

PARTICIPANTS

Tancia Bradshaw, B.S. (University of the Virgin Islands)

Mentor: Giselle Melendez, MD

"Doxorubicin Induces Myocardial Interstitial Fibrosis via a Mechanism Involving Cardiac Mast Cells and Substance P"

Andy Kwok, B.S. (North Carolina State University)

Mentor: Jeffrey Willey, PhD

"Unloading Induces Cartilage Degradation and Biomarkers of Arthritis in the Knee and Hip Joints"

Sierra A. Nance, B.S. (Winston-Salem State University)

Mentor: TanYa Gwathmey, PhD

"The Effects of Soluble Dietary Fiber on Visceral Adiposity, Inflammation, and Oxidative Stress in Obese African American Women"

Mara Ramirez Ruiz, B.S. (University of Puerto Rico)

Mentor: David Mount, PsyD, MA

"Review of Neurocognitive Training Programs Delivered in Post-acute and Long-term Care"

Alex Rodriguez, B.S. (Carnegie Mellon University)

Mentor: Waldemar Debinski, MD, PhD

"Tumor-targeted Immune Checkpoint Inhibition in a Tri-valent Recombinant Antibody"

Ashley A. Smith, B.S. (Cornell University)

Mentor: David Soto-Pantoja, PhD

"CD47 Blockade Regulates Autophagy and Cell Metabolism to Reduce Breast Tumor Growth"

We wish to extend our sincere appreciation to the mentors for their outstanding contributions to the success of the program.



2016 POST-BACCALAUREATE RESEARCH EDUCATION PROGRAM (PREP) SCHOLARS RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM

**Keynote Speaker
Alencia Woodard-Grice, PhD
Halyard Health, Inc.**

**Bench to Bedside and Back:
Navigating a Career in
Translational Research**

**June 10, 2016
9:30 am – 1:00 pm
Wake Forest Biotech Place
575 N. Patterson Avenue
Atrium/Auditorium
Winston-Salem, NC 27101**

The WFSM **Post-baccalaureate Research Education (PREP) Scholars Program** opportunity is funded by the NIGMS and was created in August of 2001 to provide 1-2 years of research, coursework and GRE preparation to students under-represented in seeking the PhD for careers in research in the biomedical sciences. Drs. Debra Diz and TanYa Gwathmey-Williams are the directors of the program. Trainees accepted into the program select research mentors from a wide range of topic areas for their research intensive experience. There are journal clubs and other enrichment activities provided throughout the year.

SUMMARY OF OUR SUCCESS

Since 2001, 78 trainees have been supported by the PREP and 62 trainees have entered graduate programs (43 PhD and 19 Master's) with a ~90% retention rate and 11 entered professional schools with 100% retention. The majority of these participants were African American (~75%). The PREP pipeline contributes ~25% of the minority students in biomedical sciences graduate program and the percentage of under-represented minority students rose from less than 5% to 16-20% during the period that PREP has been active. Seventeen students have already completed the PhD; two already hold assistant professor positions. Four new students will enter the program in August, 2016.

ALENCIA WOODARD-GRICE, PhD Innovation Testing Research Manager, Halyard Health, Inc.

Dr. Alencia Woodard-Grice received her Bachelors in Biomedical Engineering from Vanderbilt University, and her PhD in Physiology and Biophysics at the University of Alabama at Birmingham. She returned to Vanderbilt to complete a fellowship in Clinical Pharmacology before accepting a position as research scientist on the Discovery Research team of Corporate Research and Engineering at the Kimberly-Clark Corporation.

Dr. Grice recently accepted a position as Innovation Testing Research Manager for Halyard Health Inc. (formerly Kimberly-Clark Healthcare), where she serves as the principal investigator for a \$6.6 Million government – funded innovation research grant. In addition to supervising laboratory personnel, Dr. Grice serves as the Intellectual Assets Review Committee Chair. She is passionate about mentoring junior scientists, and creating learning environments in which they can excel.

Alencia is the proud mother of a rambunctious 10-year old son, Joseph, and they spend countless hours with little league baseball, basketball and football.