QUEENS COLLEGE MARC NEWSLETTER
2010-2011

Letter from the Editor

Dear Friends of MARC,

Welcome to the third annual MARC newsletter. The MARC staff of Queens College has established this newsletter to keep our MARC students, alumni, and special friends up to date on the MARC program and its current students and alumni. Feel free to suggest other features or columns for future issues and please send us your good news! Whether your news is professional (you were just awarded the Nobel Prize in Physiology) or personal (you just got married), we’d love to hear about it! In the meantime, enjoy the third issue of the newsletter, and then head back into the lab!

Sincerely yours,

MARC editorial staff

Program News:

The Queens College MARC Program is going strong with the addition of new students for our seventh year in a row. Welcome our new students:

Firmause Payen, Mentor: Dr. S. Croll
Olivier Noel, Mentor: Dr. N. Holtzman
Samantha Boursiquot, Mentor: Dr. S. Croll
Cristal Sampson, Mentor: Dr. R. Bodnar
Alain Goldman, Mentor: Dr. Z. Zakeri
Daniel Sangobanwo, Mentor: Dr. Z. Zakeri

We also welcome back our juniors from last year, who are all busy working on their honor’s theses and applying for graduate programs:

Joanne Broome, Mentor: Dr. J. Halperin
Manuel A. Fajardo, Mentor: Dr. W. Saffran
Lauren M. Alvarez, Mentor: Dr. Z. Zakeri
Luis Vega, Mentor: Dr. S. Boissinot
Erica Rodriguez, Mentor: Dr. C. Pytte
Ameante Lacoste, Mentor: Dr. N. Foldi

Let’s salute all of our MARC program alumni; our most recent graduates who left us in Spring of 2010 were:

Jamar Whaley, who worked with Dr. Ranaldi, participated in a summer research experience at Yale Medical School and graduated as a Barry M. Goldwater Scholar. He is currently continuing to conduct research in a DOD funded research SURF program at Boston University in a IVSA addiction lab and is sending applications to PhD programs.

Guy Supris, who worked in Dr. Zakeri’s lab, participated in a summer research program in Tufts University. He applied to eight Ivy League graduate schools and was accepted into all eight schools. He decided to attend Tuft’s immunology PhD program.

Marie-Pierre Payen, who worked in Dr. Zakeri’s lab, conducted research last summer in Virginia University. She is currently attending Boston University and is in pursuit of a PhD.
Emmanuel Datan, who worked in Dr. Zakeri’s lab, conducted research in Rockefeller University this summer and is now continuing to conduct research in Dr. Zakeri’s lab.

Andrew Hillman, who worked in Dr. Hung’s lab, conducted research in University of Washington over the summer and is now applying for PhD programs. He recently was first author on a scientific publication.

Andrew Hillman and Dr. Zakeri proudly presenting his award for an oral presentation given in the Annual Biomedical Research Conference for Minority Students (ABRCMS) last year.

Left to Right: Marie- Pierre Payen, Guy Supris, Dr. Zahra Zakeri, Emmanuel Datan (behind Dr. Zakeri), Manuel Alejandro Fajardo, Jamar Whaley, Erica Rodriguez, Ameante Lacoste, and Andrew Hillman

Thanks to everyone who made our trip to ABRCMS 2010 a success! If you have any pictures or anecdotes you’d like to share, please send them to us for future issues of the newsletter and the web site.

Updates from MARC program alumni:

Steve Milord is currently completing his dental degree at the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey. Fatimatou Bah recently earned her Master’s Degree at Colombia University. Nancy Okeke is currently working toward her dental degree from the Colombia University College of Dental Medicine. Anna Serrano is currently completing her Master’s Degree at the University of Indianapolis. Alejandra Castano just entered Stony Brook University’s Ph.D. program in medicinal chemistry. Evelyn Teran and Lizbeth Nuñez are currently earning Master’s Degrees at Queens College- CUNY. Last year, Brian Estevez entered the University of Illinois at Chicago’s Ph.D. program.
Alumni Spotlight

Emmanuel Datan, a neuroscience and biology major, started the MARC program in June 2008 and chose to conduct research in Dr. Zakeri’s lab. He worked on several research projects in Dr. Zakeri’s lab as a means of examining the mechanisms of virus-host interactions. Emmanuel has also conducted research off-campus at Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine in Dr. Hardwick’s lab; his research there focused on studying key cell cycle regulators. This past summer, Emmanuel worked in Rockefeller University in Dr. Allis’ lab; there he studied chromatin remodeling proteins. His work at Queens College under the mentorship of Dr. Zakeri led to a publication entitled, “Lack of Bax prevents influenza A-induced apoptosis and causes diminished viral replication,” which was published in the Journal of Virology on August 2009. He currently has another publication in progress with Dr. Zakeri. Aside from Emmanuel’s accomplishments in the lab and in the field of science, Emmanuel has made the Dean’s list every semester since he enrolled in Queens College. Emmanuel will be applying to graduate schools for entry in the fall of 2011.

Andrew Hillman, a Nutrition and Exercise Sciences major, started the MARC program in June 2008 and chose to conduct research in Dr. Hung’s lab. In Dr. Hung’s lab he worked on bimanual training exercises in children with hemi-plegia. Last year, Andrew participated in a summer research program at the University of Washington; there he worked on the involvement of C-reactive protein in metabolic syndrome. His research led him to travel to Chulalongkorn University in Thailand, where he participated in cardiovascular research with Dr. Williams. His work during that summer led to a publication entitled, “association of high sensitivity C-reactive protein concentrations and metabolic syndrome among Thai adults,” which was published in Asian Biomedicine on June 2010. His accomplishments in the sciences caught the eye of the Barbados Gazette; he was featured as “Guyanese-American Pre-Med student scores a slam dunk in research,” published on April 2009. Andrew Hillman graduated from Queens College and is awaiting responses from various Ph.D. programs.