GHUCCTS Announces 2019-2020 Translational Biomedical Science (TBS) Program Scholars

The Georgetown-Howard Universities Center for Clinical and Translational Science (GHUCCTS) is proud to introduce our 2019-2020 Translational Biomedical Science (TBS) program scholars.

The goal of the TBS program is to prepare pre-doctoral students and post-doctoral fellows (MDs and PhDs) to serve as the critical link in advancing the translation of basic science into improved outcomes for health, aging and disease. The primary aim of the TBS program is to provide the training necessary for scientists to become the next generation of leaders in translational biomedical research. Emphasis is placed on teaching trainees how to build interdisciplinary collaborative research programs by providing them with dual mentored training experiences in preclinical and clinical research. The TBS Program leverages the rich partnerships that GHUCCTS has established among Georgetown University Medical Center (GUMC), Howard University College of Medicine (HUCM), MedStar Health Research Institute (MHRI), the Washington, D.C. Veterans Administration (VA) and Oak Ridge National Laboratory (ORNL).

PRE-DOCTORAL STUDENTS:

Victoria Brooks is a PhD candidate in the Howard University Department of Microbiology pursuing a degree in medical microbiology with an emphasis on immunology. Her thesis research proposes to elucidate a biological basis of red blood cell alloimmunization in multiple transfused sickle cell disease patients. Her mentors are Dr. James G. Taylor, IV, and Dr. Sergei Nekhai, in the Department of Medicine at Howard University.

Sean Carey is a PhD candidate in the Georgetown University Department of Biology. His current project includes the glial response to pathogenic proteins and how resulting inflammation alters synaptic connections and plasticity. His mentor is Dr. Kathy Maguire-Zeiss at Georgetown University.

Georgetown University | Howard University

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Kevin Cook is a PhD candidate in the Georgetown University Interdisciplinary Program in Neuroscience, where he is investigating the role of memory and learning in explaining clinical symptoms of autism spectrum disorder. His mentor is Dr. Chandan Vaidya, Developmental Cognitive Neuroscience Department Chair at Georgetown University.

Tamar Demby is a PhD candidate in the Georgetown University Department of Oncology. Her TL1 project is on mouse modeling of APOE genotype in chemotherapy-related cognitive impairment. Her mentors are Dr. G. William Rebeck and Dr. Jeanne Mandelblatt at Georgetown University.

Alan Fowler is a PhD candidate in the Georgetown University Interdisciplinary Program in Neuroscience. His TL1 project focus on MicroRNAs as biomarkers for tyrosine kinase inhibition in neurodegenerative proteinopathies. His mentor is Dr. Charbel Moussa in the Department of Neurology at Georgetown University.

Shiva Hassanzadeh-Behbahani is a PhD candidate in the Georgetown University Department of Neuroscience. Her TL1 project is to investigate Frontostriatal Neural Injury in adults living with HIV under the mentorship of Dr. Xiong Jiang at Georgetown University and Dr. Ronald Ellis at the University of California, San Diego.

Chaz Hinzman is a PhD candidate in the Georgetown University Interdisciplinary Program in Neuroscience. His TL1 project is to understand the role of Extracellular Vesicles in promoting Pancreatic Cancer Tumorigenesis under the mentorship of Dr. Amrita Cheema and Dr. Partha Banerjee at Georgetown University.

Bryce Jones is a MD/PhD candidate in the Georgetown University Department of Pharmacology and Physiology. His TL1 project is in chronic kidney disease under the mentorship of Dr. Moshe Levi at Georgetown University.

Joseph L. Paul is a PhD candidate in the Howard University Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology. His TL1 project is to investigate the functional role of RASAL2 in Prostate Cancer under the mentorship of Dr. Bernard Kwabi-Addo and Dr. Yasmine Kanaan at Howard University.

Joseph Posner is a MD/PhD candidate in the Georgetown University Interdisciplinary Program in Neuroscience. His TL1 project focuses on the Neural Reading Network and how it changes after a stroke. His mentors are Dr. Rhonda Friedman and Dr. Peter Turkeltaub at Georgetown University.

Lauren Rosko is a PhD candidate in the Georgetown University Interdisciplinary Program in Neuroscience. Her TL1 project focuses on the role of creatine synthesis in myelin integrity and behavior under the mentorship of Dr. Jeffrey Huang and Dr. Mark Burns at Georgetown University.

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POST-DOCTORAL FELLOWS:

Sarra Djemil, PhD is a post-doctoral fellow at Georgetown University. Her TL1 project focuses on plasticity and vulnerability of basal forebrain cholinergic neurons in Alzheimer's Disease. She earned her PhD in Pharmacology at Georgetown University. Her current mentorship is with Dr. Daniel T.S. Pak and Brent Harris at Georgetown University.

Martha Gay, PhD is a post-doctoral fellow at Georgetown University with an interest in liver cancer. She earned her PhD in Pharmacology from Howard University. Currently, Dr. Gay is an NIH TL-1 Postdoctoral Scholar at Georgetown University Medical Center. Her mentors are Dr. Jill Smith, Professor of Medicine in the Division of Gastroenterology at Georgetown University, Dr. Alexander Kroemer, Assistant Professor of Surgery, Director Transplant Laboratory, MedStar Georgetown Transplant Institute University Medical Center, and Dr. Leena Halvinki-Clarke, Professor of Oncology at Georgetown University.

For more information on our new and past scholars, please visit the TBS website.

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