The EXCELLENCE IN CARDIOVASCULAR SCIENCES (EICS) SUMMER RESEARCH PROGRAM FOR DIVERSITY is funded by an R25 training grant from the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute. Drs. Debra Diz and Ann Tallant are the directors of the program, which has provided summer research training for approximately 300 undergraduate students from groups underrepresented in the biomedical sciences over the past twenty-five years. Of our former EICS participants, who have completed their undergraduate degrees, approximately 31% obtained their professional degrees or are in professional schools and 31% obtained graduate degrees or are in graduate school. Four EICS participants are currently working toward their PhD at Wake Forest University.

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  Winston–Salem State University
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PARTICIPANTS

Adam JP. Burke (Winston-Salem State University)
Mentor: Giselle C. Melendez, MD; Co-Mentor: Jianli Bi, MD, PhD
Internal Medicine-Cardiology, Cardiovascular Sciences Center
“Beneficial Effects of Purified Eicosapentaenoic Acid on Myocardial Fibrosis and Diastolic Cardiac Function in Spontaneously Hypertensive Rats”

Nataleigh N. Austin (Winston-Salem State University)
Mentors: E. Ann Tallant, PhD, Patricia E. Gallagher, PhD, Marianne Collard, BS
Surgery/Hypertension, Cardiovascular Sciences Center
“Muscadine Grape Extract Reduces Liver Metastases in a 4T1 Syngeneic Mouse Model”

Chloe M. Carpenter (Cornell University)
Mentor: Nicole H. Levi, PhD; Co-Mentor: Afnan Altamimi, MD
Plastic & Reconstructive Surgery
“The Effect of Human Plasma on the Growth of Staphylococcus Aureus Biofilms”

Lauren D. Clines (Liberty University)
Mentor: Jasmina Varagic, MD, PhD; Co-Mentors: Jessica VonCannon, Kendra Wright
Surgery/Hypertension, Cardiovascular Sciences Center
“Chymase/Angiotensin-(1-12) Axis in Early Diabetic Cardiac Dysfunction”

Alexus B. Echols (Spelman College)
Mentor: TanYa M. Gwathmey-Williams, PhD; Co-Mentors: Andrew M. South, MD, Mark C. Chappell, PhD, Lisa Washburn, MD
Surgery/Hypertension, Cardiovascular Sciences Center
“The Renin Angiotensin System and Pre-term Birth in Fetal Programming of Young Adults: Alterations in Blood Pressure and Urinary Angiotensinogen”

Nia S. Garrett (Villanova University)
Mentor: Rong Chen, PhD; Co-Mentors: Deborah Luessen, MS, James Miller, Haiguo Sun, PhD, Brian McCool, PhD
Physiology and Pharmacology, Cardiovascular Sciences Center
“Disruption of G-protein Membrane Compartmentalization by Chronic and Intermittent Ethanol Treatment”

Rabina Mainali (Salem College)
Mentor: Hariom Yadav, PhD; Co-Mentors: Shaohua Wang, PhD, Ravinder Nagpal, PhD
Internal Medicine-Molecular Medicine
“Development of Yogurt Containing Human-Origin Probiotics”

Daija L. McKenzie (Winston-Salem State University)
Mentor: Andrew M. South, MD, MS
Pediatric Nephrology, Cardiovascular Sciences Center
“Racial/Ethnic and Gender Differences in Pediatric Hypertension”

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