

Minority Affairs Activities

Travel Awards

Burroughs Wellcome Fund. A grant from the Burroughs Wellcome Fund supports travel fellowships for underrepresented Minority Trainees and Junior Faculty from the U.S. and Canada to participate in the SSR Annual Meeting. Fellowships are awarded competitively on the basis of applications submitted to and evaluated by the SSR Minority Affairs Committee. Four minority trainees and one minority junior faculty have been selected to receive these awards.

2008 BURROUGHS WELLCOME MINORITY AFFAIRS AWARDS

Junior Faculty:

Sylvia J. Bedford-Guaus, Ph.D., D.V.M., Cornell University, Ithaca, New York.

Trainees:

Zellieann Rivera, University of Arizona, Tucson, Arizona, Abstract 251.

Kennesha Lorraine Forbes, Tuskegee University, Tuskegee, Alabama. Abstract 655.

Mario Mayes, Ph.D., Universite Laval, Quebec, Quebec, Canada. Abstract 191.

Danielle A. Smith, Northwestern University, Chicago, Illinois.

FASEB's MARC Travel Awards. FASEB's MARC (Minority Access to Research Careers) Program has announced the travel award recipients for the 2008 Society for the Study of Reproduction (SSR) Meeting in Kona, Hawaii, May 25–29, 2008. These awards are meant to promote the entry of underrepresented minority students, postdoctorates and scientists into the mainstream of the basic science community and to encourage the participation of young scientists at the 2008 SSR Annual Meeting. Awards are given to poster/platform presenters and faculty mentors paired with the students/trainees they mentor. This year MARC conferred 10 awards totaling \$15,500.

2008 FASEB/MARC AWARDS

Poster/Oral Presenters:

Perla Baez, Ponce School of Medicine, Ponce, Puerto Rico.

Alicia Branch, Morehouse School of Medicine, Atlanta, Georgia.

Edgar S. Diaz-Cruz, Ph.D., Georgetown University, Washington, D.C.

Kennesha L. Forbes, Tuskegee University, Tuskegee, Alabama.

Jennifer Hernandez Gifford, Ph.D., Washington State University, Pullman, Washington.

Olga Ocon-Grove, M.S., The Pennsylvania State University, University Park, Pennsylvania.

Kelli Valdez, University of Kansas Medical Center, Kansas City, Kansas.

Faculty/Mentor & Students/Mentees

Olga Bolden-Tiller, Ph.D., Tuskegee University, Tuskegee, Alabama.

- Kamilah E. Grant, Tuskegee University, Tuskegee, Alabama.

- Tamika Atkinson, Tuskegee University, Tuskegee, Alabama.

The FASEB MARC Program is funded by a grant from the National Institute of General Medical Sciences, National Institutes of Health. A primary goal of the MARC Program is to increase the number and competitiveness of underrepresented minorities engaged in biomedical and behavioral research.

Minority Affairs Symposium

The Minority Affairs Symposium will be held Wednesday, 28 May, from 8:00 to 9:00 p.m. Patricia Martin-DeLeon, Ph.D. (University of Delaware, Newark, Delaware) will present *Securing Our Place on the Map: Reprogramming the GPS in an Evolving Scientific Landscape*. All meeting participants are encouraged to attend, and established scientists are encouraged to meet and speak with trainees.

Minority Affairs Committee (MAC) Exhibit Booth

The MAC will staff an informational booth in the Exhibit Tent throughout the meeting. Information describing SSR's activities related to minority affairs will be available. The booth provides a connection place for people interested in participating in minority affairs activities. Members of the Minority Affairs Committee, the Minority Affairs Symposium speaker, and the Burroughs Wellcome Fellows will be at the booth throughout the meeting.

Trainee Activities

Information about the Meeting of special interest to Trainees can be found on the Trainee Meeting Information page of the SSR 2008 Annual Meeting Web site at <http://www.ssr.org/08TraineeMtgInfo.shtml>.

Trainee Awards and Travel Grants

SSR Trainee Research Awards. (*sustaining support provided by EMD Serono Research Institute*) are presented to the best platform and poster presentations by SSR Trainee members at the Annual Meeting. The Finalists for the 2008 awards are listed in the front of this program. All finalists will present their research reports during the regular poster and platform sessions. The Awards Committee will evaluate the presentations according to the following criteria: (1) merit of the study, (2) presentation format, (3) delivery, (4) visual aids, and (5) response to questions during discussion. From these finalists, the Awards Committee will select First (U.S. \$500.00), Second (U.S. \$300.00), and Third (U.S. \$200.00) prizes to be awarded to the three best poster and three best platform presentations. Finalists will be recognized and winners will be announced during the Closing Ceremony at 1:45 p.m., Friday, 30 May, in Keauhou Ballroom II.

2008 SSR TRAINEE RESEARCH AWARD FINALISTS—Platform Presentations

David Erikson, Texas A & M University, College Station, Texas. Abstract 23.
Chris Geyer, NIEHS, Research Triangle Park, North Carolina. Abstract 603.
Wei Hu, NIDDK NIH, Bethesda, Maryland. Abstract 33.
Christopher S. Keator, Oregon Health & Science University, Beaverton, Oregon. Abstract 599.
Brandon Lingenfelter, West Virginia University, Morgantown, West Virginia. Abstract 34.
Karen A. Schindler, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Abstract 584.

2008 SSR TRAINEE RESEARCH AWARD FINALISTS—Poster Presentations

Karine Brochu-Gaudreault, Agriculture & Agri-Food Canada, Lennoxville, Quebec, Canada. Abstract 664.
Jennifer A. Hernandez Gifford, Washington State University, Pullman, Washington. Abstract 710.
Lacey Luense, University of Kansas Medical Center, Kansas City, Kansas. Abstract 717.
Andrew S. Midzak, Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, Maryland. Abstract 125.
Kelli E. Valdez, University of Kansas Medical Center, Kansas City, Kansas. Abstract 134.
Sarah L. Wakefield, University of Adelaide, Adelaide, South Australia, Australia. Abstract 334.

Lalor Foundation Merit Awards (*supported by a grant from the Lalor Foundation, Inc.*). Winners are selected on the basis of abstracts submitted for presentation and evaluated according to the following criteria: scientific merit, interpretation and impact of the results, and clarity of the abstract. *Fourteen* presenters will receive a Lalor Foundation Merit Award of U.S. \$500.00, and will be recognized at the Opening Ceremony, Tuesday, 27 May, at 1:00 p.m. in Keauhou Ballroom I-II.

2008 LALOR FOUNDATION MERIT AWARDS

Denise Archambeault, University of Illinois, Urbana, Illinois. Abstract 12.
Chris Geyer, NIEHS, Research Triangle Park, North Carolina. Abstract 603.
Whitfield B. Growdon, Massachusetts General Hospital, Boston, Massachusetts. Abstract 317.
Wei Hu, NIDDK NIH, Bethesda, Maryland. Abstract 33.
Christopher S. Keator, Oregon Health & Science University, Beaverton, Oregon. Abstract 599.
Chia-Feng Liu, University of Illinois, Urbana, Illinois. Abstract 575.
Pengpeng Ma, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Abstract 294.
Danielle Maatouk, Duke University, Durham, North Carolina. Abstract 577.
Lynda K. McGinnis, University of Kansas Medical School, Kansas City, Kansas. Abstract 585.
Ankur K. Nagaraja, Baylor College of Medicine, Houston, Texas. Abstract 620.
Roopa L. Nalam, Baylor College of Medicine, Houston, Texas. Abstract 14.
Karen A. Schindler, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Abstract 584.
Julie A.W. Stilley, University of Missouri, Columbia, Missouri. Abstract 601.
Ramya Udayashankar, University of Sheffield, Sheffield, United Kingdom. Abstract 26.



USDA CSREES National Research Institute Merit Awards (*supported by a grant from the USDA CSREES National Research Initiative*). Recipients are selected on the basis of abstracts submitted for presentation and evaluated according to the following criteria: meets the USDA NRI goal of benefiting or enhancing our understanding of reproduction in agriculturally important species, scientific merit, interpretation and impact of the results, and clarity of the abstract. Ten presenters will receive a USDA CSREES National Research Initiative Merit Award of U.S. \$500.00.

2008 USDA-CSREES-NATIONAL RESEARCH INITIATIVE MERIT AWARDS

Daniel W. Bailey, Texas A & M University, College Station, Texas. Abstract 35.
Kathrin Dunlap, Texas A & M University, College Station, Texas. Abstract 307.
David Erikson, Texas A & M University, College Station, Texas. Abstract 23.
Nir Etkovitz, Bar-Ilan University, Ramat-Gan, Israel. Abstract 568.
Niamh Forde, University College Dublin, Dublin, Ireland. Abstract 37.
Brandon Lingenfelter, West Virginia University, Morgantown, West Virginia. Abstract 34.
Lori McPartlin, Cornell University, Ithaca, New York. Abstract 580.
Fanny Odet, NIH/NIEHS, Research Triangle Park, North Carolina. Abstract 567.
Daniel Heath Poole, Ohio State University, Wooster, Ohio. Abstract 609.
Nahid Turan, Temple University Medical School, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Abstract 590.

Larry Ewing Memorial Trainee Travel Fund

The Larry Ewing Memorial Trainee Travel Fund (LEMTTF) provides travel assistance for Trainee Members of the Society to attend and present their research results at the SSR Annual Meeting. The LEMTTF is administered by the SSR Trainee Affairs Committee; the Fund is supported by donations, a grant from the NIH/NICHHD, and by the sale of commemorative t-shirts at each Annual Meeting. To qualify for a grant from the LEMTTF, an applicant (1) must have been a Trainee Member in good standing of SSR by 15 January 2008; (2) must be the presenting and first author of an abstract accepted for presentation (poster or slide) at the 2008 Annual Meeting; and (3) must have completed and submitted an application for a travel grant. LEMTTF Travel Grants are meant to defray the cost of attending the SSR Annual Meeting.

T-Shirts and Caps

T-Shirts commemorating the 41st Annual Meeting of SSR in Kailua-Kona, Hawaii, will be sold to raise money for the Larry Ewing Memorial Trainee Travel Fund (LEMTTF). The t-shirts are high-quality 50/50 cotton/polyester blend and are available in a variety of sizes (including youth). T-shirts are priced at U.S. \$20.00. SSR meeting caps and visors may also be purchased at the meeting for U.S. \$10.00.

Placement Service and Career Development Center

The Trainee Placement Service and Career Development Center provides an opportunity for employers and candidates for employment to connect. Positions listed include predoctoral, postdoctoral, industrial, technical, and faculty positions. No attempt is made to match candidates with positions or to arrange interviews. Position announcements posted at the Annual Meeting are transferred to the FASEB Career Resources online listing. This service is free of charge. The Placement Service and Career Development Center will be located in the Trainee Placement/Exhibit Tent next to the Poster Tent. The Placement Service will be staffed on Tuesday during registration and during Poster Sessions for the remainder of the meeting. Job announcements, bulletin boards, and files for resumes will be available. This year, Eric Celidonio from FASEB Career Resources will offer career coaching and counseling services to Trainees.

Trainee Volunteer Subcommittee (TVS)

The TVS provides structured opportunities for Trainees to participate in the Annual Meeting. Volunteers will be assisting with presentation preparation, social events coordination, and registration. If you are interested in volunteering at the Annual Meeting this year, please contact Kathrin Dunlap at kdunlap@cvm.tamu.edu or come to the Placement Service and Career Development Center located in the Exhibit Tent.

Trainee-Mentor Luncheon

The Trainee-Mentor Luncheon will be held Friday, 30 May, from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., on the Keauhou Lawn. This Trainee-organized event provides Trainee participants with the opportunity to talk with an SSR scientist about careers and science over lunch. Participants will pick up their lunches from the buffet table on the Keauhou Lawn, and will be directed to a seating with the mentor of choice. Tickets for the luncheon are U.S. \$12.