MU CHEERS THRICE AT ABRCMS IN SAN JOSE

Twelve EXPRESS students flew to San Jose, Calif. to attend ABRCMS (Annual Biomedical Research Conference for Minority Students). The four-day conference was held on Nov. 7-10. More than 2,000 students from more than 350 campuses participated in poster and oral presentations in twelve disciplines in the biomedical and behavioral sciences. Eight of the EXPRESS twelve students presented their posters.

All undergraduate student presentations were judged and those receiving the highest scores in each scientific discipline were given an awards during the final banquet. This year, MU is proud to have three winners. Inside this issue, you can find the winners, a list of the presenters, and a little insight on what the students thought about their experience on the west coast.

PREP Scholars, grad students, and MU faculty also attend ABRCMS

In addition to Program Coordinator Brian Booton and the EXPRESS students, PREP scholars, grad students, and faculty members also attended the conference: PREP Scholars Aisha Burton, Wanda Figueroa-Cuilan, and Angela Lovett; grad students Korey Brownstein, Natalie Downer, Eric Villalon; Dr. Linda Blockus, Director of Office of Undergraduate Research; Dr. Chris Hardin, Department Chair of Nutrition and Exercise Physiology; Traci Wilson-Klekamp, Director of Diversity and Outreach Initiative, MU School of Medicine; Debbie Allen, Graduate Life Sciences Recruitment, Training & Career Services Coordinator; Dr. Mark Hannink, Associate Director, Fellowships and Education, Life Sciences Center; MU staff Amanda Leung.

Right: Natalie Downer talks with Dr. Ed Catapane from Medgar Evers College at the MU booth.
Undergraduates receive awards at Annual Biomedical Research Conference for Minority Students (ABRCMS)

Twelve undergraduate EXPRESS members, three PREP Scholars, and MU faculty attended the Annual Biomedical Research Conference for Minority Students (ABRCMS) that was held Nov. 7 to Nov. 10 in San Jose, California. We’ve talked to a few of the students about their experience at the conference where they networked, attended workshops, and heard from many speakers. Read about their experiences here!

A Round of Applause!
Three EXPRESS students won an award for their poster presentations.

![A Round of Applause!](image)

“ABRCMS 2012 was an excellent opportunity for me. It gave me a more clear and defined route to work toward. It further removed speculation that I had about pursuing an MD/PhD. I now academically will continue to prepare in the same way, but now I will work with a defined purpose. Now that I know my goals, I know how to get to the place that I need to be. I learned that the word for the type of research that interests me is called translational research. A better defined and clear motive career goal, and thought process is now in my head. The next step is to make these ideas actually occur.” -Joe Rowles III (Mentors: Dr. Mager, Dr. Atsaro)

“One of the things I’ve relearned about science is that it is sexy! Being stuck in my lab for awhile always makes me forget that there is research outside of my developmental biology. Being immersed in science and research and peers reminded me of why I came to love science in the first place.” -Nicole Herrera (Mentor: Dr. Chandrasekhar)

“The first networking in your discipline session (public health) was a great session, where I was told about all the ways to get into international medicine/public health. I was told to follow your passion. I asked in the session about doing an M.D./Ph.D./Ph.D./Ph.D. Corps then M.D. then MPH, etc. I’m not really sure what to do still, but I intend to do some deep self-reflection [and] figure out what drives me still and how to achieve what I want. The session with the surgeon general was also very inspiring. I will continue to figure out what I want and reflect on my experiences from ABRCMS.” -Victor Martinez-Cassmeyer (Mentor: Dr. Appel, Dr. Schultz)

What did YOU learn at ABRCMS?

This year’s ABRCMS was informative, inspirational and a great networking opportunity. The biggest lesson I learned was to not eliminate yourself from the competition. Many presenters emphasized that a fear of failure should not deter you from applying for schools competing for positions. Failure should be looked at as a practice run. The people that I networked with helped me to affirm my career goals and to push forward. -Rosalyn Reece

One thing I learned that I didn’t know how to control before is my personality type and how I interact with people. I’ve always known that I have two different “personalities” – one when I’m working or on business, and one when I’m in my comfort zone. Naturally I want to be alone and work alone, but I found once I got out of that spot where I’m comfortable, I met more people and made a lot more connections. -Harriett Brown

Going into ABRCMS I was very confused about what I wanted to do with my life and I had no confidence in my future. After attending the meetings my interest in science was only reasurred and I was able to see why it was so important to me in the first place. Talking to exhibitors restored confidence in myself to go ahead and do whatever I want in the sciences. ABRCMS showed me that whether you have an interest in lung cancer or obesity or air pollution all of us students have one thing in common and that is the passion and desire to improve lives through scientific research. -Jenny Schanzle

I think the biggest thing that struck me this year was the talk about broader impacts. From the world health issues to the issues of bringing more minorities into the sciences, I felt very pulled to take action. It really did reaffirm for me why I’m doing what I’m doing and why I’m setting such large goals for myself. There was so much support from strangers even about getting your PhD and ultimately finding your own path to success. There is no one right way I felt proud to be taking on such a feat. -Akia Parks

![What did YOU learn at ABRCMS?](image)

Program Coordinator Brian Booton and the eight EXPRESS students who presented at ABRCMS. (From left to right) Booton, Akia Parks, Ellis Tibbs, Megan Dowdle, Victor Martinez-Cassmeyer, Nicole Herrera, Mariah McClain, Joe Rowles III, and Harriett Brown.

Ellis Tibbs stands next to his poster titled, The Effect of Probiotics on Osteoporosis in Post-Menopausal Mice.

Harriett Brown presents her poster.

Harriett Brown; and Charles Nilon
University of Missouri, Columbia, MO
Squeezed Behavior in Greenspots on the University of Missouri Campus

Megan Dowdle; Ming C. Hammond; Tania Gonzalez; and Chun-Ting Kuo
University of California – Berkeley, Berkeley, CA (Summer 2012)
Investigating the Mechanism of Gene Regulation by the P5SM RNA Element

Nicole A. Herrera; Anand Chandrasekhar; Thao Le; and Vinoth Sittaramane
University of Missouri, Columbia, MO
Intracellular Calcium Regulates the Migration of Motor Neurons in the Zebrafish Embryo

Victor S. Martinez-Cassmeyer, Clayton Coffman; Heidi Appel; and Jack Schultz
University of Missouri, Columbia, MO
Mapping the Effect of Insect Herbivory on Invertase Activity in Arabidopsis thaliana

Mariah E. McClain, Bunsuk Hahn; Young-Jin Seo; and Stephen Alexander
University of Missouri, Columbia, MO
Inhibition of Sphingosine Kinase Suppresses Influenza Virus Replication

Akia N. Parks, Mann O. Platt; and Jerald Dumas
Georgia Institute of Technology, Atlanta, GA (Summer 2012)
Tissue Engineered Model of Bone Metastasis Using Bone Biocomposites

Joe L. Rowles, III; Parshaporn Tchaisanti; Joseph Mager, III; and Uhas Atasoy
University of Missouri, Columbia, MO
The Posttranscriptional Regulation of SOX4 by the RNA-Binding Protein HuR in a Triple Negative Breast Cancer Cell Line

Ellis Tibbs; Laura McCabe; and Jing Zhang
Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI (Summer 2012)
The Effect Probiotics on Osteoporosis in Post-Menopausal Mice

-POSTER PRESENTATIONS-

Below is a list of the EXPRESS students who presented, their co-authors, mentors, the institution where they did their research, and their abstract titles.

- POSTER PRESENTATIONS -
NGA Holiday Gathering
Wednesday, December 19
5:30 p.m.
107 LSC
Invitations will be sent to NGA members shortly.
For more info, contact Debbie Allen at allendebra@missouri.edu

Congrats to Dr. Simone Temporal!

Simone was a Ph.D student who has just finished her defense!

Mentor: Dr. David Schulz, Biological Science

Title of Dissertation: Neuromodulation-dependent regulation of coordinated patterns of gene expression in motor neurons of the stomatogastric ganglion

Dr. Temporal has accepted a post-doctoral fellowship position in the lab of Dr. Jean-Marc Goaillard in Marseille, France.

Call for Abstracts
New Orleans Sixth Health Disparities Conference

Xavier University of Louisiana College of Pharmacy Center for Minority Health and Health Disparities Research and Education is soliciting abstracts for podium and poster presentation. More specifically, we seek scientific and/or informative abstracts that reflect the focus of the conference.

The 2013 conference will focus on replicable multidisciplinary collaborative models and approaches from the clinical, research, and community arenas that integrate all levels of providers to improve health outcomes, eliminate health disparities, and demonstrate best practices.

Selected abstracts will be presented during poster sessions or podium presentations during concurrent breakout sessions. Please review the Abstract Submission Guidelines before submitting your abstract.

Visit http://xula.the1joshuagroup.com for more information about the Xavier University of Louisiana CMHDRE’s Sixth Health Disparities Conference.