiology General Meeting, 2009 (poster)
- American Society for Microbiology General Meeting, 2009 (poster)
- Endocrinology, 2003, (poster)

Publication
- Science Translational Medicine (2012), 4:151

Denise Bronner is a doctoral candidate at the University of Michigan. Upon completing graduate studies, Bronner will finish her teaching certificate program by May 2015.

Conferences/Symposiums
- Gordon Research Conference: Phagocytes, 2013 (poster and oral)
- American Society for Microbiology General Meeting, 2013 (oral)
- Graduate Academic Conference, 2012 (oral)
- Annual Brucellosis Conference, 2012 (oral)

Publications
- BMC Bioinformatics (2013), 14(Suppl. 6):83
- Frontiers in Cellular and Infection Microbiology (2013), 3:83

Achievements
- Rackham Merit Fellowship
- Rackham Spring/Summer Research Grant
- Carl Storm Underrepresented Minority Fellowship
- Rackham Graduate Student Travel Award
- American Society for Microbiology Young Investigator Award
- American Society for Microbiology Student Travel Award
- Genetics Training Grant

Carmen Dickinson-Copeland is a doctoral candidate at the Morehouse School of Medicine. Upon completing graduate studies, Dickison-Copeland plans to pursue a career in global public health, specifically addressing infectious disease health disparities in developing countries by working collaboratively with local public figures to develop beneficial research endeavors.

Conferences/Symposiums
- Annual Molecular Parasitology/Vector Biology Symposium, 2013 (poster)
- American Society for Microbiology General Meeting, 2013 (poster)
- Curtis L. Parker Student Research Symposium, 2013 (poster) and 2012 (poster)
- National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities Site Visit, 2012 (oral)
- RCMI International Symposium on Health Disparities, 2012 (oral)
- Annual Meeting of the Georgia Academy of Science, 2011 (poster)
- National Institutes of Health Research Centers in Minority Institutions (RCMI) Site Visit, 2011 (oral)
- State of Georgia Personalized Medicine Awareness Day, 2011 (oral)
- American Society for Tropical Medicine and Hygiene Annual Meeting, 2011 (poster)

**Achievement**

- Morehouse School of Medicine RCMI Center of Excellence for Clinical and Translational Research and RCMI G12 Travel Award, 2012

**Tammi Duncan** is a graduate student at the University of New Mexico (UNM). Upon completing graduate studies, Duncan plans to teach at a junior college on the Navajo Reservation.

**Conferences/Symposiums**

- UNM Department of Biology Annual Research Day, 2013 (poster) and 2012 (poster)
- UNM Biomedical Research Symposium, 2012 (oral) and 2011 (oral)
- SACNAS National Conference, 2013 (poster) and 2011 (poster)
- Western Alliance Educational Student Opportunities Annual Conference, 2013 (poster) and 2012 (poster)

**Publications**


**Rodrigo Gonzalez** received his doctorate from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and is currently a postdoctoral fellow at Harvard University. His goal is to lead a laboratory that focuses on bacterial-host interactions.

**Conferences/Symposiums**

- FASEB Microbial Pathogenesis Meeting, 2013 (poster)
- American Society for Microbiology General Meeting, 2013 (poster) and 2012 (poster)
- Mid-Atlantic Microbial Pathogenesis Meeting, 2013 (poster)
- American Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene Annual Meeting, 2011 (poster)

**Publications**

- *BMC Microbiology* (2012), 12:147

**Kalani Halemano** is a graduate student at the University of Colorado Denver. Upon completing graduate studies, Halemano plans to pursue a career in bioinformatics.

**Conferences/Symposiums**

- West Coast Retrovirus Meeting, 2013 (oral and poster)
- Keystone Symposia, 2012 (poster)
- Colorado Vaccine Summit, 2011 (poster)
- Rocky Mountain Virology Conference, 2011 (poster)

**Publications**

- *PLOS ONE* (2013), 8(3):e60500

**Achievements**

- C. Werner and Kitty Hirs Travel Award, 2013
- Keystone Symposia Travel Scholarship, 2012

**Jennifer Herricks** is a doctoral candidate and graduate research assistant at the University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston.
completing graduate studies, Herricks will apply for postdoctoral fellowships in science policy in the area of Houston, TX.

Conferences/Symposiums
- Molecular Genetics of Bacteria and Phages Meeting, 2013 (poster) and 2011 (poster)
- American Society for Microbiology General Meeting, 2012 (poster)

Publications
- *EMBO Journal* (2012), **31**:2235
- *EMBO Journal* (2012), **10**:2235

Achievements
- Vice President, UTHealth Student InterCouncil, 2012-2013
- NIH National Research Service Award (NRSA) Award, 2011-2013

Ankunda Kariisa is a doctoral candidate at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Upon completing graduate studies, Kariisa will seek a postdoctoral position.

Conferences/Symposiums
- American Society for Microbiology General Meeting, 2014 (poster) and 2013 (poster)
- Annual Meeting of the American Society of Parasitologists, 2011 (oral)

Publication

Achievement
- Black History in the Making Award from the VCU Department of African American Studies, 2011

Jordan Mar is a doctoral candidate studying biomedical sciences at the University of California, San Francisco.

Conferences/Symposiums
- American Society for Microbiology General Meeting, 2013 (poster) and 2012 (poster)

Publications
- Molecular Systems Biology 2013, 9:674
- Molecular Systems Biology 2013, 9:660

Kristen Merino is a doctoral candidate at Tulane University. Upon completing graduate studies, Merino intends to seek a postdoctoral position.
**Conferences/Symposiums**
- Tulane Biomedical Sciences Retreat, 2013 (oral), 2012 (poster), and 2011 (poster)
- Computational Immunology Symposium, 2013 (poster)
- American Society for Microbiology General Meeting, 2013 (poster)
- Tulane School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine Centennial Celebration, 2012 (poster)

**Corrie Ortega** is a postdoctoral scientist at the Seattle Biomedical Research Institute, studying how the bacterial pathogen *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* is able to persist and cause disease in humans months to years after infection.

**Conferences/Symposiums**
- Keystone Symposia 2014 (poster) and 2013 (poster)
- American Society for Microbiology General Meeting, 2013 (poster) and 2012 (poster)
- Seattle Tuberculosis Symposium, 2011 (oral)

**Publications**
- *PNAS* (2013), 110(52):E5069-E5077

**Achievements**
- Gilbert S. Omenn Award for Academic Excellence (University of Washington School of Public Health), 2014
- NIGMS Ancillary Training Program Scholarship (Keystone Symposia), 2014 and 2013
- American Society for Microbiology Student Travel Award, General Meeting 2013

**Khavong Pha** is a doctoral candidate at the University of California. Upon completing graduate studies, Pha plans to pursue a professional goal in academia.

**Conferences/Symposiums**
- Microbial Pathogenesis and Host Reponse (Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory Meeting), 2013 (poster)
- American Society for Microbiology General Meeting, 2013 (poster) and 2012 (poster)

**Achievements**
- UC Davis Graduate Studies Matching Commitment for External Fellowships (2012)
- Biochemistry, Molecular, Cell, and Developmental Biology Spring 2012 Award (2012)

**Margaret Tarrant-Elorza** is a graduate student and research assistant at the University of Nevada-Reno. Upon completion of graduate studies, Tarrant-Elorza intends to pursue research of human cytomegalovirus as a postdoctoral scholar.

**Conferences/Symposiums**
- International Herpesvirus Workshop, 2013 (oral and poster) and 2012 (oral and poster)

**Publications**

**Achievement**
- Priscilla Ann Schaffer Award for Outstanding Graduate Research (International Herpesvirus Workshop), 2012

**Dina Tsukrov** is a doctoral candidate at the Albert Einstein College of Medicine. Upon completing graduate studies, Tsukrov hopes to become a research scientist at a biotech company.
Conferences/Symposiums
- Clinical and Translational Science Award Symposium: Transforming Clinical and Translational Research, 2013 (poster)
- Julius Marmur Symposium, 2013 (poster)
- Conference on Retroviruses and Opportunistic Infections, 2013 (poster)
- Interscience Conference on Antimicrobial Agents and Chemotherapy, 2012 (poster)

Publications

Alexis Valentin-Vargas is a research associate at the University of Arizona. Valentin-Vargas is seeking a postdoctoral position.

Conferences/Symposiums
- American Society for Microbiology General Meeting, 2013 (poster) and 2012 (poster)
- Institute of the Environment Annual Environmental Research Graduate Blitz, 2011 (oral)
- University of Arizona Superfund Basic Research Program Training Core Colloquium, 2011 and 2010 (oral)

Publications
- *Journal of Microbiological Methods*, in press
- *PLOS ONE* (2012), 7(8):e42524

Nana Wilson is currently seeking a postdoctoral position.

Conferences/Symposiums
- American Society for Microbiology General Meeting, 2013 and 2012 (poster)
- American Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene Annual Meeting, 2012 (oral and poster), 2010 (poster), and 2009 (poster)
- Annual Biomedical Research Conference for Minority Students, 2012 (poster) and 2011 (poster)

Publications
- *Disease Markers* (2012), 32(5):295-300
- *Disease Markers* (2011), 31(6):327-335
- *Cytokine Growth Factor Reviews* (2011), 22(3):121-130

Achievement
- American Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene Young Investigator Award, 2012

Rachel Yunck is a doctoral candidate at Harvard University. Upon completing graduate studies, Yunck plans to pursue a career in academia as a principle investigator in microbiology.

Conferences/Symposiums
- Zing Bacterial Cell Biology Conference, 2013
2011-2014 ASM Robert D. Watkins Graduate Research Fellowship Awardees

Corrie Ortega
University of Washington

Jennifer Juarez
University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston

Nana Wilson
Morehouse School of Medicine

Sophie Jean
Virginia Commonwealth University

Rodrigo Gonzalez
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Alexis Valentin-Vargas
The University of Arizona

Khavong Pha
University of California, Davis

2012-2015 ASM Robert D. Watkins Graduate Research Fellowship (Fellows)

Carmen Dickinson-Copeland
Morehouse School of Medicine

Kalani Halemano
University of Colorado, Denver

Ankunda Karlisa
University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill

Jordan Mar
University of California, San Francisco

Kristen Merino
Tulane University School of Medicine

Estevan Santana
The Ohio State University

2012-2015 ASM Robert D. Watkins Graduate Research Fellowship (Honorable Mentions)

James Goggins
Tulane University School of Medicine

2013-2016 ASM Robert D. Watkins Graduate Research Fellowship Awardees

Nicole Abreu
University of California, Berkeley

Denise Bronner
University of Michigan - Ann Arbor

Tammi Duncan
University of New Mexico

Zegbeh Kpadeh
University of Virginia

Margaret Tarrant-Elorza
University of Nevada, Reno

Dina Tsukrov
Albert Einstein College of Medicine

Rachel Yunck
Harvard University

2013-2016 ASM Robert D. Watkins Graduate Research Fellowship (Honorable Mentions)

Corey Clemans
University of Washington

Kristen Howery
Emory University

Malik Raynor
The University of Texas Health Science Center - Houston
ASM UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP (ASM-URF) PROGRAM

The ASM-URF is aimed at highly competitive students who wish to pursue graduate-level (Ph.D. or M.D./Ph.D.) careers in microbiology. Fellows have the opportunity to conduct full-time research at their home institutions with an ASM member and present research results at the following year’s ASM General Meeting.

The program offers student stipends of up to $4,000, a two-year ASM student membership, participation in the ASM Capstone Institute, and up to $1,000 in travel support to present URF project results at the ASM General Meeting. Travel funds are contingent upon acceptance of an abstract for the General Meeting.

Funds are provided by the American Society for Microbiology

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Susquehanna University

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Chris Waters
Michigan State University

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University of Wisconsin
**Highlights and Accomplishments**

**Clare Adams** is a graduate student at Iowa State University.

**Conferences/Symposiums**
- American Society for Microbiology General Meeting, 2014 (poster)
- Interscience Conference on Antimicrobial Agents and Chemotherapy, 2013 (poster)

**William Adkins** is a graduate student at Louisiana State University.

**Conferences/Symposiums**
- Clemson Biological Sciences Annual Student Symposium, 2013 (poster)
- American Society for Microbiology General Meeting, 2012 (poster)
- American Society for Microbiology – South Carolina Branch Annual Meeting (poster)

**Publication**
- *PLOS ONE* (2014), 9(7):e103290

**Achievement**
- Poster Award, ASM South Carolina Annual Meeting

**Joseph Angeloni** is a graduate student, studying microbiology at Clemson University. Adkins later plans to pursue master’s degree in healthcare management.

**Conferences/Symposiums**
- American Society for Microbiology General Meeting, 2012 (poster)
- Rochester Academy of Science, 2011 (poster)

**Publication**

**Achievement**
- Fulbright Scholar finalist

**Kartika Angriani** is applying to graduate programs in microbiology. (last information known)

**Nazrin Aziz** is working as a research assistant and will attend graduate school. (last information known)

**Conferences/Symposiums**
- American Society for Microbiology General Meeting, 2012 (poster)
- Rochester Academy of Science, 2011 (poster)

**Publication**

**Kathryn Barretto** is a graduate student at San Francisco State University. Barretto intends to pursue a career in academia and teach at either the high school or the college level.

**Conferences/Symposiums**
- American Society for Microbiology General Meeting, 2012 (poster)
Victoria Bawel is an undergraduate at Washington University in St. Louis. After completing the program, Bawel plans to enroll into medical school and pursue a career in academic medicine.

Conferences/Symposiums
- American Society for Microbiology General Meeting, 2012 and 2011 (poster)

Robert Bierman is an undergraduate at Trinity University. After completing the program, Bierman intends to pursue a doctorate in microbiology or molecular biology.

Conferences/Symposiums
- American Society for Microbiology General Meeting, 2012 and 2011 (poster)

Andrea Binnebose is studying veterinary microbiology in a doctoral program at the University of Iowa.

Miles Black is a graduating senior at Washington University in St. Louis and is currently applying to M.D./Ph.D. programs.

Conferences/Symposiums
- FASEB Ciliate Molecular Biology Conference, 2013 (poster)
- American Society for Microbiology General Meeting, 2013 and 2012 (poster)
- Washington University Undergraduate Research Symposium, 2012 (poster)

Stephanie Bouley is a second-year graduate student at the Dartmouth College Program of Experimental and Molecular Medicine, where she works with compounds that are synthetically lethal in NF1-deficient cells. After completing the program, Bouley intends to receive her doctoral degree and seek a faculty position, working in a hospital and running a cancer research lab.

Conferences/Symposiums
- American Society for Microbiology General Meeting, 2012 and 2011 (poster)
- Posters on the Hill, 2012

Publication
- Virology (2014), 456-457:87-95
Achievement
- Fulbright Research Award Recipient (Germany), 2012-2013

**Rhys Brooks** is a medical student at the University of New Mexico.

**Conferences/Symposiums**
- American Society for Microbiology General Meeting, 2012 (poster)
- University of New Mexico Research Day, 2010 (oral)

**Ariel Buehler** is graduating senior at the University of Tennessee. Buehler plans to pursue a doctorate degree in food microbiology.

**Conferences/Symposiums**
- American Society for Microbiology General Meeting, 2012 and 2011 (poster)

**Achievement**
- Barry M. Goldwater Scholar

**Nathaniel Burkholder** is a graduating senior at James Madison University. He intends to obtain a doctorate in molecular biology and secure a job at a research institution.

**Conferences/Symposiums**
- American Society for Microbiology General Meeting, 2013 and 2012 (poster)
- American Society for Microbiology – Virginia Branch Meeting, 2013 and 2012 (poster)

**Achievement**
- Barry M. Goldwater Scholarship Nominee, Madison Achievement Award

**Roman Camarda** is a graduate student at the University of California, San Francisco. After completing the program, Camarda intends to pursue postdoctoral studies.

**Conferences/Symposiums**
- American Society for Microbiology General Meeting, 2012 and 2011 (poster)
- Undergraduate Research Symposium, University of Washington, 2013 (oral) and 2011 (poster)
- Department of Biochemistry Retreat, University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center, 2011 (poster)

**Publication**

**Achievements**
- Mary Gates Research Scholarship, University of Washington, 2011
- Frank and Sara McKnight Award in Molecular Sciences Finalist (Undergraduate Biochemistry), UT Southwestern Medical Center, 2011

**Jonathan Cho** is a second-year M.D./Ph.D student at Albany Medical College.

**Conference/Symposium**
- American Society for Microbiology General Meeting, 2012 (poster)

**Publications**

**Achievements**
- Samuel R. Powers Research Fellowship, 2012-present
- G. Sunny Uppal, M.D. Endowed Scholarship, 2012-present
- U.S. Navy, Armed Forces Health Professions Scholarship Program, 2012-present
- Barry M. Goldwater Scholarship, 2011

**Jessica Choi** is a doctoral candidate studying microbial biology at Rutgers University.
Jessica Chopyk is completing a master’s degree program and intends to pursue a doctoral degree.

Amanda Chung plans to enroll in graduate school with a focus in forensic science or on a biology-related degree in molecular biology or microbiology.

Kevin Claunch is pursuing an M.D./Ph.D. program and intends to continue working in microbiology at the research and clinical levels.

Uyen Dang is currently applying to graduate school.

Tina Dao is an undergraduate at Rhodes College, studying biochemistry and molecular biology. Dao intends to enter an M.D./Ph.D. program. After obtaining the M.D./Ph.D., she plans to seek employment in a research hospital.
Conferences/Symposiums
- American Society for Microbiology General Meeting, 2012 and 2011 (poster)
- Rhodes College Undergraduate Research and Creativity Activity Symposium

Tessa DiDonato is a graduating senior at Rochester Institute of Technology and is in pursuit of applying for doctoral programs.

Conferences/Symposiums
- American Society for Microbiology General Meeting, 2013 (poster)
- Undergraduate Research Symposium, Rochester Institute of Technology, 2013 and 2012 (poster)
- American Chemical Society Undergraduate Research Symposium, 2013 (poster)
- American Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology Annual Meeting, 2013 (poster)
- American Chemical Society National Meeting, 2012 (poster)
- American Chemical Society North Eastern Regional Meeting, 2012 (poster)

Achievement
- Barry M. Goldwater Scholar, 2013

Kelly Drews is in the process of applying to graduate school to study biochemistry and earn a doctorate.

Conferences/Symposiums
- International Fungal Genetics, 2013 (poster)
- American Society for Microbiology General Meeting, 2012 and 2011 (poster)
- Virginia Tech Research Symposium, 2012 (oral and poster)

Publication
- Journal of Bacteriology (2012), 194:598-606

Clarissa Dubie is a graduating senior at Susquehanna University. Dubie has been accepted to doctoral programs in microbiology, but has not made a final decision. (last information known)

Conference/Symposium
- Landmark Conference, 2011 (poster)

Eric Dunham is a graduating senior at the University of Montana and plans to apply to a graduate program. (last information known)

Conference/Symposium
- American Society for Microbiology General Meeting, 2013 (poster)

Michaela Eickhoff is an undergraduate at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Eickhoff intends to pursue a doctorate in microbiology and a career in research.

Conferences/Symposiums
- American Society for Microbiology General Meeting, 2012 and 2011 (poster)

Alexander Emch is a second-year graduate student pursuing a master's degree in food science and epidemiology at Oregon State University. Emch intends to seek a career involving microbiology, food safety, and epidemiology.

Conference/Symposium
- American Society for Microbiology General Meeting, 2012 (poster)

Publication
- Cell Reports (2013), 5(4):909-917

Achievement
- Poster Award, American Society for Microbiology General Meeting, 2012
Michael Ferrin is an undergraduate at the University of Washington. Ferrin intends to pursue a doctorate and continue research as a postdoctoral scientist.

Conferences/Symposiums
- American Society for Microbiology General Meeting, 2012 and 2011 (poster)
- University of Washington Mary Gates Summer Research Symposium, 2013 (poster)
- University of Washington Minority Health Students Research Symposium, 2013 (poster)

Kimberly Filcek is a doctoral candidate studying molecular microbiology and immunology at the University of Maryland, Baltimore. After completing the program, Filcek intends to seek a postdoctoral position.

Conferences/Symposiums
- American Society for Microbiology General Meeting, 2013 (poster)
- Ecological Society of America Meeting, 2012 (poster)
- Virginia Mosquito Control Association Meeting, 2012 (oral)
- American Society for Microbiology – Virginia Branch Meeting, 2011 (poster)

Anthony Findley is an undergraduate at Michigan State University. After completing the program, Findley intends to enroll in an M.D./Ph.D. program.

Conferences/Symposiums
- American Society for Microbiology General Meeting, 2012 and 2011 (poster)

Stephen Firkins is a graduating senior at The Ohio State University. Firkins is applying to medical schools. (last information known)

Conferences/Symposiums
- American Society for Microbiology General Meeting, 2013 (poster)
- Natural and Mathematical Sciences (NMS) Undergraduate Research Forum (The Ohio State University), 2012 (oral and poster)
- Richard J. and Martha D. Denman Undergraduate Research Forum (The Ohio State University), 2012 (oral and poster)
- 7th Annual Tripartite Meeting of the Americas, 2012 (oral and poster)

Achievement
- Arts and Sciences Undergraduate Research Scholarship recipient (The Ohio State University), 2012-2013

Erin Fletcher is a doctoral candidate in the Biological and Biomedical Sciences/Leder Human Biology Program at Harvard University. Fletcher’s future educational goals are to complete her doctorate and pursue a career as a professor in academia.

Conferences/Symposiums
- American Society for Microbiology General Meeting, 2013 (poster)
- American Society for Microbiology – Southern California Branch Meeting, 2013 (oral) and 2012 (poster)
- California State University Program for Education and Research in Biotechnology Symposium, 2013 (poster)
- San Diego State University Student Research Symposium, 2013 (oral)

Achievements
- Sally Casanova Scholar, California State University Pre-Doctoral Program, 2012
- California State University Program for Education and Research in Biotechnology Research Scholar, Doris A. Howell Foundation, 2013
Robert Geiger is graduate student, intending to obtain a doctorate in biochemistry and become a medical researcher.

Conferences/Symposiums
- American Society for Microbiology General Meeting, 2013 and 2012 (poster)
- American Society for Microbiology Ohio Branch Meeting, 2012 (poster)
- Otterbein University Cardinal Colloquium, 2012 (poster)

Publication
- *Journal of Bacteriology* (2012), 194:17

Achievement
- Student Travel Award Merck-AAAS Fellowship (2011)

Josiah Gerber is a graduating senior at Indiana University-Purdue University Fort Wayne. Gerber’s future educational goals include obtaining a doctorate in biochemistry.

Conferences/Symposiums
- American Society for Microbiology General Meeting, 2012 and 2011 (poster)

Publication
- *BMC Microbiology* (2013), 13:33

Alyssa Grube is a graduating senior at Juniata College. Grube plans to attend graduate school to study environmental microbiology.

Conferences/Symposiums
- American Society for Microbiology General Meeting, 2012 and 2011 (poster)
- American Society for Microbiology – Allegheny Branch Meeting, 2013 (oral)

Achievement
- Oral presentation award, American Society for Microbiology – Allegheny Branch Meeting, 2013

Robert Haines is a graduating senior at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Haines intends to obtain a doctorate in molecular biology, complete postdoctoral research, and pursue a career either in industry or academia.

Conferences/Symposiums
- American Society for Microbiology General Meeting, 2012 and 2011 (poster)

Achievement
- Quinn & Rolfe Scholarship

Matthew Goulet is a graduate student studying cellular and molecular biology in the molecular cancer biology training program at Duke University. During his studies, Goulet intends to publish at least two first-author papers.

Conferences/Symposiums
- American Society for Microbiology General Meeting, 2012 (poster)
- Rhode Island Idea Network for Excellence in Biomedical Research Summer Retreat, 2012 (poster)

Publication
- *BMC Microbiology* (2013), 13:33
Amelia Haj is a second-year medical student in the medical scientist training program at the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

**Conferences/Symposiums**
- American Society for Microbiology General Meeting, 2013 (poster)

**Publication**
- *Journal of Virology* (2012), **86**:12665-12675

Amy Hammerquist is a graduating senior at Linfield College. She intends to pursue graduate education and seek a career in microbiological research.

**Conferences/Symposiums**
- American Society for Microbiology General Meeting, 2012 and 2011 (poster)
- Benthic Ecology Meeting, 2012 (poster)
- Murdock Conference, 2011 (oral)

Jessica Haugen is a research associate at Microbial Research Incorporated, where she applies basic knowledge of microbiology to research projects performed in veterinary pharmaceutical work and routine mastitis diagnostic testing. Haugen is currently applying to graduate school and intends to pursue a doctoral degree in microbiology.

**Conferences/Symposiums**
- American Society for Microbiology General Meeting, 2013 (poster)
- Colorado State University College of Veterinary Medicine and Biological Sciences Research Symposium, 2012 (poster)
- Colorado State University Celebrating Undergraduate Research, 2012 and 2011 (poster)

Lory Henderson is a graduate student at Cornell University. Henderson intends to complete her doctoral degree and pursue a career in research at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

**Conferences/Symposiums**
- American Society for Microbiology General Meeting, 2011 (poster)
- SACNAS, 2011 (poster)
- Rio Grande Region American Society for Microbiology Meeting, 2011 (oral)

**Publication**

**Achievements**
- Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society, 2012-present
- Phi Beta Kappa National Honor Society, 2011-present
- Cave Conservancy of the Virginias Grant, 2011

Neal Hengge is a graduate student at Purdue University.

**Conferences/Symposiums**
- American Society for Microbiology General Meeting, 2013 (poster)
- Synthetic Biomanufacturing Institute Science and Technology Review Conference, 2013 (poster)
- Annual Institute of Biological Engineering Regional Conference, 2012 and 2011 (poster)

**Publication**
- *Bioresource Technology* (2011), **111**:491-495

**Achievement**
- Gold Medal Team Award, iGEM Regional Jamboree, 2013

Laura K. Herndon is an undergraduate at the University of Central Florida. Herndon intends to pursue an M.D./Ph.D. to obtain a career in academia and become a practicing physician.
Conferences/Symposiums
- American Society for Microbiology General Meeting, 2012 and 2011 (poster)

Achievements
- Honors in the Major Program, University of Central Florida
- Burnett Research Scholars Grant Recipient, University of Central Florida

David Huang is a second-year medical student at the Warren Alpert Medical School of Brown University. Huang intends to obtain a fellowship through the Howard Hughes Medical Institute Medical Fellows Program, secure a residency position at an academic hospital that fosters a strong research environment, and establish a career in academic medicine to become a physician scientist.

Conferences/Symposiums
- Annual American Medical Association Research Symposium, 2013 (poster)
- Howard Hughes Medical Institute Kick-Off Meeting, 2013 (poster)
- American Society for Microbiology General Meeting, 2012 and 2011 (poster)
- ASM Conference on Candida and Candidiasis, 2012 (poster)
- Carnegie Mellon University Meeting of the Minds, 2012 (poster)
- Carnegie Mellon University Summer Research Symposium, 2011 (oral)

Publications

Achievement
- Howard Hughes Medical Institute Summer Medical Fellowship, 2013

Deborah Huang is a graduating senior at Washington University in St. Louis. Huang will pursue graduate studies and become an infectious diseases physician, remaining deeply involved in microbiology research — either translational or foundational.

Kaitlyn Hughes is applying to graduate school to pursue a doctorate. (last information known)

Conferences/Symposiums
- American Society for Microbiology General Meeting, 2013 (poster)
- National Speleological Society Technical Meeting, 2012
- University of New Mexico Biology Research Day, 2012
- Annual Meeting of the Rio Grande Branch of the American Society for Microbiology, 2011
- International Society for Environmental Biogeochemistry, 2011

Katherine Hummels is a second-year microbiology graduate student at Indiana University. After completing her doctoral degree, Hummels intends to seek a postdoctoral position.

Conferences/Symposiums
- Molecular Genetics of Bacteria and Phages Meeting, 2014 (poster)
- American Society for Microbiology General Meeting, 2013 and 2012 (poster)
- University of Iowa Microbiology Undergraduate Research Symposium, 2013, 2012, and 2011 (poster)
University of Iowa Spring Undergraduate Research Festival, 2013 (poster)
C2B2 Research Experience for Undergraduates Symposium, 2012 (poster)
Research in the Capitol, 2012 (poster)

Publications
- Genome Announcements (2013) 1:e00217-13

Achievements
- Genetics Cellular and Molecular Sciences NIH Training Grant, 2014
- National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship Honorable Mention, 2014
- University of Iowa Collegiate Scholar Award, 2013

Jessica Hunter is a graduate student at Harvard University Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, pursuing a doctoral degree.

Conferences/Symposiums
- American Society for Microbiology General Meeting, 2013 (poster)

Maliha Ishaq is a graduating senior at the University of Georgia. Ishaq intends to obtain a doctorate in microbiology with a focus on infectious diseases. Ishaq’s goal is to develop vaccines/novel treatments for diseases.

Conferences/Symposiums
- American Society for Microbiology General Meeting, 2012 and 2011 (poster)

Jordan Jensen is a postbaccalaureate fellow at the National Institutes of Health.

Conference/Symposium
- American Society for Microbiology General Meeting, 2013 (poster)

Nathan Kahre is a graduate student, studying in microbiology with a focus on the molecular biology of pathogenic bacteria.

Megan Kelly is as a technician in the lab of Audrey Odom, M.D., Ph.D., at the Washington University School of Medicine. Kelly is applying to M.D./Ph.D. programs.

Conferences/Symposiums
- Molecular Parasitology Meeting, 2013 (poster)
- FASEB Microbial Pathogenesis Meeting, 2013 (oral and poster)
- American Society for Microbiology General Meeting, 2012 (poster)
- Mid-States Consortium for Math and Science, 2012 (oral and poster)

Publication

Achievements
- Marion Smith Spector Prize in Biology from Washington University, 2013
- Inaugural Undergraduate Research Student Leadership Award from Washington University, 2013

Ericka Kirkpatrick is an undergraduate at the University of Florida. Kirkpatrick intends to pursue a doctorate in virology and hopes to obtain a postdoctoral position through the American Society for Microbiology.

Conference/Symposium
- American Society for Microbiology General Meeting, 2013 (poster)

Achievement
- Florida Opportunity Scholar, University of Florida
Samuel Kitara is a research technician in the pediatric oncology department at the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute and Broad Institute of Harvard/MIT.

Conferences/Symposiums
- American Society for Microbiology General Meeting, 2014 and 2013 (poster)
- National Collegiate Research Conference, 2013 (poster)

Achievements
- Honors graduate (bachelor’s degree in biology)
- Cystic Fibrosis Foundation Therapeutics - Student Trainee Grant Award

Eric Kleindenst is a graduate student studying epidemiology.

Conferences/Symposiums
- American Society for Microbiology General Meeting, 2012 and 2011 (poster)

Nina Kogekar is a second-year medical student at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai. Kogekar intends to pursue a career in internal medicine.

Conference/Symposium
- American Society for Microbiology General Meeting, 2013 (poster)

Achievements
- Graduated with high honors from Swarthmore College
- Phi Beta Kappa

Eric Kok is an undergraduate studying biochemistry and cell biology at Rice University. Kok intends to enroll in medical school and become a physician focusing on infectious diseases.

Conferences/Symposiums
- American Society for Microbiology General Meeting, 2013 (poster)
- Rice Undergraduate Research Symposium, 2013 and 2012 (poster)

Achievement
- Applied and selected for the honors research program at Rice.

Katherine Kondratuk is a graduating senior at South Dakota State University. Kondratuk will pursue admission to medical school with an interest in oncology or infectious disease specialties.

Conferences/Symposiums
- American Society for Microbiology General Meeting, 2013 (poster)
- National Collegiate Honors Council Conference, 2013 (poster)

Arvind Konkimalla is in a M.D./Ph.D. program at Duke University.

Conferences/Symposiums
- American Society for Microbiology General Meeting, 2013 (poster)
- Aresty Undergraduate Research Symposium, Rutgers University, 2013 (poster)

Publication

Achievements
- Rutgers University Presidential Scholar
- Barry M. Goldwater Scholarship, Honorable Mention

Gloria Phuong Le is a graduate student at the University of Kentucky.

Conferences/Symposiums
- ASCB meeting 2012
Achievements
- O.C. Lam III Award for Excellence in Biological Sciences, 2013

Colleen Lanza is a graduate student at Emory University.

Conference/Symposium
- Colorado State University, Celebrating Undergraduate Research and Creativity, 2011 (poster)

Talia Lester is a third-year medical student at the UCLA David Geffen School of Medicine. After completing the program, Lester intends to work as a clinician and educator in a teaching hospital.

Conferences/Symposiums
- American Society for Microbiology General Meeting, 2012 (poster)
- UCLA Microbiology, Immunology & Molecular Genetics/Molecular, Cell, and Developmental Biology Poster Symposium, 2011 (poster)

Achievement
- UCLA Alumni Association Distinguished Senior Award 2011

Emma Lewis conducts research on the immune response to *Streptococcus agalactiae* in the female genital tract at Columbia University Medical Center.

Conferences/Symposiums
- American Society for Microbiology General Meeting, 2012 and 2011 (poster)

Publication

Achievements
- Summa cum laude graduate, Barnard College
- Early inductee, Phi Beta Kappa

Kevin Lewis is applying to graduate school to pursue an advanced degree in bioengineering.

Conferences/Symposiums
- American Society for Microbiology Branch Meeting, 2013 (poster)
- Undergraduate Biology Research Program Conference, 2013 (poster)
- American Society for Microbiology General Meeting, 2012 (poster)

Achievement
- Outstanding Senior in Biomedical Engineering Award, 2013

Ori Lieberman is a graduate student in the medical scientist training program at the Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons.

Conferences/Symposiums
- American Society for Microbiology General Meeting, 2013 (poster)
- American Society for Microbiology Ohio Branch Meeting, 2012 (poster)
- Mid-Atlantic Microbial Pathogenesis Meeting, 2013 (poster)

Publication

Caroline Linke is a graduate student at the University of Iowa, pursuing a doctorate in microbiology.

Conferences/Symposiums
- American Society for Microbiology General Meeting, 2012 (poster)
- Center for Microbial Interface Biology, The Ohio State University, 2011 (poster)
Aaron Louie is a postbaccalaureate fellow at the National Institutes of Allergy and Infectious Disease, National Institutes of Health.

Conferences/Symposiums
- American Society for Microbiology General Meeting, 2012 and 2011 (poster)

Achievement
- Senior honors thesis, "Effects of Streptolysin O in Drosophila development and roles of HIF1 in SLO-mediated apoptosis"

Lena Lupey is a second-year graduate student (studying chromatin looping in Epstein-Barr virus) in the lab of Italo Tempera, Ph.D., at the Temple University School of Medicine.

Conferences/Symposiums
- American Society for Microbiology General Meeting, 2012 and 2011 (poster)

Publication

Kelsey Maher is a graduating senior at Boston College. Maher intends to pursue a doctorate in microbiology to become a principal investigator.

Conferences/Symposiums
- American Society for Microbiology General Meeting, 2012 and 2011 (poster)

Publication

Kimbria Mills (Blake) is a graduate student at Harvard University. Mills intends to earn a doctorate through studying virulence factors of microbes.

Scott Mellon is a second-year graduate student at Princeton University.

Conferences/Symposiums
- American Society for Microbiology General Meeting, 2012 and 2011 (poster)

Jarett Miller is commissioned as a United States Marine Corps officer for four years and will pursue a graduate degree in microbiology thereafter.

Conferences/Symposiums
- American Society for Microbiology General Meeting, 2013 and 2012 (poster)
- Academic Excellence Conference, Keene State College, 2013 (oral), 2012 (oral), and 2011 (poster)
- New Hampshire IDeA Network of Biomedical Research Excellence Annual Meeting, 2013 (oral), 2012 and 2011 (poster)
- Northeast Undergraduate Research and Development Symposium, 2012 (oral)
Conferences/Symposiums
- American Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology Meeting, 2014 and 2011 (poster)
- American Society for Microbiology General Meeting, 2013 (poster)
- American Chemical Society Meeting, 2012 (poster)

Andrew Mitchell is a graduate student at Penn State University. After completing the program, Mitchell intends to teach at a liberal arts college.

Conferences/Symposiums
- American Society for Microbiology General Meeting, 2013 (poster)
- Rhode Island IDeA Network of Biomedical Research Excellence Annual Meeting 2012

Deborah Moran is a graduating senior at Cabrini College who intends to enroll into a doctoral program. Moran aspires to conduct research on cancer regulatory mechanisms and to bring the research to undergraduates.

Conferences/Symposiums
- Cabrini College Undergraduate Research Symposium, 2013 and 2012 (oral and poster)
- Pennsylvania Academy of Science, 2013 and 2012 (oral)
- American Society for Microbiology General Meeting, 2012 and 2011 (poster)
- Posters on the Hill, 2011 (poster)
- SEA-PHAGES (Science Education Alliance-Phage Hunters Advancing Genomics and Evolutionary Sciences) Annual Symposium, 2012 (poster)
- National Collegiate Honors Conference, 2012 (poster)

Publications

Achievements
- Grant Recipient: Pennsylvania Academy of Science Research Grant, 2012
- Gamma Sigma Epsilon Honor Society
- Beta-Beta-Beta Honor Society
- Sigma Zeta Honor Society
- Alpha Lambda Delta Internship: The Wistar Institute

Erin Nawrocki is a graduate student in the microbiology doctoral training program at the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

Conferences/Symposium
- American Society for Microbiology General Meeting, 2013 (poster)

Publication

Mary Ojukwu is a Cancer Research Training Awardee at the National Cancer Institute. Ojukwu works in the Office of Cancer Complementary and Alternative Medicine reviewing cases submitted to the Best Case Series Protocol. The Protocol reviews incoming case studies of practitioners who use complementary and alternative medicine to treat cancer patients. In the future, Ojukwu hopes to combine her experience with microbiological research to the community level as she pursues a doctorate. (last information known)

Conferences/Symposiums
- New England Science Symposium at Harvard Medical School (poster)
- Academy Health Annual Research Meeting (poster)
Pierce O’Neil is applying to graduate school. He intends to pursue a doctorate in pharmacology, toxicology, and therapeutics.

Conferences/Symposium
- American Society for Microbiology General Meeting, 2013 (poster)

Michael Onofre is a graduating senior at Loyola Marymount University. He is also applying to graduate schools. (last information known)

Conferences/Symposium
- American Society for Microbiology General Meeting, 2013 (poster)

Fernanda Jimenez Otero is a doctoral candidate at the University of Minnesota.

Conferences/Symposiums
- American Society for Microbiology General Meeting, 2012 and 2011 (poster)
- Argonne Symposium for Undergraduates in Science and Engineering, 2011 (oral)

Neil Patel recently graduated from Pace University and plans to attend medical school. (last information known)

Conference/Symposium
- American Society for Microbiology General Meeting, 2012 (poster)
- Pace Dyson Fellows Conference, 2011, (oral)
- Eastern College Science Convention, 2011 (oral)
- Pace Biology Poster Session, 2011 (oral and poster)

Achievement
- Pace Honors College Scholar

Alyxandra Pikus is applying to graduate schools seeking internships in the field of ecology. (last information known)

Conference/Symposium
- Student Symposium at the University of Richmond, 2011 (poster)

Achievement
- Golden Key Honors Society Member

Jesse Pyle is a graduate student at Texas A&M University. Pyle intends to pursue a doctorate in molecular virology and eventually seek a career in academia.

Conferences/Symposiums
- American Society for Virology Meeting, 2014 (oral)
- American Society for Microbiology General Meeting, 2013 (poster)
- Noble Foundation Virology Retreat, 2012 (poster)
- American Society of Plant Biologists Meeting, 2012 (poster)

Publication
- Molecular Plant-Microbe Interactions (in press)

Achievements
- Graduate Teaching Assistantship, 2014
- Department of Plant Pathology and Microbiology, Texas A&M University Academic Excellence Award, 2013
- Aggie License Plate Scholarship, 2013
- Texas A&M University Excellence Fellowship, 2013

Michael Price is a graduating senior at the University of Montana Western. Price intends
to pursue a doctorate in molecular genetics and is interested in studying microbes for use in the production of biofuels and other important chemicals.

**Conferences/Symposiums**
- American Society for Microbiology General Meeting, 2012 and 2011 (poster)
- Montana Academy of Sciences, 2013 (poster)

**Achievement**
- Montana Space Grant Scholarship, 2013-2014

**Chiara Ricci-Tam** is a graduating senior at the University of California, San Diego (UCSD), who is applying to graduate programs. After completing the program, Ricci-Tam intends to pursue a doctoral degree in biology and a career as an academic researcher and professor thereafter.

**Conferences/Symposiums**
- American Society for Microbiology General Meeting, 2013, 2012, and 2011 (poster)
- UCSD Biological Sciences Student Research Showcase, 2013 (poster)
- UCSD Summer Research Conference, 2013 (oral)

**Achievements**
- Barry M. Goldwater Scholarship recipient
- Phi Beta Kappa Honors Society membership
- Amgen Scholars Program participant
- UC Regents Scholarship recipient

**Geoffrey Riddell** is pursuing a M.D./Ph.D. program to continue his research and academic development.

**Conferences/Symposiums**
- American Society for Microbiology Annual Conference, 2013 and 2012 (poster)

**Achievement**
- National Science Foundation Scholar (2012)

**Matthew Sarna** is an M.D./Ph.D. student at the University of Illinois College of Medicine.

**Conferences/Symposiums**
- American Society for Microbiology General Meeting, 2012 and 2011 (poster)

**Jeremy Schreier** is seeking a lab tech position and intends to pursue a doctorate in marine microbiology.

**Conferences/Symposiums**
- Research Internships in Ocean Sciences, Rutgers University, 2013 (poster)
- American Society for Microbiology General Meeting, 2012 and 2011 (poster)

**Samantha Scott** is an undergraduate majoring in biochemistry, cell and molecular biology at the University of Scranton. Scott intends to pursue a doctorate in microbiology/immunology, aiming for a career in the pharmaceutical industry or academia, but with a focus on research.

**Conferences/Symposiums**
- American Society for Microbiology General Meeting, 2012 and 2011 (poster)

**Achievements**
- The University of Scranton Honors Program
- Beta Beta Beta Biological Honor Society
- Alpha Sigma Nu Jesuit Honor Society
Summer undergraduate research internship, Penn State Hershey College of Medicine

Jonathan Seaman is a graduating senior at Colorado State University. He plans to continue research at the university while studying to take the MCAT. Seaman will later pursue M.D./Ph.D. programs.

Conferences/Symposiums
- American Society for Microbiology General Meeting, 2012 and 2011 (poster)
- Colorado State University Celebrate Undergraduate Research and Creativity Symposium, 2013 (poster)

Achievement
- Summa cum laude distinction, Colorado State University

Vivian Shi is pursuing an M.D./Ph.D. with a focus on virology.

Conference/Symposium
- American Society for Microbiology General Meeting, 2013 (poster)

Kristina Shikula is pursuing a medical degree.

Conference/Symposium
- American Society for Microbiology General Meeting, 2013 (poster)

Daniel Simon is a medical student at the University of Kansas School of Medicine and plans to pursue a surgical or cardiology residency.

Conferences/Symposiums
- American Society for Microbiology General Meeting, 2012 and 2011 (poster)
- Kansas IDeA Network of Biomedical Research Excellence Symposium, 2013
- Great Plains Infectious Disease Conference, 2012

Abigail Simmons is a graduate student at Stanford University.

Conferences/Symposiums
- Carnegie Mellon Meeting of the Minds, 2013 (poster)
- American Society for Microbiology General Meeting, 2012 and 2011 (poster)

Joshua Smith attends a dental school.

Conferences/Symposiums
- American Society for Microbiology General Meeting, 2012 and 2011 (poster)

Publication
- Antimicrobial Agents and Chemotherapy (2012), 56(10):5202-5211

Rachel Soble is an undergraduate at the University of Minnesota-Twin Cities. Soble intends to pursue doctoral studies in computational and systems biology and lead a microbiology research group as a university professor.

Conferences/Symposiums
- National Conference on Undergraduate Research, 2013 (oral)
- American Society for Microbiology General Meeting, 2012 and 2011 (poster)
- University of Minnesota Synthetic Ecology Symposium, 2012 (poster)
- University of Minnesota Undergraduate Research Symposium, 2012 (poster)

Achievement
- U.S. Amgen Scholar, 2013
- National Merit Scholar, 2011

Mark Soo is a graduating senior at Boston College. He intends to pursue a doctorate program.
**Conferences/Symposiums**
- **Boston Bacterial Meeting, 2013 (poster)**
- **American Society for Microbiology General Meeting, 2012 and 2011 (poster)**

**Breanne Steffan** is a second-year graduate student pursuing a doctorate in molecular pathogenesis at North Dakota State University. Steffan plans to seek a postdoctoral position at a government facility or in private industry.

**Conferences/Symposiums**
- **American Society for Microbiology General Meeting, 2013 (poster)**
- **AIC, 2013 (oral and poster)**
- **North Dakota Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Research Meeting (poster)**

**Christopher Stahl** is a graduating senior at The Ohio State University. Stahl will be applying to medical school. (last information known)

**Conferences/Symposiums**
- **American Society for Microbiology General Meeting, 2013 (poster)**
- **Richard J. and Martha D. Denman Undergraduate Research Forum (The Ohio State University), 2012 (poster)**

**Courtney Szyjka** is a second-year graduate student at the State University of New York at Buffalo.

**Conferences/Symposiums**
- **University at Buffalo Biology Department Symposium, 2014 (poster)**
- **American Society for Microbiology General Meeting, 2013 (poster)**

**Achievement**
- **Presidential Fellow at the University at Buffalo**

**Samuel Tak** is a second-year dental student at Virginia Commonwealth University. Tak intends to specialize in oral and maxillofacial surgery, possibly subspecialize, and continue a full-time career in academia.

**Conferences/Symposiums**
- **American Society for Microbiology General Meeting, 2012 and 2011 (poster)**

**Achievements**
- **Ranked in the top 10% of class**
- **Recipient of a general scholarship at Virginia Commonwealth University School of Dentistry**

**Kaleigh Tockes** is a rising senior and laboratory assistant at Bradley University. Tockes intends to pursue an M.D./Ph.D. program and become a medical researcher focusing on movement disorders. (last information known)

**Conference/Symposium**
- **American Society for Microbiology General Meeting, 2013 (poster)**

**Achievements**
- **Bradley University Presidential Scholar**
- **Beta Beta Beta National Biological Honors Society member**
- **Phi Kappa Phi National Honors Society member**

**Megan Treadwell** hopes to conduct research on efficient ways to purify and transport water to regions that suffer from water contamination. (last information known)

**Conference/Symposium**
- **American Society for Microbiology General Meeting, 2013 (poster)**

**Achievement**
- **Rain Gardens Research Award recipient**

**Sonia Treviño-Dopatka** is a postbaccalaureate in Boulder, CO.
Conferences/Symposiums
- American Society for Microbiology General Meeting, 2012 and 2011 (poster)
- American Society for Cell Biology Conference, 2011 (contributed poster)

Publication

Achievement
- Barry M. Goldwater Scholar, 2010

**Nhat Trinh** is a graduate student at Loyola University.

Conferences/Symposium
- American Society for Microbiology General Meeting, 2012 (poster)

Publication
- *Journal of the American Chemical Society* (2012), 134:5309

**Andrew Valesano** is an undergraduate at Hope College. Valesano intends to enroll into an M.D./Ph.D. program in microbiology and infectious diseases with the goal of entering academic medicine and basic research.

Conferences/Symposiums
- Mid-States Consortium for Math and Science, 2013 (poster)
- West Michigan Regional Undergraduate Science Research Conference, 2013 (poster)
- American Society for Microbiology General Meeting, 2012 and 2011 (poster)

**Olivia Walser** is a graduating senior at Western Michigan University. Walser hopes to be admitted into a microbiology doctoral training program and pursue an academic research career within microbiology. Her aim is to promote scientific literacy in the public sphere.

Conferences/Symposiums
- American Society for Microbiology – Michigan Branch Meeting, 2013 (poster)
- American Society for Microbiology General Meeting, 2012 and 2011 (poster)

Achievements
- First Place Poster Award, American Society for Microbiology – Michigan Branch Meeting, 2013
- Undergraduate Research and Creative Activities Award

**Jane Wang** is an undergraduate at the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA). (last information known)

Conferences/Symposiums
- American Society for Microbiology General Meeting, 2013 (poster)
- UCLA Summer Program for Undergraduate Research Day, 2011 (poster)
- UCLA Science Poster Day, 2012 (poster) and 2011 (poster)

**Erin Weese** is a graduating senior at the University of Oklahoma. Weese intends to pursue a doctorate in a field related to virology, molecular biology, microbiology, or genetics.

Conferences/Symposiums
- American Society for Microbiology General Meeting, 2012 and 2011 (poster)

Achievement
- McNair Scholar

**Michelle Wegscheid** is a graduating senior at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Wegscheid will apply to M.D./Ph.D. programs with a focus in neuroscience. (last information known)
Elizabeth Westcott is a Pharm.D. candidate at the Albany College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences.

Jesse Young is a graduating senior at the University of New Mexico. He plans to pursue graduate education to earn a doctorate. (last information known)

Kate Zeigler is a graduating senior and employed as a research assistant at Utica College. Zeigler has applied to graduate programs in infectious disease microbiology and immunology. (last information known)

Erin Zess is an undergraduate at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Zeiss plans to attend graduate school in a microbiology program towards completion of a doctorate.

Doug Zuill worked in the pharmaceutical industry, participating in the development of anti-infective chemical agents. He specialized in characterizing drug-resistant organisms. Zuill is currently applying to PhD programs in the field of microbiology.

Aubrey Zott is a postbaccalaureate student. Zott intends to pursue a master’s degree and/or doctorate in a life science-related field.

Publication
BMC Microbiology (2014), 14:22

Achievements
- Microbiology research internship at Monsanto
- Artis Award, Radford University
- Ruth Bricker Painter Award, Radford University

Conferences/Symposiums
- American Society for Microbiology General Meeting, 2013 (poster)
- American Society for Microbiology General Meeting, 2012 and 2011 (poster)
- Maine IDEA Network for Biomedical Research Excellence at MDI Biological Laboratory, 2012 (oral)
- European Congress of Clinical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases, 2014 (poster)
- Interscience Conference on Antimicrobial Agents and Chemotherapy, 2013 (poster)
- West Coast Biological Sciences Undergraduate Research Conference 2012, (oral)
- West Coast Biological Sciences Undergraduate Research Conference 2011 (poster)
2011 ASM Undergraduate Research Fellowship Awardees

Nazrin Abd Aziz
Rochester Institute of Technology

William Adkins
Louisiana State University

Selime Aksit
Drew University

Kartika Angriani
University of West Georgia

Jonathan Barrett
James Madison University

Kathryn Barretto
California State University, Fresno

Andrea Binnebose
Marian University

Stephanie Bouley
Assumption College

Rhys Brooks
The University of New Mexico

Jonathan Cho
Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute

Jessica Choi
University of Notre Dame

Clarissa Dubie
Susquehanna University

Alexander Emch
Colorado State University

Josiah Gerber
Indiana University Purdue University Fort Wayne

Matthew Goulet
Providence College

Lory Henderson
University of New Mexico

David Huang
Carnegie Mellon University

Katherine Hummels
University of Iowa

Fernanda Jimenez Otero
Western Michigan University

Nathan Kahre
East Tennessee State University

Megan Kelly
Washington University in St. Louis

Eric Kleindenst
Elmira College

Colleen Lanza
Colorado State University

Talia Lester
University of California Los Angeles

Kevin Lewis
The University of Arizona

Caroline Linke
The Ohio State University

Aaron Louie
University of California, San Diego

Lena Lupey
Saint Joseph's University

Scott Mellon
Lafayette College
Jarett Miller  
Keene State College  

Mary Ojukwu  
University of Connecticut  

Neil Patel  
Pace University  

Alyxandra Pikus  
University of Richmond  

Daniel Simon  
University of Kansas  

Megan Treadwell  
Florida Agricultural & Mechanical University  

Sonia Trevino-Dopatka  
University of Wisconsin  

Nhat Trinh  
University of Illinois at UrbanaChampaign  

Douglas Zuill  
Point Loma Nazarene University  

2012 ASM Undergraduate Research Fellowship (Fellows)  

Joseph Angeloni  
Clemson University  

Jordan Baker  
Sam Houston State University  

Miles Black  
Washington University in St Louis  

Kimbria Blake  
Rochester Institute of Technology  

Nathaniel Burkholder  
James Madison University  

Roman Camarda  
University of Washington  

Jessica Chopyk  
University of Delaware  

Joanna Coker  
University of California, San Diego  

Madelyn Crawford  
The University of Tennessee  

Andrew Cunningham  
University of Wisconsin  

Uyen Dang  
University of Texas at Arlington  

Eric Dunham  
University of Montana  

Kimberly Filcek  
Radford University  

Stephen Firkins  
Ohio State University  

Erin Fletcher  
San Diego State University  

Bobby Geiger  
Otterbein University  

Amelia Haj  
University of Minnesota- Twin Cities  

Jessica Haugen  
Colorado State University  

Neal Hengge  
Utah State University  

Kaitlin Hughes  
University of New Mexico
Jessica Hunter
Michigan State University

Jordan Jensen
Brigham Young University

Erica Kirkpatrick
University of Florida

Samuel Kitara
College of Wooster

Nina Kogekar
Swathmore College

Katherine Kondratuk
South Dakota State University

Gloria Le
Clayton University

Emma Lewis
Barnard College/ Columbia University

Ori Lieberman
University of Maryland at College Park

Amaury Michel
University of Chicago

Jarett Miller
Keene State College

Andrew Mitchell
Roger Williams University

Erin Nawrocki
Allegheny College

Pierce O'Neil
University of Kansas

Michael Onofre
Loyola Marymount University

Amanda Pattison
Cedar Crest College

Jesse Pyle
Texas A&M University

Chiara Ricc-Tam
University of California- San Diego

Geoffrey Riddell
University of Wisconsin- Milwaukee

Matthew Sarna
University of Notre Dame

Vivian Shi
University of California, Los Angeles

Abigail Simmons
Carnegie Mellon University

Joshua Smith
Michigan State University

Christopher Stahl
Ohio State University

Breanne Steffan
North Dakota State University

Courtney Szyjka
SUNY at Buffalo

Samuel Tak
George Mason University

Kaleigh Tockes
Bradley University

Jane Wang
University of California, Los Angeles

Michelle Wegscheid
University of Illinois
Elizabeth Westcott  
Albany College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences

Jesse Young  
University of New Mexico

Kate Zeigeler  
Utica College

2012 ASM Undergraduate Research Fellowship (Honorable Mentions)

Katharine Andrews  
Texas A&M University

Heather Branstetter  
Missouri University of Science and Technology

Michael Connolly  
The Pennsylvania State University

Folasuyi Richardson  
Alabama State University

Amber Schmidt  
Montana State University

Cody Schott  
Northwestern University

Sara Smith  
Clemson University

Laura Whitmore  
Montana State University

2013 ASM Undergraduate Research Fellowship (Fellows)

Clare Adams  
Goucher College

Victoria Bawel  
Washington Univ. in St. Louis

Robert Bierman  
Trinity University

Josie Blair  
Pace University

Ariel Buehler  
University of Tennessee

Amanda Chung  
Western New England U.

Kevin Claunch  
Texas Christian University

Tina Dao  
Rhodes College

Tessa DiDonato  
Rochester Institute Technology

Kelly Drews  
Virginia Tech

Michaela Eickhoff  
University of Illinois @ Urbana-Champaign

Michael Ferrin  
University of Washington

Anthony Findley  
Michigan St. U.

Michael Gabriel  
University of South Carolina

Morgan Giese  
University of Puget Sound

Alyssa Grube  
Juniata College
Robert Haines
University of Illinois @ Urbana-Champaign

Amy Hammerquist
Linfield College

Laura Herndon
University of Central Florida

Deborah Huang
Washington Univ. in St. Louis

Maliha Ishaq
University of Georgia

Ericka Kirkpatrick
University of Florida

Eric Kok
Rice University

Arvind Konkimalla
Rutgers University

Kelsey Maher
Boston College

Deborah Moran
Cabrini College

Michael Price
University of Montana Western

Jeremy Schreier
Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey

Samantha Scott
University of Scranton

Jonathan Seaman
Colorado State Univ.

Kristina Shikula
Utica College

Rachel Soble
University of Minnesota - Twin Cities

Mark Soo
Boston College

Andrew Valesano
Hope College

Olivia Walser
Western Michigan University

Erin Weese
University of Oklahoma

Aubrey Zott
Bowdoin College
ASM UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH CAPSTONE (UR CAPSTONE) PROGRAM

The goal of the ASM Undergraduate Research Capstone Program (formerly the ASM Microbiology Undergraduate Research Fellowship Program) is to fulfill the later stages of undergraduate professional development for underrepresented minority students. In particular, the program seeks to enhance the professional development of these students after their summer research experiences. UR Capstone students benefit from training targeted to presentation and networking skills along with resources to transition to disciplinary scientific meetings.

The UR Capstone offers a two-year ASM student membership and up to $1,500 in travel support for students who will attend the ASM Capstone Institute and present the results of their research project at the ASM General Meeting. Travel funds are contingent upon acceptance of an abstract for the General Meeting.

Funds are provided by the American Society for Microbiology.

Highlights and Accomplishments

Matthew Allen-Daniels is a graduate student pursuing a doctoral degree in microbiology at Virginia Commonwealth University.

Conferences/Symposiums
- American Society of Microbiology General Meeting, 2013 (poster)
- PREP (Postbaccalaureate Research Education Program) Research Day, 2013 (oral)
- Annual Biomedical Research Conference for Minority Students, 2012 (poster)
- Annual Women’s Health Research Day, 2012 (poster)

Joshua Ames is an undergraduate at Kansas State University. Ames plans to pursue a doctorate in medical microbiology and immunology.

Conference/Symposium
- American Society for Microbiology General Meeting, 2013 (poster)

Tasha Barr is a second-year graduate student at the University of California, Riverside. Barr intends to obtain a doctoral degree.

Conferences/Symposiums
- American Society for Microbiology General Meeting, 2013 (poster)
- Annual Biomedical Research Conference for Minority Students, 2012 (poster)
- National Conference of the Society for Advancement of Chicanos and Native Americans in Science, 2011 (poster)

Achievement
- Mary Gavin Burden Biomedical Sciences Research Fellowship Award, 2014

Miles Black is a graduating senior at Washington University in St. Louis and is currently applying to M.D./Ph.D. programs.

REVIEW COMMITTEE

Patricia Baynham (chairperson)
St. Edward’s University

Gregory Buck
Texas A&M University – Corpus Christi

Martin Gonzalez
Southwestern University

Quincy Moore
Prairie View A&M University

Gloricelys Rivera
Universidad Metropolitana

Mary Sanchez Lanier
Washington State University

Richard Whittington
Tuskegee University
Conferences/Symposiums
- FASEB Ciliate Molecular Biology Conference, 2013 (poster)
- American Society for Microbiology General Meeting, 2013 and 2012 (poster)
- Washington University Undergraduate Research Symposium, 2012 (poster)
- Midstates Consortium for Math and Science, 2012 (poster) and 2010 (oral)
- Washington University Undergraduate Research Symposium, 2010 (oral)

Achievement
- Howard Hughes Fellow, 2011

Joshua Brown is pursuing an M.D./Ph.D. program with a focus on medical scientist training.

Conferences/Symposiums
- American Chemical Society Conference, 2012 (poster)
- Student Scholars Symposium, University of West Florida, 2012 (poster)
- Leadership Alliance, 2011 (oral)
- Annual Biomedical Research Conference for Minority Students, 2011 (poster)
- Annual Summer Undergraduate Research Fest, University of Maryland – Baltimore County, 2011 (oral)

Achievements
- Recipient of a special recognition award for outstanding poster presentation
- Interdisciplinary Science Award, Annual Biomedical Research Conference for Minority Students

Stephanie DeLeon is a senior undergraduate at Texas Tech University. She intends to pursue graduate studies.

Conferences/Symposiums
- American Society for Microbiology – Texas Branch Meeting, 2014 and 2013 (poster)

- National Conference of the Society for Advancement of Chicanos and Native Americans in Science, 2011 (poster)
- American Society for Microbiology General Meeting, 2011 (poster)

Shayla Duncan is a graduating senior at Alabama State University and intends to pursue graduate education.

Conferences/Symposium
- American Society for Microbiology General Meeting, 2013 (poster)

Tammy Gonzalez is a senior at the University of North Dakota and intends to pursue graduate education.

Conferences/Symposium
- American Society for Microbiology General Meeting, 2012 (poster)

Alexandra Lopez Guzman is employed by Parker Hannifin Corp., which conducts biological, chemical, and physical analyses on manufactured filters.

Conferences/Symposium
- American Society for Microbiology General Meeting, 2012 (poster)

Achievements
- Award for the microbiology student with the highest grade point average, 2012 and 2011
- Acknowledged as the best overall presentation/abstract/poster at the Bigelow Laboratory for Ocean Sciences Meeting, NSF-REU Program, 2011

Michael Guzman is a research fellow in the NIH Postbaccalaureate Research Education Program (PREP) program (a one-year appointment to perform cell biology research, take graduate-level courses, and present at national conferences). Guzman intends to pursue graduate studies.
Confereces/Symposiums
- American Society for Cell Biology Annual Meeting, 2013 (poster)
- American Society for Microbiology General Meeting, 2013 (poster)
- Annual Biomedical Research Conference for Minority Students, 2012 (poster)

Achievements
- Poster Award, Annual Biomedical Research Conference for Minority Students, 2012
- NIH PREP Fellowship, University of Washington

Kofi Gyan is a postbaccalaureate at the University of Ottawa. Gyan intends to develop a research career at the NIH-funded Postbaccalaureate Research Education Program (PREP). He hopes to matriculate as an M.D./Ph.D. student in medical genetics to help further develop the medical model known as personalized medicine.

Confereces/Symposiums
- American Society for Microbiology General Meeting, 2013 (poster)
- Annual Biomedical Research Conference for Minority Students, 2012 (poster)

Achievement
- University of Ottawa, Dean’s Honors List, 2012-2013

Marley Hilleger is an undergraduate at San Diego State University. Hilleger plans to pursue a doctorate in biomedical sciences and becoming a certified clinical laboratory scientist in order to work at the interface between biomedical research and the application of that research.

Confereces/Symposiums
- San Diego State University Student Research Symposium, 2014 (oral) and 2013 (poster)

- American Society for Microbiology General Meeting, 2013 (poster)
- University of Nevada – Las Vegas REU Conference, 2013 (poster)

Achievements
- NSF REU in microbiology at the University of Nevada – Las Vegas (2013)
- Undergraduate Research Excellence Award for Poster Presentation at the San Diego State University Student Research Symposium (2013)
- NIH Bridges to the Baccalaureate Scholar (2012)
- NSF S-STEM Scholar (2012-present)

Brandon Kirby is a graduating senior at Bluefield State College and intends to pursue graduate education.

Confereces/Symposiums
- American Society for Microbiology General Meeting, 2013 (poster)

Jordan Krebs is a postbaccalaureate in the National Institutes of Health Undergraduate Scholar Postbaccalaureate Program.

Confereces/Symposiums
- American Society for Microbiology, 2013, 2012, and 2011 (poster)
- Pennsylvania Academy of Sciences Annual Meeting, 2013 and 2012 (oral)
- American Society for Microbiology – Allegheny Branch Meeting, 2012 and 2011 (oral)
- Undergraduate Research Symposium in the Chemical and Biological Sciences, University of Maryland – Baltimore County, 2012 and 2011 (poster)
- AbSciCon (Astrobiology Science Conference), 2012 (poster)
Publications
- Astrobiology (2014), 14(3):229-240
- International Journal of Systematic and Evolutionary Microbiology (2013), 63(12):4777-4783

Achievements
- National Institutes of Health Undergraduate Scholar, 2012 and 2011
- Caltech Amgen Scholars Fellow, 2011

Xiang Liu is a graduate student at Rush Medical College.

Conferences/Symposiums
- Leadership Alliance National Symposium, 2012 (oral)

Publications
- BMC Genomics (2011), 12:425
- Infection and Immunity (2014), 82(3):1268-1276

Alexandra Montano is a graduate student at Yale University, working towards a master of public health degree in the epidemiology of microbial diseases. Montano plans to obtain a doctorate in epidemiology and work abroad studying the intersection between infectious diseases and nutritional status.

Conferences/Symposiums
- Sport and Exercise Science New Zealand Annual Conference, 2014 (poster)
- Annual Biomedical Research Conference for Minority Students, 2013 and 2012 (poster)
- University of Washington Summer Research Poster Session, 2013 and 2012 (poster)
- American Society for Microbiology General Meeting, 2013 (poster)
- National Conference of the Society for Advancement of Chicanos and Native Americans in Science, 2012 (poster)

Publication

Achievement
- Selected as a Harvard School of Public Health Multidisciplinary International Research Training Program Fellow, 2014

Elizabeth Ogunrinde is an undergraduate at Florida State University. She intends to pursue an M.D./Ph.D.

Conferences/Symposiums
- American Society for Microbiology General Meeting, 2013 (poster)
- Florida State University Day at the Capitol, 2013 (poster)
- Florida State University Undergraduate Research Symposium, 2013 (poster)
- Annual Biomedical Research Conference for Minority Students, 2012 and 2011 (poster)
- Harvard University SCTRP (Summer Clinical and Translational Research Program) Closing Ceremony, 2012 (oral)
- Duke University Summer Research Opportunity Program, 2011 (oral and poster)

Achievement
- UNCF-Merck Undergraduate Science Research Scholarship Award

Maria Ortiz is an undergraduate senior and a research assistant in Dr. Dillon’s microbial ecology lab at California State University, Long Beach (CSULB). Upon completion of her undergraduate studies, Ortiz intends to matriculate into a doctoral program to explore the dynamics of microbial communities in the coastal and open ocean. (last information known)

Conferences/Symposiums
- SACNAS (Society for Advancement of Chicanos and Native Americans in Science) National Conference, 2012 (poster)
• American Society for Microbiology General Meeting, 2012 (poster)
• CSULB College of Natural Science and Mathematics Student Research Symposium, 2012 and 2011 (poster)
• Mexican American Engineers and Scientists (MAES) Symposium, 2011 (poster)
• Annual Biomedical Research Conference for Minority Students, 2011 (poster)
• CSULB Annual Student Research Competition, 2012 (oral)

Achievement
• SACNAS Travel Grant recipient, 2012
• Dauphin Island Sea Lab Research Experience for Undergraduates participant, 2012
• Research Initiative for Science Enhancement (RISE) Fellowship, 2010-2012
• Dauphin Island Sea Lab Research Experience for Undergraduates Award recipient, 2012
• MAES Orange County Scholarship recipient, 2011
• MAES Travel Grant recipient, 2011

Diana Hooker Romero is a research assistant at San Jose State University, where she uses culture independent techniques to better characterize uncultured bacteria TM7. Romero is currently working on subcloning and expressing novel genes.

Conferences/Symposiums
• American Society for Microbiology General Meeting, 2013 and 2012 (poster)
• California State University Program for Education and Research in Biotechnology Conference, 2013 and 2012 (poster)
• Annual Biomedical Research Conference for Minority Students, 2012 and 2011 (poster)

• National Conference of the Society for Advancement of Chicanos and Native Americans in Science, 2012 (poster)
• American Society for Microbiology – Northern California Branch Seminar, 2011 (poster)

Publication
• Open Access Scientific Reports (2012), 1:276

Achievements
• San Jose State University Dean Scholar, 2013 and 2012
• Poster Presentation Award, Annual Biomedical Research Conference for Minority Students, 2012
• Amgen Scholar at University of California – San Francisco, 2012
• NIH MARC (Maximizing Access to Research Careers) Fellow, 2011-2013

Jana Soares is an undergraduate at St. Edward's University. Soare intends to obtain a Ph.D./Dr.P.H. in public health or epidemiology.

Conferences/Symposiums
• Annual Biomedical Research Conference for Minority Students, 2013 (poster)
• American Society for Microbiology General Meeting, 2013 (poster)
• Texas Academy of Science Meeting, 2013 (poster)

Tyehimba Turner is a graduating senior at Dominican University. Turner plans to attend graduate school for either microbiology or science related policy.

Conferences/Symposiums
• American Society for Microbiology General Meeting, 2012 (poster)
• University of Chicago Various Symposia, 2012 (oral and poster)
• ACCA Conference, 2012 (oral)
• Leadership Alliance National Symposium, 2011 (oral and poster)

**Erin Zess** is a graduating senior at University of Wisconsin, Madison and intends to pursue graduate education.

**Conference/Symposium**

- American Society for Microbiology General Meeting, 2013 (poster)
2011-2012 Undergraduate Research Capstone Awardees

Miles Black
Washington University, St. Louis

Joshua Brown
University of West Florida

Stephanie DeLeon
South Plains College

Jordan Krebs
Lycoming College

Alexandra Lopez-Guzman
Interamerican University of Puerto Rico

Maria Ortiz
California State University, Long Beach

2012-2013 Undergraduate Research Capstone Awardees

Matthew Allen-Daniels
Virginia Commonwealth University

Joshua Ames
Kansas State University

Tasha Barr
University of California Davis

Shayla Duncan
Alabama State University

Tammy Gonzalez
University of North Dakota

Michael Guzman
Portland State University

Kofi Gyan
University of Ottawa

2012-2013 Undergraduate Research Capstone Awardees (cont’d)

Marley Hilleger
San Diego State University

Diana Hooker Romero
San Jose State University

Brandon Kirby
Bluefield State College

Xiang Liu
Emory University

Alexandra Montano
University of Washington

Elizabeth Ogunrinde
Florida State University

Jana Soares
St. Edward's University

Tyehimba Turner
Dominican University

Erin Zess
University of Wisconsin Madison
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