Invest in the Future of STEM

ABRCMS 2019
ANAHEIM, CALIFORNIA
NOVEMBER 13-16, 2019

Final Program

Funded by:
National Institute of General Medical Sciences

Managed by:
AMERICAN SOCIETY FOR MICROBIOLOGY

RECIPIENT OF THE 2019 AIMBE EXCELLENCE IN STEM EDUCATION AWARD
Rowan University School of Osteopathic Medicine (RowanSOM) is a leader in education, translational research and health care. 

- DO/PhD in Cell and Molecular Biology
- Nationally renowned research faculty
- Volunteer opportunities in urban and rural underserved areas

RowanSOM is convenient to Philadelphia, New York City and the New Jersey beaches.

At RowanSOM, students can become physician scientists who practice medicine, contribute to the study and treatment of diseases, lead clinical trials and educate the next generation of physicians.

Learn how you can elevate your education. Visit som.rowan.edu.
On behalf of the Annual Biomedical Research Conference for Minority Students (ABRCMS), I would like to extend a hearty welcome to Anaheim, CA, and the 2019 conference. As the meeting evolves in response to changes over the years, I continue to firmly believe that it is even more imperative that ABRCMS exists. I continue to be heartened and extremely proud that ABRCMS continues its very strong traditions of investment in diversity and inclusion with excellence in STEM.

This long history is fitting for our theme of this year’s meeting, “Invest in the Future of STEM,” with particular focus of our vision of a future that prominently features all of you as fully engaged participants in a career in STEM research. ABRCMS is extremely proud of the place that we play in preparing underrepresented students for a career in STEM research. We know that this may be the first scientific meeting for most of the students, our future leaders, and we want it to be one of many in the future. We strive to inspire our future leaders at this meeting, because they will continue to diversify the biomedical research workforce in ways that represent our society. Only with a diverse scientific workforce, whose future starts now, can we hope to make strides and advances in the issues such as health disparities and personalized medicine that have huge impacts in our communities. Addressing these and other issues will continue to require breakthroughs and new ways of thinking and approaching problems that facilitate these breakthroughs. And a more diverse workforce, with our current and our future leaders playing prominent roles, will accomplish this.

With this in mind, we have assembled an outstanding program that will inspire, challenge and educate. For the future leaders of STEM attending, this is an opportunity to show your preparation and training, step up to the plate, it’s your turn to begin your journey! Take advantage of all that we have prepared for you. For the faculty mentors and advisors, your future leaders are here to shine, and we all encourage and support you in ensuring they make the best of the meeting. We look forward to the exciting science and inspiring words of the presenters, and to hearty conversations with the exhibitors. At ABRCMS, we expect networking, the most cutting edge advances in the biomedical and behavioral sciences, and discussions of some of the most important issues facing minority students as well as professionals as they impact our community.

Everything you see during your time here is the result of hard work of planning and preparation by the ABRCMS Steering Committee, the ASM staff, the exhibitors (make sure to visit the booths!), and many volunteers, who have done a remarkable job to make this meeting possible. They have invested their time and efforts towards the scientific program, evaluating abstracts, and all the planning that goes into hosting your visit, setting up booths and making sure that everything is just right, so that you can experience what I know will be one of the most rewarding meetings of your careers. I would like to thank them all in advance for all their hard work making this meeting a success. Last but certainly not least, we are particularly grateful for the continued support of Division of Training, Workforce Development, and Diversity at the National Institute of General Medical Sciences, NIH, whose funding has continued to make ABRCMS what it is.

With my warmest wishes,

Avery August, Ph.D.
Chairperson, ABRCMS
On behalf of the National Institutes of Health's National Institute of General Medical Sciences (NIGMS), we'd like to welcome you to the 2019 Annual Biomedical Research Conference for Minority Students. We're very proud to support this meeting, which brings together a community of outstanding students and scientists for stimulating discussions of research, careers, and more.

This meeting is one element of our many activities in the areas of training, workforce development, diversity, and research capacity building. Our NIGMS programs range from the high school level through the undergraduate, graduate, postdoctoral and faculty levels. For example, we support an array of programs to enhance diversity in the biomedical research workforce including Science Education Partnership Awards, Bridges to the Baccalaureate, Building Infrastructure Leading to Diversity, Maximizing Access to Research Careers, Research Training Initiative for Scientific Enhancement, Initiative for Maximizing Student Development, Postbaccalaureate Research Education, Bridges to the Doctorate, Institutional Research and Academic Career Development Awards, Maximizing Opportunities for Scientific and Academic Independent Careers, the Diversity Supplement Program, the Native American Research Centers for Health, the Support of Competitive Research Programs, and the National Research Mentoring Network.

For those of you who are attending as mentors and sponsors, we truly appreciate your dedication and many contributions to your students and our shared goals. For those of you still in training, we hope that your involvement in this meeting further inspires and motivates you to pursue careers in the biomedical research workforce and leadership roles in biomedical science. During your time here, you will gain important allies for your future: a community of peers who will become your colleagues and friends as well as a network of scientists and mentors who are deeply committed to your success in pursuit of a research doctorate and a biomedical career.

We encourage you to make the most of the meeting and take every advantage of the resources and opportunities it offers to help you prepare for the next stages of your research career. We look forward to seeing your presentations and talking to you over the course of the next few days.

Sincerely,
Jon R. Lorsch, Ph.D.
Director, National Institute of General Medical Sciences,
National Institutes of Health

Alison Gammie, Ph.D.
Director, Division of Training, Workforce Development, and Diversity
National Institute of General Medical Sciences,
National Institutes of Health
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 13
12:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. ............ Registration Open
1:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. ............ Concurrent Workshops
3:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. .......... Concurrent Professional Development Sessions
3:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. ............ Exhibitor Move-In
5:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. .......... Concurrent Professional Development Sessions
6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. .......... Networking Dinner and Opening Keynote Address
8:45 p.m. - 9:30 p.m. .......... ABRCMS Travel Awardee Orientation

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 14
7:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m. .......... Registration Open
7:00 a.m. - 8:00 a.m. .......... Networking Breakfast
8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. .......... Exhibitor Move-In
8:15 a.m. - 9:00 a.m. .......... Mandatory Judges Meeting by Discipline
8:15 a.m. - 9:00 a.m. .......... Orientation for Students
8:15 a.m. - 9:00 a.m. .......... Concurrent Professional Development Sessions
9:15 a.m. - 9:45 a.m. .......... Concurrent Scientific Sessions
10:00 a.m. – 11:15 a.m. .......... Concurrent Professional Development Sessions
11:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. .......... Concurrent Scientific Sessions
12:15 p.m. – 1:00 p.m. .......... Networking Lunch by Discipline
12:45 p.m. - 1:30 p.m. .......... Plenary Scientific Session
1:45 p.m. - 5:30 p.m. .......... Exhibit and Poster Hall Hours
2:00 p.m. – 3:15 p.m. .......... Poster Session 1 (A)
3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. .......... Mentoring Coaching
3:30 p.m. – 4:45 p.m. .......... Poster Session 2 (B)
5:30 p.m. – 6:45 p.m. .......... Oral Presentations
7:00 p.m. – 7:45 p.m. .......... Networking Dinner by Discipline
8:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m. .......... Gateway to the Future: Career Path Session
8:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m. .......... Master’s Level Poster Session/Graduate Students and Postdoctoral Scientists Dessert and Networking Mixer

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 15
7:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. .......... Registration Open
7:00 a.m. – 7:45 a.m. .......... Networking Breakfast
8:00 a.m. – 9:15 a.m. .......... Concurrent Professional Development Sessions
9:30 a.m. – 10:00 a.m. .......... Concurrent Scientific Sessions
10:15 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. .......... Exhibit and Poster Hall Hours
10:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. .......... Mentoring Coaching
10:30 a.m. – 11:45 a.m. .......... Poster Session 3 (C)
12:15 p.m. – 1:00 p.m. .......... Networking Lunch by Discipline
1:00 p.m. – 1:45 p.m. .......... Plenary Scientific Session
2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. .......... Concurrent Professional Development Sessions
3:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. .......... Exhibit and Poster Hall Hours
3:15 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. .......... Poster Session 4 (D)
3:45 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. .......... Mentoring Showcase
4:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m. .......... Mentoring Coaching
4:45 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. .......... Poster Session 5 (E)
6:15 p.m. – 7:15 p.m. .......... Concurrent Professional Development Sessions
6:30 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. .......... Networking Events

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 16
7:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. .......... Registration Open
7:00 a.m. – 7:45 a.m. .......... Networking Breakfast
8:00 a.m. – 9:15 a.m. .......... Oral Presentations
9:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. .......... Exhibit and Poster Hall Hours
9:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. .......... Mentoring Coaching
11:00 a.m. – 11:50 a.m. .......... Exhibitor Showcase
10:00 a.m. – 11:15 a.m. .......... Poster Session 6 (F)
12:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. .......... Exhibitor Move-Out
12:15 p.m. – 1:00 p.m. .......... Networking Lunch
1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m. .......... Closing Keynote Address
2:15 p.m. – 2:45 p.m. .......... Concurrent Scientific Sessions
3:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. .......... Concurrent Professional Development Sessions
4:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. .......... FREE TIME!
7:30 p.m. – 10:00 p.m. .......... Banquet and Awards Ceremony
10:00 p.m. – 2:00 a.m. .......... Dance and Social (all are invited)
Important Information

Orientation: How to Make the Best of a Scientific Meeting
ABRCMS orientation will help maximize your learning and networking opportunities throughout the conference. Orientation will be held on Thursday, November 14, from 8:15 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. in Ballroom A-E.

ABRCMS Mobile App
Get the latest conference program, exhibitor information, conference maps and much more at your fingertips with the ABRCMS Mobile App. Search for ABRCMS in your app store.

Dining Plan
The daily dining plan is included in the registration fee. Registration includes the following meals:
- **Wednesday:** Dinner
- **Thursday:** Breakfast, Lunch, and Dinner
- **Friday:** Breakfast and Lunch
- **Saturday:** Breakfast, Lunch and Awards Banquet

Note: The most common food allergens have been avoided to the best extent. Please read the food labels carefully on the buffets. Many of the items on the buffets and plated meals will accommodate gluten-free and dairy-free diets.

ADA
Pursuant to the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you require services or aids to participate fully in ABRCMS, please visit the main registration desk.

Awards Banquet and Ceremony
The Awards Banquet & Ceremony is Saturday, November 16 from 7:30 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. The ceremony will begin promptly at 7:30 p.m.

Wi-Fi at ABRCMS
Great news! Free Wi-Fi is available in the exhibit hall, session rooms, and convention center hallways. This service has been brought to you by ABRCMS and the American Society for Microbiology.
- NETWORK ID: ABRCMS
- PASSWORD: ABRCMS2019

Name Badge Policy & Badge Replacement
All ABRCMS attendees are required to wear conference badges onsite at all times. Badges give you access to sessions, the exhibit hall, and workshops. It is your responsibility to ensure that you have your badge at all times. There is a charge of $25 for badge replacement. No exceptions will be made.

Evaluation
This year, we are re-implementing real-time evaluation during sessions. Please take a few minutes to complete your evaluation in the mobile app at the end of each session you attend. A post-conference evaluation will be emailed to all attendees following the conference. We value your feedback. Every completed evaluation helps us improve future conferences.
Cell Phone Usage
Out of consideration for your ABRCMS colleagues, all cell phones must be turned off in session rooms.

Networking Lunch by Discipline
Networking sessions will be held Thursday and Friday from 12:15 p.m. to 1:00 p.m. These lunch sessions offer a forum for small–group discussions focused on the student activities and career pathways offered by societies. All ABRCMS exhibitors and faculty attendees who are within the 12 scientific disciplines are strongly encouraged to attend.

Photo Policy
By registering for ABRCMS, you agree to allow ASM/ABRCMS to use any photos taken of you during the conference in news media, website, publications, articles, marketing pieces, etc. In order to protect data shared during presentations, no photos may be taken of posters or scientific session slides at ABRCMS.

Dress Code
ABRCMS attendees are expected to dress professionally for all conference activities.

ABRCMS Code of Conduct
The Annual Biomedical Research Conference for Minority Students (“ABRCMS”), managed by the American Society for Microbiology (“ASM”), is one of the nation’s largest conferences for underrepresented students in STEM. ABRCMS is committed to providing an environment that encourages the free expression and exchange of scientific ideas and promotes equal opportunities and respectful treatment for all participants. All participants are expected to treat others with respect and consideration, follow venue rules, and alert ASM/ABRCMS staff or security of any dangerous situations or anyone in distress.

ABRCMS prohibits and will not tolerate any form of harassment or bullying at its events. This policy applies to all attendees, speakers, exhibitors, contractors, volunteers, and guests at ABRCMS. Violation of this code of conduct may result in the participant being asked to leave the event at which the incident occurred, without warning or refund; being barred from attending ABRCMS in the future.

If a participant experiences or witness harassment, please follow the protocol at abrcms.org/code–of–conduct or contact an ASM/ABRCMS staff (identifiable by staff badge) as soon as possible or contact security.

Designated Rooms
All rooms will be available from Wednesday, November 13 through Saturday, November 16.

- Speaker Ready Room ................. 205 A
- Judges Lounge ......................... 207 AB
- FASEB and Self-Practice .............. 213 AB
  (Poster Presentation Practice Room)
- FASEB and Self-Practice .............. 213 C
  (Oral Presentation Practice Room)
- ADA Resource Room ................. 205 B
- Exam Room ............................. 211 B
- First Aid Room ......................... Registration Area
- Lactation Room ......................... 109
- Prayer/Meditation Room .............. 201 C
- General Study Room .................. 212 A
  (Note: Please check your hotel for other available study rooms.)

Exam Room
To accommodate students who need to take exams while at the conference, please visit the Registration Area to sign-up accordingly.

College/University Spirit Day
On Wednesday, November 13, represent your institution by sporting your school jacket, t-shirt, tie, polo, and etc. Don’t forget to show off your school spirit on the ABRCMS Twitter, Instagram, and Facebook pages using #ABRCMS.

Concurrent Scientific Sessions
ABRCMS has enhanced the 2019 conference program by expanding the scientific content. More than 30 sessions across 12 scientific disciplines will be shared with the STEM community by experts who have a breadth of knowledge on emerging scientific concepts.

- Thursday, November 14: 9:15 a.m. – 9:45 a.m.
- Thursday, November 14: 11:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
- Friday, November 15: 9:30 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.
- Saturday, November 16: 2:15 p.m. – 2:45 p.m.

Gateway to the Future: Career Paths in the Biomedical Sciences, STEM Disciplines, and Behavioral Sciences
(Con-Sponsored by ASM and Genentech)
On Thursday, November 14 from 8:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m., research scientists and representatives from a variety of career sectors will engage students in small group discussions focused on “a day in the life of a scientist.” They will discuss their career pathways and educational backgrounds, what they enjoy about their work, and their strategies for professional and personal life balance. Career sectors include pharma/biotechnology/industry, media/communications, research intensive academic/staff scientist, undergraduate liberal arts academic/community college, academic medicine, and government/policy/foundation/law.

Presentation Practice and Peer Mentoring Sessions
(Sponsored in Partnership with FASEB)
The FASEB MARC Program will sponsor poster/oral presentation practice and peer mentoring sessions for students presenting at ABRCMS 2019. These practice sessions are scheduled for 30-minute periods. Students MUST sign up at the FASEB Peer-Mentoring Office in Room 211 A in advance.

FASEB Mentors
- Laura de Lorenzo Barrios
  St. Thomas University
- Tyesha Nicole Burks
  Bowie State University
- Sarah Deemer
  University of Alabama, Birmingham
- Felicia Emery
  St. Charles Community College
- Devyn Dior Gillette
  Bowie State University
- Kamilah E. Grant
  Alcorn State University
- Michelle Tatom Juarez
  Howard Hughes Medical Institute
- LeeCole Legette
  Pharmavite, LLC
- Shaun Marie Logan
  Texas A&M University College of Dentistry
- Noraida Martinez-Rivera
  University of Kansas
- Melissa Mason
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(Sponsored in Partnership with FASEB)
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Mentoring Showcase
Students Utilizing Mentoring as a Personal Developmental Strategy
(Recommended for all students)
Join us in the Exhibit and Poster Hall for a discussion about the value of mentoring, including strategies, tools, and protocols for utilizing a mentor and participating in a mentorship alliance. This will be held on Friday, November 15, from 3:45 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. in the Exhibit Hall Theater.

2019 ABRCMS Mentors
- Howard G. Adams, Ph.D.
  Howard G. Adams & Associates
- Keshia Ashe, Ph.D.
  Many Mentors, National Science Foundation (NSF)
- Earnestine Baker M.A.
  University of Maryland, Baltimore County
- Judy Blumenthal, Ph.D.
  Montgomery College
- Peter Gannett, Ph.D.
  Nova Southeastern University College of Pharmacy
- Herbert Geller, Ph.D.
  National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute (NIH)
- Aziza Glass, D.V.M.
  Personal Touch Veterinary Clinic, PLLC
- Patrice Gregory, Ph.D.
  Sandia National Labs
- Marcus Huggans, Ph.D.
  GEM Fellowship
- Adrian Land, Ph.D.
  Procter & Gamble
- Amy Maki, M.Ed.
  A.O. Maki & Associates
- Daniel Miranda, Jr., Ph.D.
  Amgen
- Beronda Montgomery, Ph.D.
  Michigan State University
- Ofelia Olivero, Ph.D.
  National Cancer Institute (NCI)
- Joel Oppenheim, Ph.D.
  NYU School of Medicine
- Marquita Qualls, Ph.D.
  Entropia Consulting
- Juan Ramirez-Lugo, Ph.D.
  University of Puerto Rico, Rio Piedras
- Delira Robbins, Ph.D.
  University of Tennessee Research Foundation
- Cheryl Rowe-Rendleman, Ph.D.
  Omar Consulting Group, LLC
- David Sanchez, Ph.D.
  Western University of Health Sciences
- Tori Strong, Ph.D.
  Vyripharm Biopharmaceuticals
- Iris Wagstaff, Ph.D.
  American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS)
- Sylvia Wilson Thomas, Ph.D.
  University of South Florida
- Patrice Yarbough, Ph.D.
  NASA

Master’s Level Poster Session/Graduate Students and Postdoctoral Scientists Dessert and Networking Mixer
Thursday, November 14:
8:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m.

Exhibit Passport
Participate in the exhibit hall passport program to win prizes. See page 47–48 for details.

Exhibitor Showcase
Join us in the Exhibit and Poster Hall for the Exhibitor Showcases, where you can hear directly from the exhibitors. These innovative 20-minute presentations will be held on Saturday, November 16, from 11:00 a.m. to 11:50 a.m. in the Exhibit Hall Theater.
Exhibitor and Judges Corner

FOR EXHIBITORS

**Move-In**
- Wednesday, November 13: 3:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
- Thursday, November 14: 8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

**Exhibitor Hours**
- Thursday, November 14: 1:45 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.
- Friday, November 15: 10:15 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. and 3:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.
- Saturday, November 16: 9:15 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

**Early Admittance into Exhibit Hall**
Your exhibitor badge allows you access to the Exhibit Hall 30 minutes prior to the opening of the Exhibit Hall. Due to security, you will not be allowed to enter the Exhibit Hall earlier than 30 minutes or anytime outside of exhibit hours. Please plan accordingly.

**Exhibitor Services Area**
This is where exhibitors can find the exhibitor lounge, Freeman, Smart City (Internet), PSAV and Experient (Lead Retrieval) service desks. The exhibitor area can be found on the left hand side of the exhibit hall near the restrooms.

**Exhibitor Lounge**
Complimentary beverages are available to all Exhibitors in the Exhibitor Lounge located in the Exhibitor Service Area during the following times:
- Wednesday, November 13: 3:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
- Thursday, November 14: 8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. and 1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.
- Friday, November 15: 9:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. and 2:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.
- Saturday, November 16: 8:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

**Leaving Early**
We encourage you to say the duration of the conference. Students are expecting your full participation. Exhibitors who wish to leave early will be responsible for the shipment of their materials. Freeman will only ship materials for exhibitors on the last day of the conference.

**Move-Out**
- Saturday, November 16: 12:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

FOR JUDGES

**Judges Lounge**
Room: 207 AB
- Wednesday, November 13: 12:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.
- Thursday, November 14: 7:00 a.m. - 6:30 p.m.
- Friday, November 15: 7:00 a.m. - 6:30 p.m.
- Saturday, November 16: 7:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

**Mandatory Judge Meeting by Discipline**
- Thursday, November 14: 8:15 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.

**Speakers, Exhibitors, Judges, and Program Directors Networking Social**
- Friday, November 15: 6:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

**Important Reminder:**
- Judges’ score submissions are due by 12:00 p.m. on Saturday, November 16

“ABRCMS allows underprivileged and underrepresented students the opportunity to practice/learn skills like presenting their research to push them further in their career.”
Networking Meals by Discipline

ABRCMS offers many opportunities for networking. Join colleagues with similar interest to share ideas and develop research collaborations. Networking is strongly encouraged throughout the conference; however, attendees are asked to sit in their respective disciplines during lunch and dinner on Thursday, and during lunch on Friday. Disciplines tables are identified by table colors. See table below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Social and Behavioral Sciences</th>
<th>Microbiology</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Public Health</td>
<td>Immunology</td>
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<tr>
<td>Physiology &amp; Pharmacology</td>
<td>Cell Biology</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cancer Biology</td>
<td>Neuroscience</td>
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<td>Developmental Biology &amp; Genetics</td>
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<td>Biochemistry &amp; Molecular Biology</td>
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<tr>
<td>Engineering</td>
<td>Physics &amp; Mathematics</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Chemistry</td>
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ABRCMS Supporters

ABRCMS would like to recognize the following universities and organizations for their support of ABRCMS 2019.

Major Conference Sponsors

Diamond Sponsor
- UCLA Graduate Programs in Bioscience

Platinum Sponsor
- University of Alabama at Birmingham

Gold Sponsors
- NYU School of Medicine, Sackler Institute of Graduate Biomedical Sciences
- Society of Toxicology
- University of California, Irvine
- University of South Florida

Silver Sponsors
- Columbia University Medical Center
- Howard Hughes Medical Institution (HHMI)
- Medical College of Wisconsin Graduate School & Medical Scientist Training Program (MD/Ph.D.)
- Medical College of Wisconsin Pharmacy and Medical School
- Novartis Institutes for BioMedical Research
- University of California, San Diego
- University of Kansas - Graduate Studies and Self Graduate Fellowship
- University of Minnesota Biomedical Sciences Graduate Programs

Bronze Sponsors
- University of Minnesota Medical Scientist Training Program
- Weill Cornell Graduate School of Medical Sciences
- American Association for the Advancement of Science
- American Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology
- Emory University/Graduate Division of Biological and Biomedical Sciences
- Genentech, Inc.
- Graduate School, Oregon State University
- Northeastern University
- Regeneron Pharmaceuticals
- St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences
- The University of Texas at San Antonio – The Graduate School
- University of Arizona Biological and Biomedical Sciences
- University of Illinois Bioengineering
- University of New England College of Osteopathic Medicine
- University of Wisconsin-Madison School of Medicine and Public Health
- Worcester Polytechnic Institute

National Institute of General Medical Sciences

NIH

National Institutes of Health

NIH

American Society for Microbiology

NIH

American Society for Microbiology
PLENARY SCIENTIFIC SESSION:
Power in Numbers: Unveiling Hidden Figures
Talithia Williams, Ph.D.
Harvey Mudd College, Claremont, CA

Wednesday, November 13
7:45 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

PLENARY SCIENTIFIC SESSION:
Hip Hop Stroke: An Investigator Initiated NIH-Funded Journey
Olajide Williams, M.D., M.S.
Columbia University Medical Center/New York Presbyterian Hospital, New York, NY

Thursday, November 14
12:45 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.

PLENARY SCIENTIFIC SESSION:
The Impact of Heterogeneity in Cancer Genome Science
John D. Carpten, Ph.D.
University of Southern California, Los Angeles, CA

Friday, November 15
1:00 p.m. – 1:45 p.m.

CLOSING KEYNOTE ADDRESS:
An Afternoon with Soledad O’Brien: Her Life Stories
Soledad O’Brien
Award-Winning Journalist, Entrepreneur & Host of the Weekly Syndicated Political Show “Matter of Fact with Soledad O’Brien”

Saturday, November 16
1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Utilizing Structural Biology to Combat Disease
Celia Goulding, Ph.D., University of California, Irvine, CA

Thursday, November 14 | 9:15 A.M. – 9:45 A.M.

Skin Cancer Disparities: More Than Just Skin-Deep
Masaoki Kawasumi, M.D., Ph.D., University of Washington, Seattle, WA

Atomic-scale Imaging and Spectroscopy of Materials for Electrochemical Energy Conversion and Storage
William J. Bowman, Ph.D., University of California, Irvine, CA

Our Mysterious Immune System: Is There an On/Off Switch?
Hossam Ashour, Ph.D., University of South Florida St. Petersburg, St. Petersburg, FL

Analytical Chemistry in Pharmaceutical Development
Jose Cintron, Ph.D., Eli Lilly & Company, Indianapolis, IN

Understanding Phenotypic Variation: Lessons from Developmental Disorders
Eliezer Calo, Ph.D., Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, MA

The Role of Rhomboid Pseudoproteases in Protein Homeostasis
Sonya Neal, Ph.D., University of California, San Diego, San Diego, CA

Our Mysterious Immune System: Is There an On/Off Switch?
Hatem A. Elshabrawy, B.S. Pharm., Ph.D., Sam Houston State University, College of Osteopathic Medicine, Huntsville, TX

Understanding Diseases with Computational and Systems Biology
Dana Crawford, Ph.D., Case Western Reserve University, Cleveland, OH

The World’s Smallest Hunter Taking Down the Deadliest Human Pathogens
Daniel Kadouri, Ph.D., Rutgers School of Dental Medicine, Newark, NJ

Understanding Diseases with Computational and Systems Biology
Olanrewaju Morenikeji, Ph.D., Rochester Institute of Technology, Rochester, NY

The World’s Smallest Hunter Taking Down the Deadliest Human Pathogens
Henry Williams, Ph.D., Florida A&M University, Tallahassee, FL
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 14 | 9:30 A.M. – 10:00 A.M.

Am I Potent?: Biological Activity Determination of Drugs Using Cell Based Assays
Jeanne Helmreich, Ph.D., Eli Lilly and Company, Indianapolis, IN

Obesity, Immunity, and Impact on CAR T-cell Immunotherapy
Curtis Henry, Ph.D., Emory University, School of Medicine, Atlanta, GA

Trim the Fat: The Role of Lipids in Cancer Development
Glenn Simmons, Jr., Ph.D., University of Minnesota Medical School, Minneapolis, MN

A Lot of Nerve! Evolutionary Mechanisms of Neural Regeneration
Wendy Beane, Ph.D., Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo, MI

A Lot of Nerve! Evolutionary Mechanisms of Neural Regeneration
Kelly Al-Sun Tseng, Ph.D., University of Nevada, Las Vegas, Las Vegas, NV

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 14 | 11:30 A.M. – 12:00 P.M.

Diversity-generating Retroelements and the Accelerated Evolution of Adaptive Traits
Jeffrey F. Miller, Ph.D., University of California, Los Angeles, Los Angeles, CA

NAD+ Metabolism during Aging: Insight from Quantitative Flux Analysis
Melanie McReynolds, Ph.D., Princeton University, Princeton, NJ

A Lot of Nerve! Evolutionary Mechanisms of Neural Regeneration
Claudia Benavente, Ph.D., University of California, Irvine, Irvine, CA

Integrating Genomics and Epigenomics for the Identification of Novel Cancer Therapeutics
Hosea Nelson, Ph.D., University of California, Los Angeles, Los Angeles, CA

Twists and Turns Along the Path of Reactivity-driven Methods Development
Rhysa Welford, Ph.D., University of California, Irvine, Irvine, CA

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 14 | 11:30 A.M. – 12:00 P.M.

Sign of the Times: Time Based Methods for Measuring Vocabulary Knowledge
Rihana Mason, Ph.D., Georgia State University, Atlanta, GA

Am I Potent?: Biological Activity Determination of Drugs Using Cell Based Assays
Jeanne Helmreich, Ph.D., Eli Lilly and Company, Indianapolis, IN

Epigenetics: Pushing the Boundaries of Memory
Marcelo Wood, Ph.D., University of California, Irvine, Irvine, CA

Partnering with Communities to Improve Cardiovascular Health Equity
Elizabeth Lynch, Ph.D., Rush University Medical Center, Chicago, IL

Understanding Genetic Variation: Three Cutting-Edge Research Studies in Diverse Populations
Neil Hanchard, M.D., Ph.D., Baylor College of Medicine, Houston, TX

Understanding Genetic Variation: Three Cutting-Edge Research Studies in Diverse Populations
Cristina de Guzman Strong, Ph.D., Washington University School of Medicine, St. Louis, MO

How Do Cancer Cells Communicate with the Host
Renumathy Dhanasekaran, M.D., Stanford University, Stanford, CA

Understanding the Intelligent Bladder Urothelium: Not Just a Passive Barrier
Bahareh Vahabi, Ph.D., University of the West of England, Bristol, UK

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 14 | 9:15 A.M. – 9:45 A.M. (cont.)

ABRCMS gives me hope that there will be a diverse scientific workforce in the future.”

Staying Woke, Part 1: The Neurobiology of Sleep Disturbances in Autism
Lucia Peixoto, Ph.D., Washington State University, Pullman, WA

When Microengineering Meets Physiology: Thrombosis-on-Chip
Monicah Otieno, Ph.D., Janssen Pharmaceuticals/Society of Toxicology, Reston, VA

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Cristina de Guzman Strong, Ph.D., Washington University School of Medicine, St. Louis, MO

Hydrogen Sulfide (H2S) in Humans: Physiology, Biochemistry, and Relevance
Juan López-Garriga, Ph.D., University of Puerto Rico, Mayagüez Campus, Mayagüez, Puerto Rico

Adapting an Evolutionary Model for Microbiota Studies: Diversity Matters
Kat Milligan-Myhre, Ph.D., University of Alaska Anchorage, Anchorage, AK

Epigenetics: Pushing the Boundaries of Memory
Marcelo Wood, Ph.D., University of California, Irvine, Irvine, CA

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Sign of the Times: Time Based Methods for Measuring Vocabulary Knowledge
Rihana Mason, Ph.D., Georgia State University, Atlanta, GA
Metastasis: The Unbeatable Beast?
Diana Cittelly, Ph.D.,
University of Colorado, Anschutz Medical Campus, Aurora, CO

Catching Anxiety: The Impact of HSV-1 on Animal Behavior
Gerald Griffin, Ph.D.,
Hope College, Holland, MI

Genetic and Behavioral Interrogation of Pain Neural Circuits
Ishmail Abdus-Saboor, Ph.D.,
University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA

Deconvoluting Disease Biomarkers with Computational Biology Tools
Andre Hudson, Ph.D.,
Rochester Institute of Technology, Rochester, NY

The Social Lives of Mitochondria: Inter-organelle Membrane Contacts as Signaling Platforms
Samantha Lewis, Ph.D.,
University of California, Davis, Davis, CA

Deconvoluting Disease Biomarkers with Computational Biology Tools
Felix Rivera-Mariani, Ph.D.,
Larkin University, Miami, FL

Genetic and Behavioral Interrogation of Pain Neural Circuits
Chicora Oliver, Ph.D.,
Emory University, Atlanta, GA

Deconvoluting Disease Biomarkers with Computational Biology Tools
Felix Rivera-Mariani, Ph.D.,
Larkin University, Miami, FL

It provides a very tight-knit support system for minority success.”

Being surrounded by intelligent, motivated, and driven people of similar backgrounds was not only encouraging, but reassuring.”

The Perils of Underrepresentation: What Research Tells Us about the Future of Broad-based Genetic Testing
Latrice Landry, M.S., Ph.D.,
Harvard Medical School and Harvard School of Public Health, Boston, MA

The Perils of Underrepresentation: What Research Tells Us about the Future of Broad-based Genetic Testing
Latrice Landry, M.S., Ph.D.,
Harvard Medical School and Harvard School of Public Health, Boston, MA

Concurrent Professional Development Sessions (4 Session Options)
3:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.
SESSION 1
Building Bridges, Creating Allies: Confronting Questions of Privilege and Power in an Age of Polarization
(Recommended for postdoctoral scientists, faculty, program directors, and exhibitors)
SPEAKERS
Richard J. Prystowsky, Ph.D., Marion Technical College, Marion OH

Workshops (4 Session Options)
1:00 p.m. - 3:45 p.m.
SESSION 1
The Leadership Alliance Strategic Planning Listening Session
(By Invitation Only)
SPEAKER
Medeva Ghee, Ph.D., The Leadership Alliance, Providence, RI

SESSION 2
Addressing the Mental Health, Wellness and Resilience of STEM Students
(Recommended for postdoctoral scientists, faculty, program directors, and exhibitors)
SPEAKERS
Sharon Milgram, Ph.D.,
National Institutes of Health, Bethesda, MD
Annie Scheiner, LCMFT, Wellness Advisor-OITE, National Institutes of Health, Bethesda, MD
Michael J. Sheridan, Ph.D.,
National Institutes of Health, Bethesda, MD

SESSION 3
Building Bridges, Creating Allies: Confronting Questions of Privilege and Power in an Age of Polarization
(Recommended for postdoctoral scientists, faculty, program directors, and exhibitors)
SPEAKERS
Richard J. Prystowsky, Ph.D., Marion Technical College, Marion OH

The ABRCMS Program
REPEAT SESSIONS ARE DENOTED BY ★
SESSION 3
The Ins and Outs of Graduate School Panel Discussion
(Recommended for community college, undergraduate, and postbaccalaureate students)
MODERATOR
• Nicquet Blake, Ph.D., UT Health San Antonio, San Antonio, TX
SPEAKERS
• Graduate School Panelists
3:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. 208 AB

SESSION 4
No Means No: Let Harassers and Bullies Know You’re NOT a Target ★
(Recommended all graduate students, faculty, postdoctoral scientists, program directors, and exhibitors)
SPEAKER
• Sherry Marts, S*Marts Consulting, Washington, DC
Concurrent Professional Development Sessions
(13 Session Options)
5:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. 304 B
SESSION 1
Networking in Your Scientific Discipline: Biochemistry and Molecular Biology
(Recommended all students)
FACILITATORS
• Charles Bevins, M.D., Ph.D., University of California, Davis, Davis, CA
• Candice Etson, Ph.D., Wesleyan University, Middletown, CT
• Gustavo Silva, Ph.D., Duke University, Durham, NC
5:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. 202 AB
SESSION 2
Networking in Your Scientific Discipline: Cancer Biology
(Recommended all students)
FACILITATORS
• Manu Platt, Ph.D., Georgia Institute of Technology, Atlanta, GA
• Luisel Ricks-Santi, Ph.D., Hampton University, Hampton, VA
5:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. 304 C
SESSION 3
Networking in Your Scientific Discipline: Cell Biology
(Recommended all students)
FACILITATORS
• Gustavo Arribazabala, Ph.D., Indiana University School of Medicine, Indianapolis, IN
• Brent Berwin, Ph.D., Dartmouth Medical School, Hanover, NH
• Tracy Johnson, Ph.D., University of California, Los Angeles, Los Angeles, CA
5:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. 304 A
SESSION 4
Networking in Your Scientific Discipline: Chemistry
(Recommended all students)
FACILITATORS
• Squire Booker, Ph.D., The Pennsylvania State University, University Park, PA
• Claudio Ortiz, Ph.D.
• Laura Sanchez, Ph.D., University of Illinois at Chicago, Chicago, IL
5:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. 210 A
SESSION 5
Networking in Your Scientific Discipline: Computational and Systems Biology
(Recommended all students)
FACILITATORS
• Dana Crawford, Ph.D., Case Western Reserve University, Cleveland, OH
• Jeannette Papp, Ph.D., University of California, Los Angeles, Los Angeles, CA
• Bolaji Thomas, Ph.D., Rochester Institute of Technology, Rochester, NY
5:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. 210 C
SESSION 6
Networking in Your Scientific Discipline: Developmental Biology and Genetics
(Recommended all students)
FACILITATORS
• Cristian Aguilar, Ph.D., Azusa Pacific University, Azusa, CA
• Tyrell Car, Ph.D., Saint Augustine University, Raleigh, NC
• Marlene de la Cruz, Ph.D., University of California, Irvine, Irvine, CA
5:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. 304 D
SESSION 7
Networking in Your Scientific Discipline: Engineering, Physics, and Mathematics
(Recommended all students)
FACILITATORS
• Angela Alexander-Bryant, Ph.D., Clemson University, Clemson, SC
• Rafael Diaz-Escamilla, Ph.D., California State University, Sacramento, Sacramento, CA
• Abiraman Srinivasan, Ph.D., Community College of Allegheny County, Pittsburgh, PA
5:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. 210 B
SESSION 8
Networking in Your Scientific Discipline: Immunology
(Recommended all students)
FACILITATORS
• Cherie Butts, Ph.D., Biogen, Cambridge, MA
• Harlan Jones, Ph.D., University of North Texas, Denton, TX
• Cleber Oouverney, Ph.D., San Jose State University, San Jose, CA
5:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. BALLROOM C
SESSION 9
Networking in Your Scientific Discipline: Microbiology
Sponsored by American Society for Microbiology
Light refreshments will be served.
(Recommended all students)
FACILITATORS
• Danielle Graham, Ph.D., Fayetteville State University, Fayetteville, NC
• Michael Johnson, Ph.D., University of Arizona, Tucson, AZ
• Alfredo Torres, Ph.D., University of Texas Medical Branch, Galveston, TX
5:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. BALLROOM C
SESSION 10
Networking in Your Scientific Discipline: Neuroscience
(Recommended all students)
FACILITATORS
• Michael Burton, Ph.D., University of Texas at Dallas, Dallas, TX
• Ramesh Ragupathi, Ph.D., Drexel University, Philadelphia, PA
• Crystal Watkins, M.D., Ph.D., The Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine, Baltimore, MD
5:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. 210 C
SESSION 11
Networking in Your Scientific Discipline: Physiology and Pharmacology
(Recommended all students)
FACILITATORS
• TanYa Gwathmey-Williams, Ph.D., Wake Forest School of Medicine, Winston-Salem, NC
• Amanda Marie James, Ph.D., Emory University, Atlanta, GA
5:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. BALLROOM E
SESSION 12
Networking in Your Scientific Discipline: Social and Behavioral Sciences and Public Health
(Recommended all students)
FACILITATORS
• David Cording, Ph.D., University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI
• Karen Singer-Freeman, Ph.D., University of North Carolina, Charlotte, Charlotte, NC
5:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. 206 AB
SESSION 13
The GRE and Graduate Admissions: Are We Asking the Wrong Questions
(Recommended for faculty, program directors, and exhibitors)
SPEAKERS
• Anthony DePass, Ph.D., Understanding Interventions/Long Island University, Long Island University, Brooklyn, NY
• Daryl Chubin, Ph.D., Understanding Interventions/Independent Consultant, Savannah, GA
THE PROGRAM

Sherry Marts, Speaker
(Recommended for all students)

NOT a Target
Harassers and Bullies Know You’re
Breakfast/No Means No: Let
7:00 a.m. - 8:00 a.m.

THE PROGRAM

Chairperson Opening Remarks
Avery August, Ph.D., Cornell University College of Veterinary Medicine, Ithaca, NY

Welcome Remarks
Jonathan Stevens-Garcia, M.P.H., M.B.A., Chief Operating Officer, American Society for Microbiology, Washington, DC
Alison Gammie, Ph.D., National Institute of General Medical Sciences, NIH, Bethesda, MD

PLENARY SCIENTIFIC SESSION
Opening Keynote Address — Power in Numbers: Unveiling Hidden Figures
MODERATOR: John Fitzgerald Gates, Ph.D., Purdue University, West Lafayette, IN
SPEAKER: Talithia Williams, Ph.D., Harvey Mudd College, Claremont, CA

8:45 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.
ABRCMS Travel Award Orientation
8:45 a.m. - 9:30 p.m.
PREP Scholars Meet & Greet
(By Invitation Only)

Thursday, November 14
7:00 a.m. - 8:00 a.m.
Ballroom A-E
Breakfast/No Means No: Let Harassers and Bullies Know You’re NOT a Target
(Recommended for all students)
SPEAKER
Sherry Marts, S*Marts Consulting, Washington, DC

Concurrent Professional Development Sessions
(3 Session Options)
8:15 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.

SESSION 1
Mandatory Judge Meeting by Discipline
(For Oral and Poster Judges only)
Biochemistry and Molecular Biology
Cancer Biology
Cell Biology
Chemistry
Computational and Systems Biology
Developmental Biology and Genetics
Engineering, Physics, and Mathematics
Immunology
Microbiology
Neuroscience
Physiology and Pharmacology
Social and Behavioral Sciences and Public Health

8:15 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.
Ballroom A-E
SESSION 2
Orientation: How to Make the Best of a Scientific Meeting
(Mandatory for community college, undergraduate, and postbaccalaureate students)
SPEAKER
Sandra Murray, Ph.D., University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, PA

8:15 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.

SESSION 3
Unique NIH Funding Opportunities You Should Know
(Recommended for graduate students and postdoctoral scientists)
SPEAKERS
Ravi Basavappa, Ph.D., National Institutes of Health, Office of Strategic Coordination, Rockville, MD

8:15 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.

SESSION 4
Analytical Chemistry in Pharmaceutical Development
 Discipline: Chemistry
SPEAKER
Jose Cintron, Ph.D., Eli Lilly & Company, Indianapolis, IN

9:15 a.m. - 9:45 a.m.

SESSION 5
Understanding Diseases with Computational and Systems Biology
Discipline: Computational and Systems Biology
SPEAKERS
Dana Crawford, Ph.D., Case Western Reserve University, Cleveland, OH
Olanrewaju Morenikeji, Ph.D., Rochester Institute of Technology, Rochester, NY

9:15 a.m. - 9:45 a.m.

SESSION 6
Understanding Phenotypic Variation: Lessons from Developmental Disorders
Discipline: Developmental Biology and Genetics
SPEAKER
Eliezer Calo, Ph.D., Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, MA

9:15 a.m. - 9:45 a.m.

SESSION 7
Atomic-scale Imaging and Spectroscopy of Materials for Electrochemical Energy Conversion and Storage
Discipline: Engineering, Physics, and Math
SPEAKER
William J. Bowman, Ph.D., University of California, Irvine, Irvine, CA

9:15 a.m. - 9:45 a.m.

SESSION 8
Our Mysterious Immune System: Is There an On/Off Switch?
Discipline: Immunology
SPEAKERS
Hossam Ashour, Ph.D., University of South Florida St. Petersburg, St. Petersburg, FL
Hatem A. Elshabrawy, B.S., Pharm., Ph.D., Sam Houston State University, College of Osteopathic Medicine, Huntsville, TX
Concurrent Professional Development Sessions
(8 Session Options)

10:00 a.m. - 11:15 a.m.  210 A
SESSION 1
NIGMS Program Director Discussions
(Track 1)
(Recommended for TWD program directors)
Diversity-focused, primarily undergraduate programs with an emphasis on:
- Student Tracking
- Student Support (while in training programs and beyond)
- Student Research Training Activities
- Dissemination - Sharing of Training Approaches/Activities

10:00 a.m. - 11:15 a.m.  210 B
SESSION 2
NIGMS Program Director Discussions
(Track 2)
(Recommended for TWD program directors)
Post-bac, Graduate and Postdoc topics focused on:
- Developing Achievable and - Measurable Training Objectives
- Employing Evidence-Based Practices for Training and Mentoring
- Teaching Rigor and Transparency as well as Responsible Conduct of Research Throughout
- Focusing on Trainee Skills Development
- Emphasizing that Diversity and Inclusion is Essential for Training Excellence
- Preparing Trainees for a Broad Range of Careers in the Biomedical Research Workforce

Concurrent Scientific Sessions
(8 Session Options)

10:00 a.m. - 11:15 a.m.  204 AB
SESSION 4
M.D. - Ph.D., Is It Right for Me?
(Recommended for students interested in the M.D., Ph.D. track)
MODERATOR
Juanita L. Merchant, M.D., Ph.D.,
University of Arizona-Cancer Center, Tucson, AZ
PANELISTS
Lindsay Agostinelli, M.D., Ph.D. Student,
University of Iowa, Iowa City, IA
Daniel Akuma, M.D., Ph.D. Student,
University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA
Kerry O’Banion, M.D., Ph.D., University of Rochester, Rochester, NY
Javier Sierra Pagan, M.D., Ph.D. Student,
University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN
Briana Wilson, M.D., Ph.D. Student,
University of Virginia, Charlottesville, VA

10:00 a.m. - 11:15 a.m.  207 CD
SESSION 5
Picking the Perfect Ph.D. Program for You: Why Choose a School with a T32?
(Recommended for students interested in the Ph.D. track)
SPEAKER
Juan López-Garriga, Ph.D.,
University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN

10:00 a.m. - 11:15 a.m.  204 AB
SESSION 7
Tailoring Your Resume for Nontraditional STEM Careers
(Recommended for graduate students and postdoctoral scientists)
SPEAKERS
Danielle Watt, Ph.D., University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN

10:00 a.m. - 11:15 a.m.  209 AB
SESSION 8
NIGMS Grant Writing and the SCORE Program
(Recommended for faculty, program directors, and exhibitors)
SPEAKERS
Luis Cubano, Ph.D., National Institutes of Health, Bethesda, MD
Tracy Koretsky, Ph.D., National Institutes of Health, Bethesda, MD
Irina Krasnova, Ph.D., National Institutes of Health, Bethesda, MD
John Laffan, Ph.D., National Institutes of Health, Bethesda, MD
Lee Slice, Ph.D., National Institutes of Health, Bethesda, MD
SESSION 3
Listening to Enzymes Sing
Discipline: Chemistry
SPEAKER
Gregory Weiss, Ph.D., University of California, Irvine, Irvine, CA

SESSION 4
Understanding Genetic Variation: Three Cutting-Edge Research Studies in Diverse Populations
Discipline: Developmental Biology and Genetics
MODERATOR
Debra Murray, Ph.D., Baylor College of Medicine, Houston, TX
SPEAKERS
Neil Hanchard, M.D., Ph.D., Baylor College of Medicine, Houston, TX
Cristina de Guzman Strong, Ph.D., Washington University School of Medicine, St. Louis, MO

SESSION 5
Adapting an Evolutionary Model for Microbiota Studies: Diversity Matters
Discipline: Microbiology
SPEAKER
Kat Milligan-Myhre, Ph.D., University of Alaska Anchorage, Anchorage, AK

SESSION 6
Epigenetics: Pushing the Boundaries of Memory
Discipline: Neuroscience
SPEAKER
Marcelo Wood, Ph.D., University of California, Irvine, Irvine, CA

SESSION 7
The Intelligent Bladder Urothelium: Not just a Passive Barrier
Discipline: Physiology and Pharmacology
SPEAKER
Bahareh Vahabi, Ph.D., University of the West of England, Bristol, UK

SESSION 8
Partnering with Communities to Improve Cardiovascular Health Equity
Discipline: Social and Behavioral Sciences and Public Health
SPEAKER
Elizabeth Lynch, Ph.D., Rush University Medical Center, Chicago, IL

ORAL SESSION 1
Biochemistry and Molecular Biology
PRESENTERS
O-001: Megan Bacabac
O-002: Mauricio Garcia
O-003: Andrea Valenzuela
O-004: Erica Rosario
O-005: Catherine Hua

ORAL SESSION 1
Cancer Biology
PRESENTERS
O-006: Silva Baburyan
O-007: Brandon Cuevas
O-008: Shantae Lewis
O-009: Marilisa Shaw
O-010: Nada Terra

ORAL SESSION 1
Cell Biology & Immunology
PRESENTERS
O-011: Vidal Bejar-Padilla
O-012: Maria Ford
O-013: Nichole Lewis
O-014: Jailene Paredes
O-015: Natalie Pedicino

ORAL SESSION 1
Chemistry
PRESENTERS
O-016: Shayne Boykin
O-017: Eduardo Chaparro

ORAL SESSION 1
Developmental Biology and Genetics
PRESENTERS
O-026: Megan Ezeude
O-027: Gervyn Fajardo Franco
O-028: Zachary Perkins
O-029: Phillip Pham
O-030: Danae Sanders

ORAL SESSION 1
Engineering, Physics, and Mathematics
PRESENTERS
O-031: Anthony Baker
O-032: Jessica Gannon
O-033: Nadou Lawson
O-034: David Medina-Suarez
O-035: Daniela Yakobashvili

ORAL SESSION 1
Microbiology
PRESENTERS
O-036: Bouchra Benghomari
O-037: Madison Gowett
O-038: December Lee
O-039: Makeda Mills
O-040: Ana Quintanar Alfaro

ORAL SESSION 1
Computational and Systems Biology
PRESENTERS
O-021: Lucas Encarnacion-Rivera
O-022: Brandon Franco
O-023: Ananya Gupta
O-024: Breanna McBean
O-025: Ardella Phoa

Poster Session 1 (A)

Poster Session 1 (B)

Mentoring Coaching

Networking Lunch by Discipline

PLENARY SCIENTIFIC SESSION
Hip Hop Stroke: An Investigator Initiated NIH-Funded Journey
MODERATOR: John Fitzgerald Gates, Ph.D., Purdue University, West Lafayette, IN
SPEAKER: Olayide Williams, M.D., M.S., Columbia University Medical Center/New York Presbyterian Hospital, New York, NY
7:00 p.m. - 7:45 p.m.  207 CD
 Networking Dinner by Discipline

8:00 p.m. - 9:45 p.m.  201 A
 PDO Steering Committee Meeting
(By Invitation Only)

8:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.  BALLROOM A
 Gateway to the Future: Career Paths in the Biomedical Sciences, STEM Disciplines, and Behavioral Sciences (Co-Sponsored by ASM and Genentech) (Recommended for all students)

FEATURED SCIENTISTS/REPRESENTATIVES:
- Keshia Ashe, Ph.D., ManyMentors, National Science Foundation (NSF) (Government/Research)
- Crystal Austin, Ph.D., University of Karisra Medical Center (Medicine/Research)
- Shereka Banton, Ph.D., Johnson & Johnson – Ethicon (Industry/Pharmaceutical)
- Nicquet Blake, Ph.D., University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio (Academia/Professional School)
- Dominque Carter, Ph.D., National Science Foundation (Government/Science Policy)
- Catherine Cascavilla, B.S., Genentech (Industry/Pharmaceutical)
- Ruan Cox, Jr., Ph.D., Moffitt Cancer Center (Non-Profit/Medical Research)
- Dana Crawford, Case Western Reserve University (Academia/Doctoral Degree-Graanting)
- Pedro Del Valle, Food and Drug Administration (Government/Research)
- Galahad Deperalta, Ph.D., Genentech (Industry/Pharmaceutical)
- Maresha Donald, Ph.D., Novartis Institutes for BioMedical Research (NIBR) (Industry/Pharmaceutical)
- Ana Lucia Fuentes, Ph.D., LaGuardia Community College (Academia/Community College)
- L. Alex Gaither, Ph.D., Novartis Institutes for Biomedical Research (NIBR) (Industry/Pharmaceutical)
- Peter Gannett, Ph.D., Nova Southeastern University, College of Pharmacy (Academia/Professional School)
- Herbert Geller, Ph.D., National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute (NIH) (Government/Biomedical Engineering)
- Kenneth Gibbs, Ph.D., National Institute of General Medical Sciences (NIGMS) (Government/Education)
- Aziza Glass, D.V.M., Personal Touch Veterinary Clinic, PLLC (Veterinary/Professional School)
- Vanessa Gonzalez-Perez, Ph.D., Princeton University (Academia/Doctoral Degree-Graanting)
- Terri Grant, Ph.D., Old Dominion University (Academia/Doctoral Degree-Graanting)
- Britany Haynes, National Institutes of Health/National Center for Advancing Translational Sciences (Government/Poicy)
- Josh Henkin, Ph.D., The Tauri Group (Consulting/Biotechnology)
- Ronald Hunter, Ph.D., Mérieux Nutrisciences (Industry/Pharmaceutical)
- Amanda Marie James, Emory University, (Academia/Doctoral-Degree Graranting)
- L’Aurelle Johnson, Ph.D., University of Minnesota, College of Pharmacy (Academia/Professional School)
- Harlan Jones, Ph.D., Keystone Symposia (Non-Profit)
- Malysa Jones, Ph.D., Procter & Gamble (Industry/Pharmaceutical)
- Adrian Land, Ph.D., Procter & Gamble (Industry/Pharmaceutical)
- Sydney Lau, B.S., Genentech (Industry/Pharmaceutical)
- Janette Lawrence, Massachusetts General Hospital (Medicine/Genetics)
- Brittney Davis Lynn, National Cancer Institute (NIH) (Government/Cancer Biology)
- Fahmy Mamuya, Ph.D., Olympus Life Science (Industry/Pharmaceutical)
- Shannon Noonan, M.S., Genentech (Industry/Pharmaceutical)
- Shantisa Norman, M.S., Sandia National Laboratories (Government/Research)
- Ofelia Olivero, National Cancer Institute (NIH) (Government/Cancer Biology)
- Saundra Owowale, Ph.D., Trinity Washington University (Academia/Medical School)
- Carolina Pombo, Ph.D., AlphaBioCom (Science Writing/Medical Writing)
- Chloé Poston, Ph.D., Brown University (Academia/Doctoral Degree-Graanting)
- Marquita Qualls, Ph.D., Entropia Consulting (Consulting/Pharmaceutical)
- Danjuma Quarless, Abbie Inc. (Industry/Pharmaceutical)
- Dinelia Rivera-Burgos, Ph.D., Battelle (Industry/Biotechnology)
- Delira Robbins, Ph.D., University of Tennessee Research Foundation (Academia/Technology Transfer)
- Cheryl Rowe-Rendleman, Ph.D., Omar Consulting Group, LLC (Consulting/Pharmaceutical)
- Jillian Silva, Ph.D., Helen Diller Family Comprehensive Cancer Center (Academia/Research)
- Tori Strong, Ph.D., Vyripharm Biopharmaceuticals (Industry/Commercialization)
- Angela Sy, Ph.D., University of Hawaii (Academia/Doctoral Degree-Graanting)
- Kristen Walker, M.S., USDA (Government/Research)
- Iris Wastaff, Ph.D., American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) (Non-Profit/Non-Profit Education)
- Adrienne Williams, B.S., Genentech (Industry/Pharmaceutical)
- Kevin Villalongo, M.B.A., Scapa Healthcare (Biomed Laboratories) (Industry/Biotechnology)
- Patrice Yarbough, Ph.D., NASA (Government/Research)

8:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.  303 A-D
 Master’s Level Poster Session/Graduate Students and Postdoctoral Scientists
 Dessert and Networking Mixer
(For graduate students and postdoctoral scientists)
Friday, November 15

7:00 a.m. - 7:45 a.m. BALLROOM A-E
Networking Breakfast

Concurrent Professional Development Sessions
(8 Session Options)

8:00 a.m. - 9:15 a.m. 204 AB
SESSION 1
Translating STEM Education into Successful Careers: A Path to Meaningful Scientific Contributions
(Recommended for undergraduate and postbaccalaureate students)

SPEAKERS
- Ronald Hunter, Ph.D., Mérieux NutriSciences, Chicago, IL
- Dinelia Rivera-Burgos, Ph.D., Battelle, Columbus, OH
- Kevin Villalongo, M.B.A., PMP, Scapa HealthCare, Dallas, TX

8:00 a.m. - 9:15 a.m. 204 CD
SESSION 3
Creating a Useful Individual Development Plan
(Recommended for postbaccalaureate and graduate students)

SPEAKER
- Bill Lindstaedt, M.S., University of California, San Francisco, San Francisco, CA

8:00 a.m. - 9:15 a.m. 203 AB
SESSION 4
The How and Why of Publishing Your Work: Practical Advice for Graduate Students and Postdocs
(Recommended for graduate students and postdoctoral scientists)

SPEAKER
- Victor DiRita, Ph.D., Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI

8:00 a.m. - 9:15 a.m. 208 AB
SESSION 5
Diverse Minds are Required to Invent the Future – An Inclusive Model Program for Learning from Nature for Societal Benefit
(Recommended for faculty, program directors, and exhibitors)

SPEAKER
- Robert Full, Ph.D., University of California, Berkeley, Berkeley, CA

8:00 a.m. - 9:15 a.m. 209 AB
SESSION 6
How We Learn… and How We Don’t
(Recommended for postdoctoral scientists, faculty, program directors, and exhibitors)

SPEAKER
- Robert Duke, Ph.D., University of Texas at Austin, Austin, TX

8:00 a.m. - 9:15 a.m. 202 AB
SESSION 7
Funding for Graduate Students and Postdocs: Beyond NIH
(Recommended for graduate students and postdoctoral scientists)

SPEAKERS
- Phoebe Lostroh, Ph.D., Colorado College, Colorado Springs, CO

9:30 a.m. - 10:00 a.m. 204 AB
SESSION 8
Diversity and Inclusion 2020: Opportunities, Lesson Learned and Strategies for Success
(Recommended for postdoctoral scientists, faculty, program directors, and exhibitors)

SPEAKERS
- Gary A. Smith, Ivy Planning Group, Bethesda, MD
- Janet Crenshaw Smith, Ivy Planning Group, Bethesda, MD

Concurrent Scientific Sessions
(11 Session Options)

9:30 a.m. - 10:00 a.m. 204 C
SESSION 2
1,2,3…Go! Key Phases to Graduate School Application, Admittance and Success
(Recommended for community college, undergraduate, and postbaccalaureate students)

SPEAKERS
- Ailton Coleman, Ph.D., James Madison University, Harrisonburg, VA
- Fadie Coleman, Ph.D., Boston University, Boston, MA
- M. Isabel Dominguez, Ph.D., Boston University, Boston, MA
- Jacqueline Milton Hicks, Ph.D., Boston University, Boston, MA
- Tyron Porter, Ph.D., Boston University, Boston, MA
- Chloe Poston, Ph.D., Brown University, Providence, RI
- Ruth Washington, Ph.D., Kent State University, Kent, OH

9:30 a.m. - 10:00 a.m. 207 CD
SESSION 4
Twists and Turns Along the Path of Reactivity-driven Methods Development
Discipline: Chemistry

SPEAKER
- Hosea Nelson, Ph.D., University of California, Los Angeles, Los Angeles, CA

9:30 a.m. - 10:00 a.m. 206 AB
SESSION 5
Functional Cancer Cell Maps
Discipline: Computational and Systems Biology

SPEAKER
- Jason Kreisberg, Ph.D., University of California, San Diego, San Diego, CA

9:30 a.m. - 10:00 a.m. 210 A
SESSION 6
The Perils of Underrepresentation: What Research Tells Us About the Future of Broad-based Genetic Testing
Discipline: Developmental Biology and Genetics

SPEAKER
- Latrice Landry, M.S., Ph.D., Harvard Medical School and Harvard School of Public Health, Boston, MA

9:30 a.m. - 10:00 a.m. 210 B
SESSION 7
Obesity, Immunity, and Impact on CAR T-cell Immunotherapy
Discipline: Immunology

SPEAKER
- Curtis Henry, Ph.D., Emory University, School of Medicine, Atlanta, GA

9:30 a.m. - 10:00 a.m. 203 AB
SESSION 8
Diversity-generating Retroelements and the Accelerated Evolution of Adaptive Traits
Discipline: Microbiology

SPEAKER
- Jeffrey Miller, Ph.D., University of California, Los Angeles, Los Angeles, CA
THE PROGRAM

9:30 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.  207 CD
SESSION 9
A Lot of Nerve! Evolutionary Mechanisms of Neural Regeneration
Discipline: Neuroscience
SPEAKERS
- Wendy Beane, Ph.D., Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo, MI
- Kelly Ai-Sun Tseng, Ph.D., University of Nevada, Las Vegas, Las Vegas, NV

9:30 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.  210 C
SESSION 10
Integrating Genomics and Epigenomics for the Identification of Novel Cancer Therapeutics
Discipline: Physiology and Pharmacology
SPEAKER
- Claudia Benavente, Ph.D., University of California, Irvine, Irvine, CA

THE PROGRAM

10:30 a.m. - 11:45 a.m.  202 AB
SESSION 11
Flexibility of Implicit Bias
Discipline: Social and Behavioral Sciences and Public Health
SPEAKER
- Yi (Jenny) Xiao, Ph.D., University of Washington, Tacoma, Tacoma, WA

10:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.  208 AB
HALL THEATER
 mentors

10:30 a.m. - 11:45 a.m.  204 C
HALL THEATER
 mentees

11:30 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.  206 AB
SESSION 12
Time Management and Goal Setting
(Recommended all students)
SPEAKER
- Sandra Murray, Ph.D., University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, PA

12:15 p.m. - 1:00 p.m.  207 CD
SESSION 13
Difficult Discussions and Gendered Communication in the Workplace
(Recommended for faculty, program directors, and exhibitors)
SPEAKER
- Joanne Kamens, Ph.D., Addgene, Boston, MA

1:00 p.m. - 1:45 p.m.  209 AB
SESSION 14
Postdoc Fundamentals: Selecting a Training Experience to Match Your Career Goal
(Recommended for graduate students and postdoctoral scientists)
SPEAKER
- Sibby Anderson-Thompson, Ph.D., University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Chapel Hill, NC

2:00 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.  203 AB
SESSION 5
International Collaborative Research: An Important Supplement to Academic and Professional Training
(Recommended for faculty, program directors, and exhibitors)
SPEAKERS
- Deisy Arrington, Ph.D. Candidate, University of Illinois at Chicago/University of Bordeaux, Chicago, IL
- Seno Hachigonta, Ph.D., National Research Foundation, South Africa, Chicago, IL
- Luci Okumu, M.A., King Abdullah University of Science and Technology, Saudi Arabia, Chicago, IL
- Denise Yates, M.A., University of Illinois at Chicago/LSAMP NSF International Center of Excellence, Chicago, IL

2:00 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.  207 AB
SESSION 6
Building Leadership Skills as a Young Scientist
(Recommended for graduate students and postdoctoral scientists)
SPEAKER
- Emily Harms, Ph.D., The Rockefeller University, New York City, NY

2:00 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.  209 AB
SESSION 7
The Role of Societies in Increasing Diversity and Inclusion in Science
(Recommended for faculty)
SPEAKER
- Amy Chang, American Society for Microbiology, Washington, DC

2:00 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.  210 D
SESSION 8
Young, STEM and Diverse — Success Strategies for the Next Generation of STEM Leaders
(Recommended for all students)
SPEAKERS
- Janet Crenshaw Smith, Ivy Planning Group, Bethesda, MD
- Gary A. Smith, Ivy Planning Group, Bethesda, MD

2:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.  202 AB
SESSION 1
Cultivating Your Scientific Swag
(Recommended for community college, undergraduate, and postbaccalaureate students)
SPEAKERS
- Patrice L. Capers, Ph.D., M.S.C.R., The Citadel, Charleston, SC
- Tabitha M. Hardy, Ph.D., Indiana University Purdue University Indianapolis, Indianapolis, IN

2:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.  203 AB
SESSION 2
International Collaborative Research: An Important Supplement to Academic and Professional Training
(Recommended for faculty, program directors, and exhibitors)
SPEAKERS
- Deisy Arrington, Ph.D. Candidate, University of Illinois at Chicago/University of Bordeaux, Chicago, IL
- Seno Hachigonta, Ph.D., National Research Foundation, South Africa, Chicago, IL
- Luci Okumu, M.A., King Abdullah University of Science and Technology, Saudi Arabia, Chicago, IL
- Denise Yates, M.A., University of Illinois at Chicago/LSAMP NSF International Center of Excellence, Chicago, IL

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SPEAKERS
- Patrice L. Capers, Ph.D., M.S.C.R., The Citadel, Charleston, SC
- Tabitha M. Hardy, Ph.D., Indiana University Purdue University Indianapolis, Indianapolis, IN

THE PROGRAM
6:15 p.m. - 7:15 p.m. 204 C
SESSION 2
Tips for Getting Strong Letters of Recommendation
(Recommended for community college and nontraditional students)
SPEAKER
Laura Kasman, Ph.D., Medical University of South Carolina, Charleston, SC

6:15 p.m. - 7:15 p.m. 209 AB
SESSION 6
Should I Take the GRE Exam? If so, How Can I Best Prepare?
(Recommended for undergraduate and postbaccalaureate students)
SPEAKER
Laurie Connor, Ph.D., Baylor School of Medicine, Houston, TX

6:15 p.m. - 7:15 p.m. 203 AB
SESSION 7
Job Search Strategies and Negotiating the Job Offer
(Recommended for graduate students and postdoctoral scientists)
SPEAKER
Lauren Celano, M.B.A., Propel Careers, Cambridge, MA

6:15 p.m. - 7:15 p.m. 202 AB
SESSION 8
Infectious Disease Outbreaks and the Vaccination Dilemma
(Recommended for undergraduate and postbaccalaureate students)
MODERATORS
Nancy Calderon, M.P.H., University of California, Los Angeles, Los Angeles, CA
Lourdes E. Echegoyen, Ph.D., University of California, Los Angeles, Los Angeles, CA
SPEAKER
Mario Barro, Ph.D., FluNXT/Sanofi Pasteur, Cambridge, MA

6:15 p.m. - 7:15 p.m. 207 CD
SESSION 5
Strategies for Taking Standardized Admissions Tests: Preparing for the MCAT Exams
(Recommended for undergraduate and postbaccalaureate students)
SPEAKERS
Myles Akabas, M.D., Ph.D., Albert Einstein College of Medicine of Yeshiva University, Bronx, NY
Laurence Brass, M.D., Ph.D., University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA
Megan Williams, Ph.D., Vanderbilt University, Nashville, TN

6:15 p.m. - 7:15 p.m. 204 AB
SESSION 4
Post Baccalaureate Programs, Tips for Submitting a Successful Application, and Advice on Taking a Gap Year
(Recommended for students considering postbaccalaureate training or taking a GAP year)
SPEAKERS
Tameka Clemons, Ph.D., Spelman College, Atlanta, GA
Sharon Milgram, Ph.D., National Institutes of Health, Bethesda, MD
Kimberly Williams, Ph.D., Spelman College, Atlanta, GA

6:15 p.m. - 7:15 p.m. 201 A
PREP Program Director Meeting
(By Invitation Only)

6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. 304 C
MAPRS Program Director Meeting
(By Invitation Only)

Saturday, November 16
7:00 a.m. - 7:45 a.m. BALLROOM A-E
Networking Breakfast

8:00 a.m. - 9:15 a.m. 204 AB
ORAL SESSION 2
Biochemistry and Molecular Biology
PRESENTERS
O-061: Hana Flores
O-062: Elisabeth Kan
O-063: Samar Behdin
O-064: Gabriela Matos-Ortiz
O-065: Shiva Deljookorani

8:00 a.m. - 9:15 a.m. 208 AB
ORAL SESSION 2
Biochemistry and Molecular Biology & Computational and Systems Biology
PRESENTERS
O-066: Cynthia Sabazali
O-067: Jaliyah Spann
O-068: Gabriel Meléndez
O-069: Megan Darrell
O-070: Gerson Kroiz

8:00 a.m. - 9:15 a.m. 209 AB
ORAL SESSION 2
Cancer Biology
PRESENTERS
O-071: Jade Dodge
O-072: Malcolm Frazier
O-073: Shiva Deljookorani
O-074: Besmira Allija
O-075: Nicole Muniz

8:00 a.m. - 9:15 a.m. 206 AB
ORAL SESSION 2
Cancer Biology and Immunology
PRESENTERS
O-076: Aniya Davis
O-077: Ismael Bousso
O-078: Sabina Kubayeva
O-079: Alexandra Mclennan
O-080: Antonio Fontanella

8:00 a.m. - 9:15 a.m. 210 A
ORAL SESSION 2
Cell Biology and Developmental Biology and Genetics
PRESENTERS
O-081: Margaret Mungai
O-082: Oloumachi Onyekwere
O-083: Iyana Morris
O-084: Quintera Knight
O-085: Colin Kuhns

8:00 a.m. - 9:15 a.m. 204 C
ORAL SESSION 2
Developmental Biology and Genetics and Neuroscience
PRESENTERS
O-087: Jasmine Cunningham
O-088: Nzia Hall
O-089: Shaheer Rizwan
O-090: Karina Herrera

8:00 a.m. - 9:15 a.m. 210 D
ORAL SESSION 2
Engineering, Physics, and Mathematics
PRESENTERS
O-091: Leroy Arthur
O-092: Alexandra Tchir
O-093: Kayleigh Johnson
O-094: Isaac Nathoo
O-095: Roshaun Mitchell-Cleveland
THE PROGRAM

8:00 a.m. - 9:15 a.m.  O-201 B
ORAL SESSION 2
Chemistry and Engineering, Physics and Mathematics
PRESENTERS
- O-096: Imani Ross
- O-097: Taylor Dyson
- O-098: Lauren Moore
- O-099: Manuel Quinones-Perez
- O-100: Ayman Abdullah-Smoot

8:00 a.m. - 9:15 a.m.  O-202 AB
ORAL SESSION 2
Physiology and Pharmacology and Social and Behavioral Sciences and Public Health
PRESENTERS
- O-116: Olufolake Majokudomi
- O-117: Alexia Guzman
- O-118: Bryce Sakata
- O-119: Karen Munoz
- O-120: Helena Getachew

8:30 a.m. - 9:15 a.m.  O-201 A
Exhibitor Focus Group
(For Invitation Only)

9:15 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.  HALL B
Exhibit and Poster Hall Hours

9:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.
HALL B (EXHIBIT HALL)
MENTORING TABLES

10:00 a.m. - 11:15 a.m.  HALL B
Poster Session 6 (F)

11:00 a.m. - 11:20 a.m.  HALL B (EXHIBIT HALL THEATER)
EXHIBITOR SHOWCASE
Information about our Ph.D. and M.D./Ph.D. Programs and Offer Tips for a Top Application
INSTITUTION
St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences
SPEAKER
Racquel Collins, MT(ASCP), M.B.A., Ph.D., Assistant Dean, St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences

11:30 a.m. - 11:50 a.m.  HALL B (EXHIBIT HALL THEATER)
EXHIBITOR SHOWCASE
Laney Graduate School at Emory University: Striving for Excellence and Diversity
INSTITUTION
Emory University, Laney Graduate School

12:15 p.m. - 1:00 p.m.
Networking Lunch

1:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.
CLOSING KEYNOTE ADDRESS
An Afternoon with Soledad O’Brien: Her Life Stories
MODERATOR
John Fitzgerald Gates, Ph.D., Purdue University, West Lafayette, IN
SPEAKER
Soledad O’Brien, Award-Winning Journalist, Entrepreneur & Host of the Weekly Syndicated Political Show “Matter of Fact with Soledad O’Brien”

Concurrent Scientific Sessions
(6 Session Options)

2:15 p.m. - 2:45 p.m.
SESSION 1
The Social Lives of Mitochondria: Inter-organellae Membrane Contacts as Signaling Platforms
Discipline: Biochemistry and Molecular Biology
SPEAKER
Samantha Lewis, Ph.D., University of California, Davis, CA

2:15 p.m. - 2:45 p.m.
SESSION 2
Metastasis: The Unbeatable Beast?
Discipline: Cancer Biology
SPEAKER
Diana Cittelly, Ph.D., University of Colorado, Anschutz Medical Campus, Aurora, CO

2:15 p.m. - 2:45 p.m.
SESSION 3
Genetic and Behavioral Interrogation of Pain Neural Circuits
Discipline: Cell Biology
SPEAKER
Amanda Marie James, Ph.D., Assistant Dean, Diversity, Inclusion, & Community Engagement, James T. Laney School of Graduate Studies at Emory University; Faculty, Department of Biology, College of Arts and Sciences at Emory University

2:15 p.m. - 2:45 p.m.
SESSION 4
Deconvoluting Disease Biomarkers with Computational Biology Tools
Discipline: Computational and Systems Biology
SPEAKER
André Hudson, Ph.D., Rochester Institute of Technology, Rochester, NY
Felix Rivera-Mariani, Ph.D., Larkin University, Miami, FL

2:15 p.m. - 2:45 p.m.
SESSION 5
Catching Anxiety: The Impact of HSV-1 on Animal Behavior
Discipline: Neuroscience
SPEAKER
Gerald Griffin, Ph.D., Hope College, Holland, MI

2:15 p.m. - 2:45 p.m.
SESSION 6
Staying Woke, Part 2: The Neurobiology of Normal Sleep and Arousal
Discipline: Neuroscience
SPEAKER
Chicora Oliver, Ph.D., Emory University, Atlanta, GA

THE PROGRAM
Concurrent Professional Development Sessions
(6 Session Options)

3:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. 207 CD
SESSION 1
The Future of STEM Mentoring
(Recommended for faculty, program directors, and exhibitors)
SPEAKERS
- Joi Mondisa, Ph.D., University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI
- Beronda Montgomery, Ph.D., Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI

3:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. 203 AB
SESSION 2
Build Your Personal Statement ★
(Recommended all students)
SPEAKERS
- Victoria Freedman, Ph.D., Albert Einstein College of Medicine, New York, NY
- Nancy Schwartz, Ph.D., University of Chicago, Chicago, IL

3:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. 204 AB
SESSION 3
Overcoming Imposture Syndrome and Stereotype Threat
(Recommended for all attendees)
SPEAKER
- Alden Landry, M.D., M.P.H., Harvard Medical School, Boston, MA

3:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. 206 AB
SESSION 4
The Biology of Patents
(Recommended for community college, undergraduate, and postbaccalaureate students)
SPEAKERS
- Bryan Husk, M.A., University of Wisconsin-Madison, Madison, WI
- Christopher M. Turoski, J.D., University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN

3:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. 202 AB
SESSION 5
Mental Health and Wellness in STEM
(Recommended for graduate students and postdoctoral scientists)
SPEAKERS
- D’Anne Duncan, Ph.D., University of California, San Francisco, San Francisco, CA
- Christina Keeton, Ph.D., Vanderbilt University, Nashville, TN
- Anne Sufka, University of California, San Francisco, San Francisco, CA

3:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. 204 C
SESSION 6
I’m Surviving (Happily) My Career in Science—You Can Too! Ten Commandments of Work/Life Negotiation
(Recommended for undergraduate and postbaccalaureate students)
SPEAKERS
- Sarah Fankhauser, Ph.D., Oxford College of Emory University, Oxford, GA
- Joanne Kamens, Ph.D., Addgene, Boston, MA

FREE TIME
4:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

4:45 p.m. - 6:15 p.m. 201 A
REMNNet Development Meeting

7:30 p.m. - 10:00 p.m. HALL A
Awards Banquet and Ceremony

CONFERENCE WRAP-UP AND STUDENT PRESENTATION AWARDS CEREMONY
- John Fitzgerald Gates, Ph.D., Purdue University, West Lafayette, IN

CONCLUDING REMARKS FROM CHAIRPERSON
- Avery August, Ph.D., Cornell University College of Veterinary Medicine, Ithaca, NY

CLOSING SOCIAL AND DANCE
10:30 p.m. - 2:00 a.m. HILTON ANAHEIM (CALIFORNIA BALLROOM)
Community College, Undergraduate, and Postbaccalaureate Poster Presentations

Sessions A–F

- Biochemistry and Molecular Biology: 001-050
- Cancer Biology: 051-088
- Cell Biology: 089-112
- Chemistry: 113-140
- Computational and Systems Biology: 141-157
- Developmental Biology and Genetics: 158-185
- Engineering, Physics, and Mathematics: 186-215
- Immunology: 216-235
- Microbiology: 236-278
- Neuroscience: 279-328
- Physiology and Pharmacology: 329-355
- Social and Behavioral Sciences and Public Health: 356-393

Master’s Student Poster Presentations

Sessions M

- Biochemistry and Molecular Biology: 001-050
- Cancer Biology: 051-088
- Cell Biology: 089-112
- Chemistry: 113-140
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- Biochemistry & Molecular Pharmacology
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- Cancer Biology
- Clinical & Population Health Research
- Computational Biomedical Sciences & Engineering
- Immunology & Microbiology
- Interdisciplinary Program
- MD/PhD
- Neuroscience
- Translational Science

Questions? Contact our Admissions Coordinator Barbara.Bucciaglia@umassmed.edu

www.umassmed.edu/gsbs

The Exhibit Hall Passport offers you the chance to win prizes while exploring the programs and opportunities within the ABRCMS exhibit hall. Instructions for participating in the Exhibit Hall Passport can be found on the back of this card.
Here's How the Exhibit Hall Passport Works

- Visit the booths of each participating exhibitor and have them stamp their section of the passport grid.
- After the grid is complete, enter your contact information and submit your card at the Exhibit Hall Theater.
- Drop off completed card by 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, November 16 to be eligible for the drawing.
- Winners will be posted on Saturday, November 16 at 11:00 a.m. at the Exhibit Hall Theater.
- You do not need to be present to win.

Your Contact Information

Name 
University 
Phone 
Email 

REGISTRATION TYPE (check one)  □ STUDENT  □ NON STUDENT  □ EXHIBITOR

Exhibit Hours

- Thursday, November 14: 1:45 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.
- Friday, November 15: 10:15 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.; 3:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.
- Saturday, November 16: 9:15 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

You could win one of the following prizes:
- $75 Visa Gift Card
- $50 Amazon Gift Card
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“I really value the opportunity help students learn more about graduate school and other opportunities. The opportunity to hear such from such amazing and thought provoking speakers is unsurpassed.”
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“The ability to inspire and assist these young students in their science careers. A great opportunity to encourage our young people of color in these science fields.”
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ABRCMS allows students to connect with other students from similar backgrounds that are equally as passionate about science and research, which provides substantial motivation to continue pursuing a career in STEM."
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USC Neuroscience Graduate Program

USC Public Health Sciences/Preventive Medicine

UT Health San Antonio Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences

UT Health San Antonio Office for Inclusion & Diversity

UT Health San Antonio OPA and SABER/IRACDA

UT Health San Antonio South Texas MSTP

UT Southwestern Medical Center Dallas

UTEP Graduate Programs

UTHealth School of Public Health

Van Andel Institute Graduate School

Vanderbilt Graduate School and Fisk – Vanderbilt Bridge Program

Vanderbilt University

Vanderbilt University School of Engineering

Vanderbilt University School of Medicine and MD/Ph.D. Program

Vermont Genetics Network

Virginia Commonwealth University

Virginia Tech

Virginia Tech – PREP & IMSD Programs

Virginia Tech Carilion School of Medicine

Virginia Tech Multicultural Academic Opportunities Program

Virginia Tech Translational Biology, Medicine, and Health Graduate Program

Wake Forest University Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences

Washington State University, College of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences

Washington University – Division of Biology & Biomedical Sciences

Wayne State University

Wayne State University Cancer Biology Program

Wayne State University Graduate School

Wayne State University IMSD Program

Wayne State University School of Medicine

Wayne State University School of Medicine Department of Physiology

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Weill Cornell Medicine, Department of Healthcare Policy and Research

West Virginia School of Osteopathic Medicine

West Virginia University

Western Michigan University Homer Stryker M.D. School of Medicine

William Carey University College of Osteopathic Medicine

Worcester Polytechnic Institute

Yale University Biological and Biomedical Sciences Program

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ABRCMS Project Lead, Plenary Sessions, Partnerships & Affiliated Events
IRENE HULEDE
ihulede@asmusa.org

Concurrent Scientific & Professional Development Sessions
TIFFANI FONSECA
tfonseca@asmusa.org

Student Presentations, Judges and Travel Award Program
LEAH DIXON
ldixon@asmusa.org

ABRCMS Online & Career/Mentoring Initiatives
CHRISTOPHER SKIPWITH
cskipwith@asmusa.org

Exhibits & Sponsorship
abrcmsexhibits@asmusa.org

Registration
abrcms@experient-inc.com

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See you in San Antonio, Texas, November 11–14, 2020!

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