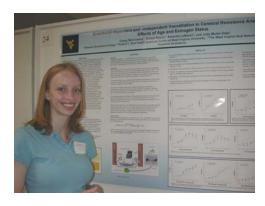
E NEWSLETT

Volume 9 Spring 2007



McCroskey Wins APS Undergraduate Research Award



Casey McCroskey, a junior from Alderson-Broaddus College, has been selected as one of six awardees of the David S. Bruce Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Research presented at the recent meeting of the American Physiology Society (APS) held in Washington, D.C. McCroskey is first author on a poster from her summer research project that she presented at

Inside this issue: McCrosky Wins Undergraduate Research Prize Bioinformatics Workshops Undergraduate Research Day at the Capitol Student and Mentor Present Research Message from Principal Investigator 2007 Summer Interns Write Winning Grants Seminar Alvin Named Director of NIH Liebler Named to EAC STaR Symposium 10

Steering Committee Members

last year's WV-INBRE 2006 Summer Symposium. The APS' David S. Bruce Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Research provides funds to undergraduate students presenting their research at the annual APS meeting. To be considered for the award, a student must: (1) be enrolled as an undergraduate at the time of application and the FASEB meeting; (2) be the first author on a submitted abstract for the EB meeting; and (3) be working with an APS member. The recipients receive \$500 and a certificate, and they must attend and present their posters at the meeting. Selection of the 17 finalists is based on the abstract and letter of application, as well as an oral presentation of the poster to the David Bruce Award Selection Committee. Additional information can be found at the following website http://www.theaps.org/awards/student/bruce.htm.

Casey will return to the WV-INBRE Summer Program this year to work 2-3 with Dr. Judy Muller-Delp (pictured below). Dr. Muller-Delp is an Associate Professor of Physiology and Pharmacology at the Robert C. Byrd Health Sciences Center and works on the role 6-7 of exercise training in reversing age-

related dysfunction in the arterioles of skeletal muscle.

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Institutions of the WV-INBRE

Lead Universities

Marshall University West Virginia University

> Network Research Institutions (NRIs)

Alderson-Broaddus College Fairmont State University West Liberty State College West Virginia State University Wheeling Jesuit University

> Network Outreach Institutions (NOIs)

Bluefield State College Concord University Davis & Elkins College Shepherd University University of Charleston West Virginia Wesleyan College

> Extended Outreach Institutions (EOIs)

Bethany College Glenville State College Mountain State University Salem International University

Bioinformatics Summer Workshops at WVU Health Sciences Center

The Summer, 2007 WV-INBRE Bioinformatics Workshops are scheduled for June 12-14, 2007 at the West Virginia University Health Sciences Center. These workshops feature Accelrys GCG ® (formerly known as the Wisconsin Package) and SeqWeb®.

Accelrys GCG ® is the most widely used bioinformatics suite in the world. Containing over 130 programs, it covers almost every aspect of biological sequence analysis. Based on published algorithms from the fields of mathematical and computational biology, the Package includes tools for:

Comparison
Database Searching and Retrieval
DNA/RNA Secondary Structure
Editing and Publication
Evolution
Fragment Assembly

Gene Finding and Pattern Recognition
Importing and Exporting
Mapping
Primer Selection
Protein Analysis
Translation

The first two days of the workshop covers the use of the Wisconsin Package through the X-Windows interface SeqLab®. In addition to exposing users to the graphical user interface, many of the basic functions are described in detail with enough theoretical description to obtain an understanding of many of the programs.

SeqWeb® will be covered on the third day. SeqWeb® provides intranet access to the more frequently used applications in the Wisconsin Package from a web browser. The unique program grouping approach

and condensed parameter option sets provide a quick and easy way for common sequence analysis tasks. The enhanced Java applets empower users with greater ability to interact with sequences and analytical results. It is easier to use and is especially convenient for infrequent users.

These workshops are open to all WV-INBRE participants. There is no charge to participate. All instruction will be held in computer labs. There will be lecture, handson work and problem sessions. Participants are encouraged to bring their own sequences or research problems to work on. The instructor will be able assist with advanced questions during the lab sessions. Attendance is limited to 20. To register, email Dr. Mary Davis, WV-INBRE Bioinformatics Core Director at mdavis@hsc.wvu.edu.

Undergraduate Research Day at the Capitol

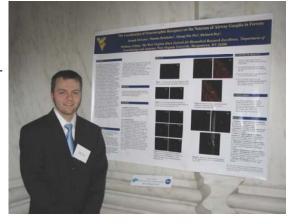
Three student interns who participated in the 2006 WV-INBRE Summer Research Program were selected to present posters of their summer research at the 4th Annual Undergraduate Research Day at the Capitol held February 8, 2007, in Charleston, WV. This event highlights undergraduate research conducted at institutions in the state and helps members of the State Legislature and Executive Branch understand the importance of undergraduate research by talking directly with the students whom these programs impact.

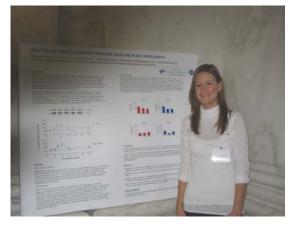
<u>Intern</u>	<u>Institution</u>	Summer Mentor	Poster Title
Joe McLane	Bethany College	Dr. Richard Dey	The Localization of Neurotrophin Receptors on
			the Neurons of Airway Ganglia in Ferrets
Melanie Ward	Bethany College	Dr. Lawrence Grover	Role of MAP Kinase in Growth Hormone Sig
			naling in Rat Hippocampus
Kristina Bacon	Wheeling Jesuit	Dr. William Petros	Variations in the Genetic Coding Sequence of
			AGP and its Effect on the Binding of Docetaxel
			in the Blood Plasma of Prostate Cancer Patients

(Continued on the page 3)

Undergraduate Research Day at the Capitol (continued)

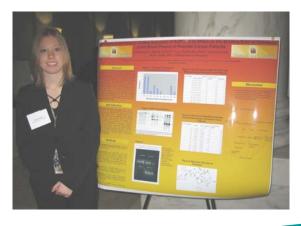
Joe McLane, Bethany College, with his poster presentation, "The Localization of Neurotrophin Receptors on the Neurons of Airway Ganglia in Ferrets".

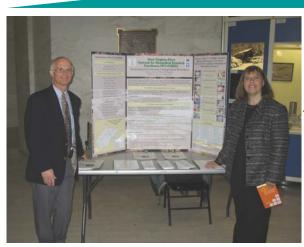




Melanie Ward, Bethany College, with her poster presentation, "Role of Map Kinase in Growth Hormone Signaling in Rat Hippocampus".

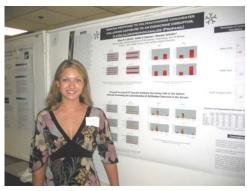
Kristina Bacon, Wheeling Jesuit University, with her poster presentation, "Variations in the Genetic Coding Sequence of AGP and its Effect on the Binding Rate of Docetaxel in the Blood Plasma of Prostate Cancer Patients".





Dr. Mark Reasor, Outreach Core Director at West Virginia University, and *Dr. Elsa Mangiarua*, Summer Program coordinator at Marshall University, stand beside the WV-INBRE poster display at Undergraduate Research Day at the Capitol.

WV-INBRE Student and Mentor Present Research at International Meeting



Gina Cottrill, a junior from Glenville State College and WV-INBRE Summer Program participant, and Dr. Rosana Schafer, a WVU immunologist, will be presenting their research, "The immune response to T-independent and T-dependent antigens is enhanced by the pesticide 3,4- dichloropropionanalide", at the International Congress of Immunology on August 21-25, 2007, in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. Ms. Cottrill worked in Dr. Schafer's lab during the 2006 WV-INBRE Summer Program. Ms. Cottrill coauthors this presentation with Dr. Schafer, Dr. Michael Miller and Dr. Keith Salazar.

Ms. Cottrill feels that attending this meeting would be beneficial to her in many ways. First, it will allow her to receive exposure to research in the field of immunology from professionals around the world and learn about numerous different research projects in the field. She added that by attending both the WV-INBRE summer program and this meeting, it will assist her in her course of study when she enters graduate school. Ms. Cottrill also feels this opportunity will allow her to make connections that will serve her through out her life and career. In addition, Ms. Cottrill said "I will be able to set an example for future interns in the program and serve to show them just how far their summer research projects can take them".

The pesticide, 3,4-dichloropropionanalide (propanil), increases the antibody response to the T-independent type-2 antigen (TI-2), phosphorylcholine (PC), after vaccination with heat-killed Streptococcus pneumoniae in female mice. The enhanced response requires gonadotropic support of the ovaries, but surprisingly it is independent of estradiol. This suggests propanil can be used to investigate estrogenindependent interactions between the endocrine and immune systems. In addition, it has been demonstrated that the requirements for antibody production to antigens on whole bacteria are different than to purified antigens.

To provide insight into mechanisms by which propanil alters the immune response, the effect of propanil exposure on the response to three antigens was determined: pneumococcal surface protein A (PspA), a major T-dependent (TD) antigen on intact S. pneumoniae,

decision to pursue Immunology as a purified PC-keyhole limpet hemocyanin (PC-KLH), a TD antigen, and purified PC-Ficoll, a TI-2 antigen. The serum antibody response and antibody secreting cells (ASC) in the spleen were measured by ELISA and ELISPOT assays, respectively.

> Exposure to propanil did not affect serum antibody titers to PspA, PC-Ficoll or PC-KLH. In contrast, propanil significantly increased the number of PspA, PC-Ficoll, and PC-KLH ASC in the spleen. These results demonstrate that an environmental chemical can increase the immune response to bacterially associated and purified TD and TI-2 antigens. The role of the ovary in the response is under investigation.

Defining the mechanism by which propanil enhances the immune response will provide insight into interactions between the endocrine system and immune system which



impacts ovarian disease, autoimmune disease, and infertility.

"I will be able to set an example for future interns in the program and serve to show them just how far their summer research projects can take them".

Message from the WV-INBRE Principal Investigator Gary O. Rankin, Ph.D

As I am writing this message, we ter have occurred since our Fall news- Charleston, SC. letter and talk a little bit about what the future holds.

In our last newsletter, I mentioned Research Program. This summer that Dr. Nalini Santanam would be three faculty members and twentyjoining Marshall University and eight WV-INBRE as a Cardiovascular schools will be conducting research Dr. Charlie Chen to investigate sig-Scientist in November, 2006. Dr. at Marshall University (1 faculty naling pathways in University - Project Investigator, frastructure, National Center for member for the EAC. with several families recruited in Research Resources, National Instithe last few months. WV-INBRE tutes of Health. Details of the re- Lastly, I would like to mention that spring issue of the NCRR Reporter. activities.

helped plan and coordinate this register or for more information. meeting. WV-INBRE will be taking bined INBRE/COBRE meeting is being encouraged by National Cen- participate in the research project of INBRE program in West Virginia.

for Research are completing the third year of (NCRR), as the traditional South-WV-INBRE. As in the previous east Region INBRE PIs Meeting two years, this year has been full of will now be a combined INBRE/ activity at all levels. So, I'll try to COBRE meeting. This meeting will highlight some of the activities that be held on June 10-11, 2007 in

> Our Outreach Core has been active getting ready for the 2007 Summer students



Santanam did indeed arrive last No- member and 10 students) and West inhibiting effects on tumor growth. vember and is beginning to interact Virginia University (2 faculty and We have also added a new member with the Appalachian Cardiovascu- 18 students). The summer's activi- to our External Advisory Commitlar Research Network (ACoRN) ties will conclude on August 2, tee (EAC), Dr. Daniel Liebler, Digroup. ACoRN is also actively re- 2007 with the Summer Research rector of the Proteomics, Mass cruiting patients for the study enti- Symposium, which will be held at Spectrometry Research Center at tled "Genetic basis for familial Marshall University this year. Our Vanderbilt University School of combined hyperlipidemia (FCHL)", featured speaker will be Dr. Sidney Medicine. We are currently in the Dr. Mark Flood, Fairmont State McNairy, Director of Research In-process of seeking one additional

will also be featured in the 2007 search symposium will follow later. NCRR will be holding a special INBRE Principal Investigator's ACoRN is a key focus in the arti- Dr. Mary Davis is working to pre- meeting on July 16, 2007 at NIH. cle. This is certainly an exciting pare a bioinformatics workshop on This meeting will replace the norrecognition for WV-INBRE and its June 12-14, 2007, at the West Vir- mal INBRE PI's meeting normally ginia University Health Sciences held in October each year. The pur-Center (see page 2). The workshop pose of the special meeting is to On November 16-17, 2006, the entitled "GCG101: SeqLab & discuss what the Request for Appli-Second West Virginia INBRE/ SeqWeb; The Wisconsin Package" cations (RFA) for the next round of COBRE meeting was held at Stone- will be held in the Learning Center. INBRE might contain. I will be repwall Jackson Lodge and Confer- This workshop is free, but reserva- resenting WV-INBRE and will ence Center. The theme was bioin- tions are required. Contact Dr. have input into the discussion phase formatics, and Drs. Sheil and Davis Davis at mdavis@hsc.wvu.edu to of the meeting. The results of this meeting are extremely important for the future structure of the INthe lead on hosting the Third West Researchers in our network con- BRE program and our ability to Virginia INBRE/COBRE Meeting tinue to make progress on their pro- participate for an additional five which will be held in Charleston, jects. Recently, Dr. Haitao Luo years. I'll look forward to reporting WV this fall. The idea of a com- joined the faculty at Alderson- to you the results of this meeting Broaddus College where he will and working toward continuing the

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Mentor: Dr. Dick Niles

Allison Teter

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Mentor: Dr. Mike Moore

"Write Winning Grants" Workshop at WVU — July 13, 2007

The WVU Research Corporation is sponsoring the upcoming "Write Winning Grants" seminar to be held in the National Research Center for Coal and Energy (NRCCE), Evansdale Campus, Assembly Room on July 13, 2007. The seminar is free and all interested WVU Faculty are invited and encouraged to participate.

A multi-phase program, "Write Winning Grants" is an acclaimed seminar that comprehensively addresses both practical and conceptual aspects that are important to the proposal-writing process. The program content is designed to increase WVU faculty competitiveness for federal agency funding. All participants receive extensive

handouts and a copy of "The Grant Application Writers' Workbook."

More information on the seminar and registration form can be found at http://www.wvu.edu/~research/. Information on Grant Writers' Seminars and Workshops, LLC can be found at www.grantcentral.com.

Alving Named Director of NIH's National Center for Research Resources



NIH Director Elias A. Zerhouni, M.D. has named Barbara Alving, M.D. to be the director of the National Center for Research Resources (NCRR). As Acting Direc-

tor of NCRR, Alving has overseen the launch of the Clinical and Translational Science Awards (CTSA) program - a new national consortium of academic health centers that will transform the conduct of clinical and translational research to ensure that biomedical discoveries are rapidly translated into prevention strategies and clinical treatments for rare and common diseases.

"Dr. Alving has demonstrated exceptional leadership in the recent efforts of the NIH to energize the discipline of clinical and translational research across the nation," said Dr. Zerhouni. "The CTSA program marks the first systemic change in clinical research in 50 years and is a critical component of how we will effectively re-engineer the clinical research enterprise, including training the next generation of researchers. It will be with Dr. Alving's vision, creativity, and leadership that we will be able to maximize our investment in the CTSA consortium, ensure that benefits extend to the greater research community, and that new medical advances are delivered to the people who need them."

"I am honored to lead NCRR at such a critical time and welcome the opportunity to work with my very talented and dedicated colleagues in NCRR as we capitalize on NCRR's long standing investment in clinical and translational science to enrich the CTSA program," Dr. Alving said. "I have been impressed by the variety and depth of the research that NCRRfunded investigators are conducting and the contributions NCRR makes to the entire biomedical research community. These investigators are fueling advances in clinical care by developing pre-clinical models, new technologies in imaging, and new informatics systems, which are critical to transforming clinical and translational research."

The NCRR budget of greater than \$1 billion will enable investigators throughout the country to conduct research that ranges from basic and clinical projects to community outreach and education. NCRR funding provides training and research opportunities at minority institutions and colleges, as well as in academic centers located in states that are challenged by distance and low or often rural populations.

A native of Indiana and a graduate of Purdue University, Dr. Alving earned her medical degree - cum laude - from Georgetown University School of Medicine, where she also served as an intern in internal medicine. She completed her residency training, followed by a research fellowship in hematology at the Johns Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore. She began her research career as a Public Health Officer in the Division of Blood and Blood Products at the Food and Drug Ad-

ministration (FDA) on the NIH campus. Dr. Alving then joined the Walter Reed Army Institute of Research, where she served at the rank of colonel as the Chief of the Department of Hematology and Vascular Biology. In 1997, Dr. Alving became the Chief of the Section of Hematology and Oncology at the Washington Hospital Center in Washington D.C. In 1999, she joined the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute (NHLBI) as the Director of the Division of Blood Diseases and Resources. She then became the NHLBI Deputy Director and Acting Director while also serving as the Director of the Women's Health Initiative (2002-2006). In 2005, Dr. Zerhouni tapped her to be the Acting Director of NCRR.

A Professor of Medicine at the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences in Bethesda, Dr. Alving is also a Master in the American College of Physicians, a former member of the subcommittee on Hematology of the American Board of Internal Medicine, and a previous member of the FDA Blood Products Advisory Committee. Before joining NIH, she served on the Hematology Study Section for NIH and was a member of the NHLBI Clinical Trials Review Committee. She currently serves the NIH Director as the official NIH liaison for the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services and is a member of the Advisory Board for Clinical Research at the NIH Clinical Center.

(Continued on page 9)

Alving — (Continued from page 8)

Dr. Alving is a recipient of the American Society of Hematology award for outstanding service and also received a Commendable Service Award from the FDA for her work on hypotensive agents in albumin products. Her military honors include the U.S. Legion of Merit, awarded by the U.S. Army, for work that improved the care of soldiers in combat.

She is a co-inventor on two patents, has edited three books, and has published more than 100 papers in the areas of thrombosis and hemostasis.

NCRR provides laboratory scientists and clinical researchers with the environments and tools they need to understand, detect, treat, and prevent a wide range of diseases. Central to this effort, NCRR leads the Clinical and Translational Science Award (CTSA) program - a national consortium of academic health centers that will transform the conduct of clinical and translational research to ensure that biomedical discoveries are rapidly translated into prevention strategies and clinical treatments for rare and common diseases. With NCRR support, scientists make biomedical discoveries, translate these findings to animal-based studies, and then apply them to patient-oriented research. Through the CTSA consortium and other collaborations and networks. NCRR connects researchers with one another, and with patients and communities across the nation. These connections bring together innovative research teams and the power of

shared resources, multiplying the opportunities to improve human health. For more information, visit www.ncrr.nih.gov.

Information in this article was provided by the NIH Office for Communications. The National Institutes of Health (NIH) - The Nation's Medical Research Agency - includes 27 Institutes and Centers and is a component of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. It is the primary federal agency for conducting and supporting basic, clinical and translational medical research, and it investigates the causes, treatments, and cures for both common and rare diseases. For more information about NIH and its programs, visit www.nih.gov.

Liebler Named As Newest WV-INBRE External Advisory Committee Member



Daniel C. Liebler, Ph.D., newest addition to the WV-INBRE EAC

At the recommendation of the WV-INBRE External Advisory Commit- is Director of the Jim Ayers Institee (EAC), the Administrative Core (AC) is expanding the EAC by two members. We are pleased to welcome Dr. Daniel C. Liebler as the newest member of the WV-INBRE EAC.

Dr. Liebler is an expert in proteomics and bioinformatics and is currently Professor of Bioinformatics, Pharmacology and Biomedical Informatics with the Vanderbilt University School of Medicine in Nashville, Tennessee. He serves as Director of the Proteomics, Mass Spectrometry Research Center at Vanderbilt University School of

Medicine. In addition, Dr. Liebler tute for Precancer Detection and Diagnosis of the Vanderbilt-Ingram Cancer Center.

Dr. Liebler is an internationallyrecognized expert in proteomics and bioinformatics approaches to the pharmacology and toxicology of cancer detection and prevention. He authored a book in 2002, entitled "Introduction to Proteomics: Tools for the New Biology" (Humana Press). The WV-INBRE AC also plans to add one additional EAC member in the near future.

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WVEPSCoR Announces Call for Papers for STaR Symposium

Student Research Poster Competition Included

The planning committee for the upcoming West Virginia STaR (Science, Technology and Research) Symposium has announced its Call for Papers. The event, which will be held Sept. 17-18 at the Waterfront Place Hotel in Morgantown, is intended to provide a forum for the state's increasingly competitive science and technology enterprise. University and college faculty members, researchers, students and members of the business community will gather at the symposium to share research developments, ideas and collaborations.

The committee is seeking papers to be delivered during the symposium to provide attendees with information about the latest advances in scientific research being conducted in West Virginia. Research sponsored by federal agencies (National Science Foundation, National Institutes for Health, Department of Defense, etc.) is of particular relevance. All accepted papers will be published in symposium proceed-

ings. Researchers interested in submitting a paper should visit the symposium website at **www.starsymposium.org** for guidelines. The deadline for submission of research papers is July 1st.

There will also be a student research poster competition held in conjunction with the STaR Symposium. Designed to showcase the best student research in West Virginia, the competition is open to all West Virginia college and university undergraduate and graduate students who are actively involved in a scientific research project. The deadline for student abstract submissions is July 15th.

From the abstract submissions, 20 students--10 undergraduate students and 10 graduate students-will be invited to prepare research posters to be presented at the symposium. One Undergraduate Researcher of the Year and one Graduate Researcher of the Year

will be selected from among the finalists. The student selected as the Undergraduate Researcher of the Year will win a cash prize of \$1,200 and the student selected as the Graduate Researcher of the Year will win a cash prize of \$1,500. Second-place student researchers will receive \$600 and \$750, respectively. Contest guidelines are available on the symposium website.

Sponsors of the West Virginia STaR Symposium include the NASA IV & V Facility, the NASA West Virginia Space Grant Consortium, the National Science Foundation, the West Virginia High Technology Consortium Foundation and the West Virginia Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Research (WVEPSCoR).

For more information or to register for the symposium, visit the symposium website or call (304) 558-4128, ext. 244.



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