

## **2014 WV-INBRE Summer Research Symposium**

Undergraduate college students, the majority from West Virginia, showcased their summer research projects at West Virginia University on July 28<sup>th</sup> as part of the 13th Annual West Virginia IDeA Network for Biomedical Research (WV-INBRE) Summer Research Symposium. During the 2014 Summer Program, WV-INBRE supported twenty-two Interns, two Faculty Fellows, and **four** high school Science Teachers from the West Virginia HSTA program. Ten Interns and one Faculty Fellow carried out their research at WVU (Table 1). Twelve Interns and one Faculty Fellow conducted their research at Marshall University (Table 2). The four high school Teachers and their mentors are shown in Table 3.

The research projects presented at the symposium were conducted under the direction of faculty mentors during an intensive 9-week period. The projects included studies on the treatment of cancer, sepsis, and depression; the effects of mountaintop mining on cardiac function; treatment and prevention of obesity; the pathophysiology of infectious diseases; and the harmful effects of diabetes on cardiac function among others.

WV-INBRE, which is designed to support biomedical research in the state, is supported by a grant from the National Institutes of Health (NIH) to Marshall University, in cooperation with West Virginia University and thirteen other colleges and universities in the state. The summer program allows students at undergraduate institutions research opportunities in labs at both Marshall and WVU. In addition to the formal research training they receive, students attend workshops and seminars aimed at helping them understand the research process and graduate education.

The morning session of symposium began with oral presentations by:

Sobha Gorugantula, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Chemistry, Alderson Broaddus University; Summer Research Program Fellow.

Tina Nguyen, Linh Vu, Danielle Nehilla, and Judith Urbanic; Summer Research Program Interns.

Kathy Loughman, high school science teacher at John Marshall High School in Glen Dale, WV, WV-INBRE/HSTA Fellow.

This year's summer research symposium featured keynote speaker Larry Walker, Ph.D., Director of the National Center for Natural Products Research (NCNPR),



and Professor in the Department of Pharmacology at the University of Mississippi. His presentation was entitled: "Botanicals and Experimental Pharmacology: History and Horizons".

Following a luncheon, the symposium continued with poster presentations by students and faculty. There were a total of 56 posters. Participants presenting posters included: summer undergraduate interns and faculty fellows from the Primarily Undergraduate Institutions who conducted research at WVU and Marshall University during the 9-week summer research program, and students and faculty conducting research at their home institutions. Several high school science teachers supported by the WV-INBRE/HSTA initiative also presented posters.

