

2019 WV-INBRE Summer Research Symposium

Undergraduate college students, the majority from West Virginia, showcased their summer research projects on July 30th as part of the 18th Annual West Virginia IDeA Network for Biomedical Research (WV-INBRE) Summer Research Symposium. During the 2019 Summer Program, WV-INBRE



supported twenty-two undergraduate interns, one faculty fellows, and five high school science teachers from the West Virginia HSTA program. Thirteen interns carried out their research at West Virginia University. Nine interns and one faculty fellow conducted their research at Marshall University. The high school science teachers conducted their research at West Liberty University, West Virginia University, and Marshall 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 effect of binge drinking in adolescent brain function, the effects of nutrition on reproduction, Alzheimer's disease, and the pathophysiology and treatment of infectious diseases among others.

WV-INBRE, which is designed to support biomedical research in the state, is funded by a grant from the National Institutes of Health (NIH) to Marshall University, in cooperation with West Virginia University and fourteen other colleges and universities in the state. The summer program allows students enrolled in the Primarily Undergraduate Institutions (PUIs) in the WV-INBRE network 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:

Brian McNeel, High School Science Teacher at Cabell Midland High School in Ona, WV; WV-INBRE/HSTA Summer Research Fellow.

Caleb Duncan (University of Charleston), Brittani Greene (West Virginia Wesleyan College), Rhiannon Macom (West Liberty University), Emily Rainey (Alderson Broaddus University); Summer Research Program Interns.

This year's summer research symposium featured keynote speaker was Kenneth S. Ramos, MD, PhD. Professor of Medicine and Alkek Chair of Medical Genetics, Texas A&M University College of Medicine; Executive Director, Institute of Biosciences and Technology, Associate Vice President for Research, Texas A&M University Health Science Center; Assistant Vice Chancellor for Health Services, Texas A&M University System. His presentation was entitled: "A Story of LINEs, Discovery and Self-Realization". Dr. Ramos' talk was highly inspirational, entertaining, and very well received by everybody in attendance.



Following a luncheon, the symposium continued with poster presentations by students and faculty. There were a total of 79 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.