FIVE BMS STUDENTS PRESENT AT OSU DENMAN RESEARCH FORUM

In May of 2007, five Biomedical Science students participated in the annual Richard J. and Martha D. Denman Undergraduate Research Forum. Denman is a judged poster competition for students who have participated in research during the past academic year. The Biomedical Science participants were a combination of students whose research was completed on campus and others who worked in external research labs. BMS Participants were: Boyan Alexandrov, a rising sophomore from Upper Arlington (Upper Arlington High School) who works in the OSU biomedical informatics lab of Dr. Dan Janies; Shannon Conneely, a rising junior from Massillon, Ohio (Massillon High School) who works in the OSU neuroscience lab of Dr. Candice Askwith; Megan Conroy, a rising junior from Gaithersburg, Maryland (Gaithersburg High School) whose research is from her summer internship at the National Institute of Health/National Eye Institute; Matt Flanigan, a rising junior from Cincinnati (LaSalle High School) who completed his research while a summer intern at the Cincinnati Children’s Hospital Research Foundation; and Peter Sayers, a rising junior from Fayetteville, Georgia (Starr’s Mill High School) who works in the OSU neurological surgery lab of Dr. E. Antonio Chiocca. Sayers has presented in the Denman in both his freshman and sophomore years.

Most participants in the Denman are upperclassmen, and the Biomedical Science program was very proud to have five underclassmen representing the major. Our goal for 2008 is to triple our numbers and have at least fifteen BMS students present at Denman!
A special thank you to the OSUMC faculty who are mentoring BMS students in their research labs, including:

Candice Askwith  
Neuroscience

E. Antonio Chiocca  
Neurological Surgery

Jonathan Davis  
Physiology and Cell Biology

Jill Rafael-Fortney  
Molecular and Cellular Biochemistry

Mike Freitas  
Molecular Virology, Immunology and Med. Genetics

Pedram Ghafourifar  
Surgery

John Gunn  
Molecular Virology, Immunology and Med. Genetics

Kay Huebner  
Molecular Virology, Immunology and Med. Genetics

Samson Jacob  
Molecular and Cellular Biochemistry

Dan Janies  
Biomedical Informatics

Sissy Jhiang  
Physiology and Cell Biology

Maria Kataki  
Neurology

Gustov Leone  
Molecular Virology, Immunology and Med. Genetics

Kirk Mykytyn  
Pharmacology

Chandan Sen  
Surgery

Caroline Whitacre  
Molecular Virology, Immunology and Med. Genetics

The first Biomedical Science students started Autumn Quarter, 2005 and are now halfway to graduation! The vision for this major is for a select group of students to be integrated into the OSU Medical Center by giving them solid a research experience and opportunities to witness clinical medicine. The Biomedical Science curriculum is rigorous, but it also allows students the flexibility to pursue individual interests. Enrollment in the major is limited to 25 new students per year, so classroom and advising situations are intimate and engaging. The students are often invited to participate in activities affiliated with our medical students and graduate research students. Admission into the major is competitive, and students are held to a high standard with the expectation of continuing on to graduate or professional school. In addition to completing a one to four year research experience and maintaining high grades, students are encouraged to develop their communication, leadership, and team building skills through both curricular and extracurricular activities. Outside of the classroom and the research lab, Biomedical Science students are involved in a variety of activities, such as student government, study abroad, service organizations, ambassador programs, bands and choirs, intramural sports, and Greek life. The 2006-07 school year included one of our students receiving co-authorship in The Journal of Comparative Neurology and another student receiving her first research award. We look forward to the upcoming school year as our first class prepares for application to graduate and professional school.

BMS students experience clinical medicine with Grever Internship

Under the guidance of Dr. Michael Grever, Chair of the Department of Internal Medicine at the OSU Medical Center, a summer internship has been developed allowing biomedical science students the opportunity to spend eight weeks in the summer shadowing residents as they go about their workday. Students go on patient rounds, attend lectures and listen in on case studies. The interns are given white jackets, ID badges, pagers, and full access to the Medical Center, 24 hours a day. In addition to exploring the various units within Internal Medicine, students also have the opportunity to explore their interests in areas such as surgery and pediatrics. Four students participated in the summer of 2006, and six students have been accepted into the program for the summer of 2007. For 2007, the internship has been expanded to include a research component. Students will still participate in clinical activities in the morning but will work in a research lab in the afternoon, when most residents are doing paperwork. This new format will give students an even stronger training as they continue to explore careers in clinical care and research.

Students find the internship to be a rich and rewarding experience. Special thanks to the faculty, staff, and residents of Internal Medicine for making this possible.

2006 summer interns (left to right) Shannon Conneely, Ben Jones, Peter Sayers, and Zach Rossfeld observe a patient exam given by Dr. Ian Myles.