



SciMed

GRADUATE RESEARCH SCHOLARS

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Website:
<http://www.cals.wisc.edu/gradstudies/gradscholars/>



Photo by Bryce Richter, UW-Madison, Univ. Communications

SciMed GRS Participating Graduate Programs:

Ag & Applied Economics
Agroecology
Agronomy
Animal Science
Bacteriology
Biochemistry (IPiB)
Biological Systems Engineering
Biophysics
Cancer Biology
Cellular & Molecular Biology
Cellular & Molecular Pathology
Clinical Investigation
Comparative Biomed. Sciences
Dairy Science
Endocrinology & Reprod. Phys.
Entomology
Food Science
Forest Ecology
Genetics
Horticulture
Landscape Architecture
Life Sciences Communications
Medical Micro & Immunology
Medical Physics
Microbiology
Molecular & Cell. Pharmacology
Molecular & Env. Toxicology
Neuroscience
Nutritional Sciences
Pharmaceutical Sciences
Physiology
Plant Breeding & Plant Genetics
Plant Pathology
Population Health
Soil Science
Wildlife Ecology

Summer/Fall 2012



Dr. Sara Patterson

Welcome from Program Staff

It has now been almost five years since we established the Science and Medicine Graduate Research Scholars (SciMed GRS) Program and it continues to be a wonderful, rewarding experience. Created in 2008, the program started with a cohort of just 18 students. SciMed GRS now encompasses 37 graduate programs with more than 130 students in the community. SciMed GRS has students from the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences, the School of Medicine and Public Health, the School of Veterinary Medicine, and the School of Pharmacy. SciMed GRS coordinates social and professional events for fellowship recipients, providing opportunities for scholars to interact across disciplines and develop unique connections and leadership roles. The program also supports and coordinates efforts in recruiting underrepresented students in the graduate programs in the biological sciences. We are looking forward to welcoming our fifth cohort of new students this August.

Recent highlights for us have been hosting career and research presentations from a previous SciMed GRS scholar Dr. Paola Mera from Stanford University and visiting faculty and Director of Colorado Diversity Initiative Dr. Mark Hernandez from the University of Colorado. We are also particularly excited about recent achievements of many of our students; especially student successes in receiving NSF predoctoral awards and induction into the Edward Alexander Bouchet Graduate Honor Society. Equally impressive is the creativity and outreach of our students including the formation of several new student committees and the impact of their leadership in the community (see articles within newsletter). This year we had over 80 student presenters at our annual poster session with Engineering and awards were made for best poster presentations. As we enter the fall, we eagerly anticipate welcoming and again hosting students for dinner at Sara's house and discussing graduate school experiences and career development at roundtable sessions. We look forward to continuing to work with scholars in strengthening the community as the program grows.



Sara Patterson and Johnnie Walker
(Biophysics) at SciMed GRS Poster Session

We hope you too enjoy learning a bit more each year about the SciMed GRS program. Please join the alumni Linked in group or visit us next time you are on campus. Feel free to also visit us at our website and learn more about the program, profiles of students in our community and upcoming events.

- Sara Patterson, Director & Abbey Thompson, Coordinator



SciMed GRS Students at the 2012 Poster Session on April 26, 2012 at Union South

Awards in SciMed Community

NSF 2012-13 Recipients

Josue Baeza

Int. Program in Biochemistry
Eric Ross

Wildlife Ecology
Isael Rubio-Salazar

Plant Pathology

2012 SciMed Poster Session Award Recipients

Katie Clowers

Genetics

Carlos Coriano

Molecular & Env. Toxicology
Jaye Gardiner

Cancer Biology
Melanie Ivancic

Int. Program in Biochemistry
Brandon Wright

Physiology

The Edward Alexander Bouchet Graduate Honor Society 2012 Inductees

Gilbert Jose

Microbiology
Abiola Keller
Population Health

SciMed GRS Recent Events

With the goal of providing a supportive network for underrepresented students throughout their graduate career, SciMed GRS hosts routine sessions on a variety of professional development topics and coordinates various social and networking events for scholars.

Recent Meeting Topics Include:

- Fellowship Resource Session
- CV Development
- Ethics in Academic Research
- Faculty Career Path Talks
- Mentors in Higher Education - Dr. Mark Hernandez, University of Colorado-Boulder
- Preparing for a Post-doc Position - Dr. Paola Mera, Stanford University
- Networking in the Greenhouse

SciMed GRS & Engineering GRS Poster Session: In our largest poster session yet, over 80 graduate students in Engineering and Biological Sciences presented posters in this annual event. Thank you to graduate student participants and faculty judges for making this event a great success!

ROPES Course for First Year Students: The 2011 cohort and peer mentors participated in a team building ROPES course. It was a group favorite and repeated again with the 2011 cohort this summer.

Summer Picnic with Visiting Undergrads: The SciMed GRS outreach committee organized a successful picnic event for undergraduates from across the nation that are spending their summer researching on the UW campus. The goal of the gathering was to network undergrads with graduate students in an informal setting and have prospective students experience the diversity of the student population at UW-Madison.

SciMed GRS Student Juan Rodríguez Molina visits University of Puerto Rico at Mayagüez



Juan is a PhD candidate in the research lab of Dr. Aseem Ansari in the Department of Biochemistry

Microbiology (REU-Microbiology) during the summer of 2006 gave me a first row preview of life in Madison, and it did not disappoint. I quickly found that there was great research going on, it was family friendly and safe, all of which were important for my growing family.

Greatest highlight of graduate school: Realizing I am at the forefront of human discovery gives meaning in a larger context to everything I do in lab. Though this may sound extremely corny, it is completely true.

On a recent visit to his home institution: SciMed GRS recently provided me the opportunity to share my graduate school experience at UW-Madison with talented undergraduates at my alma mater, the University of Puerto Rico at Mayagüez. I told the undergrad audience about my own research and other exciting

research going on at UW-Madison in the areas of stem cells and bioenergy. I also highlighted opportunities for graduate studies and summer research internships and life outside the lab (of course).

In addition to recruiting efforts, I also offered a short workshop where I challenged students to develop new mediums through which to communicate science to non-scientists. Though I originally had some ideas of my own (i.e. poetry and dance), the students astonished me by proposing ideas completely outside the academic box (i.e. jewelry and food!). The students were very generous and invited me and my family to their annual St. Valentine's party. All this in a matter of three tropical days. Going back as a graduate student and interacting with faculty, administrative staff and students was fun, refreshing and enlightening in many ways. Thanks SciMed GRS!

Name: Juan B. Rodríguez Molina
Hometown: Carolina, Puerto Rico
Grad Program: Integrated Program in Biochemistry
Advisor: Dr. Aseem Ansari

Why I came to UW-Madison: I had a good feeling about Madison from a research internship I participated in as an undergraduate. The Research Experience for Undergraduate in



Top: SciMed GRS NSF Fellows (l to r): Samira Musah (Chemistry), Johnnie Walker (Biophysics), Alejandra Huerta (Plant Pathology), Josue Baeza (Int. Program in Biochem), Maria Gracia Garcia Mendoza (Cellular & Molecular Biology) Middle: Annette Figueroa-Bernier presenting at Poster Session Bottom: 2011 Cohort working together to scale the wall during ROPES teambuilding activity

SciMed GRADUATE RESEARCH SCHOLARS

Attention ALUMNI

Please Connect with us on **LinkedIn: SciMed Graduate Research Scholars (SciMed GRS)** at University of Wisconsin-Madison



Please also view our website for more program information and student profiles:
<http://www.cals.wisc.edu/gradstudies/gradscholars/>

Student Committees & Involvement

The **SciMed GRS Outreach Committee** was formed in Fall 2011. The committee's goal is to foster a connection between SciMed GRS student community and the greater Madison community, specifically focusing on promoting science to students of all ages. They've already been very busy in the community!

Recent Outreach Events Include:

- **Summer Research Opportunities Program (SROP) Picnic**
 - Introduce undergraduates to the graduate student diversity at the UW
- **Nuestro Mundo Science Night**
 - Exploration stations introducing science to elementary students
- **Martin Luther King Youth Service Day:**
 - Discover how science and service can intersect
 - Workshops and exploration stations for the community
- **Community Action Coalition**
 - Food sorting for various food pantries in Dane County
- **Lake Shore Clean Up**
 - Removal of the invasive species garlic mustard at Picnic Point

Meet the 2012-13 Outreach Committee Officers



Outgoing Co-Chair

Joe Ollar
Hometown: Anaheim, CA
Undergrad Institution; Degree: San Diego State University; B.S. in Cell & Molecular Biology
Graduate Program: Cell & Molecular Pathology
Favorite things about Madison: Restaurants, Overture Center, proximity to Devil's Lake, Concert on the Square, Farmers Market, Friendly People.



Incoming Co-Chair

Jackie Jackson
Hometown: The shores of Wilmington, NC
Undergrad Institution; Degree: Winston Salem State University; B.S. in Molecular Biology
Graduate Program: Cancer Biology
Favorite part of Madison: I enjoy the athletic atmosphere of Madison such as rock climbing and swimming



Event Coordinator

Monica Montano
Hometown: Topeka, KS
Undergrad Institution; Degree: Rockhurst University- Kansas City, MO; B.S. in Biology
Graduate Program: Cellular and Molecular Pathology
Favorite part of Madison: This city is so active, there are always people running or playing volleyball outside. Even though it's a smaller city it never feels that way.



Public Relation Liaison

Elaine Welch
Home town: St. Mary, Jamaica
Undergrad institution; Degree: Albany State University; B.S. in Biology
Graduate Program: Genetics
Things I like about Madison: The terrace, awesome restaurants and there's always something to do (concert on the square, Monday night movie, trivia nights etc.)



Public Relation Liaison

Porsha Howell
Hometown: Hampton, VA
Undergrad Institution; Degree: New Mexico State University; B.S. in Biology
Graduate Program: Nutritional Science
Favorite part of Madison: I enjoy Madison in the summertime!



Secretary

Walatta-Tseyon Mesquitta
Hometown: West Hartford, CT
Undergrad Institution; Degree: Illinois Institute of Technology; B.S. in Molecular Biochemistry and Biophysics
Graduate Program: Molecular and Cellular Pharmacology
Favorite part of Madison: The lakes



Summer Research Opportunities Program Picnic hosted by SciMed GRS Outreach group. Top: Graduate students and visiting undergrads share a meal and conversations about graduate school at UW-Madison. Top Right: Jacqueline Jackson (Cancer Biology) and visiting SROP undergrad Bottom: SciMed Graduate Students at Picnic (l to r) Danielle Stewart (Cellular & Molecular Pathology), Christine Muganda (Population Health), Elaine Welch (Genetics), Walatta-Tseyon Mesquitta (Molecular & Cellular Pharmacology), Angie Umana (Microbiology), Gabrielle Winston-McPherson (Pharmaceutical Sciences)

SCIMED GRS PEER MENTORS

The SciMed GRS Peer Mentors are a group of 15 peer mentors from the SciMed GRS community that help welcome and serve as a resource to the incoming SciMed GRS cohorts. The Peer Mentors organize activities for incoming students including a welcome event at the terrace, a meet and greet orientation, a team-building ROPES course outing, a winter shopping trip (for those new to Wisconsin winters!) and several mentor-mentee meetings throughout the fall semester.



SciMed GRS Students: Axel Ramirez (Plant Breeding & Plant Genetics), Joe Ollar (Cellular & Molecular Pathology), Angie Umana (Microbiology)



The Peer Mentor group is led by the **2012-13 Peer Mentor Committee Officers**. Left to Right: Carlos Coriano, Event Coordinator (Molecular & Env. Toxicology), Chantell Evans, Secretary (Molecular & Cellular Pharmacology), Annette Figueroa-Bernier, Photographer (Molecular & Cellular Pharmacology) Angel del Valle Echevarria, Co-Chair (Plant Breeding & Plant Genetics), Not Pictured: Natalie Hernandez, Co-Chair (Entomology), Angie Umana, Event Coordinator (Microbiology).

Support SciMed Graduate Research Scholars

I/we wish to join other students/alumni, industry, and friends in enhancing the service, opportunities in the SciMed GRS Program by contributing as indicated below. Please make checks payable to: UW Foundation-Science & Medicine Graduate Research Scholars. Contributions can also be made online through the SciMed GRS Website: <http://www.cals.wisc.edu/gradstudies/gradscholars/>

- ☐ Enclosed in my/our contribution of \$_____ I choose to specifically designate my gift for the following
- ☐ The greatest needs of the program
 - ☐ Student support (travel to conferences etc.)
 - ☐ Programmatic events including invited speakers
- ☐ I/we wish to pledge \$_____ each year for _____ years beginning in _____ (year). Please remind me of the annual amount I have pledged in _____ (month).
- ☐ Please charge my gift of \$_____ to my: __Mastercard __Visa __American Express
- Card number: _____ Expiration date _____
- Cardholders name (please print) _____
- Cardholder's signature _____ Date _____
- ☐ My company will match this gift; company form is enclosed.

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____ City, State, Zip: _____

Return form to : Carol Chapa, UW Foundation, US Bank Lockbox 78807
Milwaukee, WI 53278-0807



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