

2015 WV-INBRE Summer Research Symposium

Undergraduate college students, the majority from West Virginia, showcased their summer research projects at Marshall University on July 27th as part of the 14th Annual West Virginia IDeA Network for Biomedical Research (WV-INBRE) Summer Research Symposium. During the 2015 Summer Program, WV-INBRE supported twenty-seven undergraduate Interns, one Faculty Fellow, and five High School Science Teachers from the West Virginia HSTA program. Seventeen Interns carried out their research at West Virginia University. Ten Interns and the Faculty Fellow conducted their research at Marshall University. The High School Science Teachers conducted their research at West Virginia University, Marshall University and Shepherd University.



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 and depression; endometriosis; markers of hypertension; opioid abuse; treatment and prevention of obesity; and the pathophysiology and treatment of infectious diseases 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 University and West Virginia University. 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 the symposium began with oral presentations by:

Gary Morris, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Biology, Glenville State College; Summer Research Program Fellow.

Megann Boone, Leah Figurski, Seth Deskins and Bobby Jesmer; Summer Research Program Interns.

Olivia Boskovic, High School Science Teacher at Huntington High School in Huntington, WV; WV-INBRE/HSTA Summer Research Fellow.



This year's summer research symposium featured keynote speaker was L. Gabriel Navar, PhD, Professor and Chair, Department of Physiology; Director, Center of Biomedical Research Excellence in Renal Biology; Tulane University School of Medicine. His presentation was entitled: "Cardiovascular Health, High blood Pressure and Kidney Function".

Following a luncheon, the symposium continued with poster presentations by students and faculty. There were a total of 78 posters. Participants presenting posters included: summer undergraduate interns and faculty fellows from the Primarily Undergraduate Institutions who conducted research at West Virginia University and Marshall University



during the 9-week summer research program, and students and faculty conducting research at their home institutions. The high school science teachers supported by the WV-INBRE/HSTA initiative also presented posters.