



Science & Medicine Graduate Research Scholars Program at University of Wisconsin-Madison

4478 Microbial Sciences
1550 Linden Drive
Madison, WI 53706
Phone: 608-890-2308

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 2011



Dr. Sara Patterson

Welcome from the Program Director

It has been almost four years since I was asked to be the Director of the Science and Medicine Graduate Research Scholars (SciMed GRS) Program and it has been a wonderful, rewarding experience. Created in 2008, the program started with a cohort of just 18 students. Since, SciMed GRS has grown to now encompass 36 graduate programs with over 100 students in the community. We are looking forward to welcoming our fourth and largest cohort of thirty-two new students this August.

SciMed GRS was established as a fellowship and community program (fellowship formerly known as the *Advanced Opportunity Fellowship*) for underrepresented graduate students in the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences, the School of Medicine and Public Health, School of Veterinary Medicine, and School of Pharmacy. SciMed GRS coordinates social and professional events for fellowship recipients, providing opportunities for scholars to interact across disciplines. The program also supports and coordinates efforts in recruiting underrepresented students in the graduate programs in the biological sciences. Abbey Thompson plays a key role as coordinator of the program in recruiting, mentoring, and developing professional and social activities for fellows.

Recent highlights for me as the director have been hosting students for welcome dinners at my home, discussing graduate school experiences at roundtable luncheons, and learning about the diverse research of the fellows at the poster session. I've also had the pleasure of hosting students at my farmhouse in Richland Center each summer. As fall approaches, I look forward to meeting the new fellows and working with everyone to continue to develop and strengthen our community.



Sara Patterson and Camille Rogers (Life Sciences Communications) at SciMed GRS meeting

I hope you enjoy learning about the program in this first SciMed GRS newsletter. Please visit us next time you are on campus- we'd be happy to welcome you in person. Feel free to also visit us at our website and learn more about the program, students in our community and upcoming events. - Sara Patterson



SciMed GRS Students at the 2011 Poster Session on April 28th at the new Wisconsin Institutes for Discovery

SciMed GRS Announces National Science Foundation Graduate & Post-doctoral Research Fellows

Congratulations to this years NSF fellows! They join three other NSF Fellows in the SciMed GRS community.

Talline Martins

Genetics (PhD '11)

Advisor: Dr. David Baum

Post-doc Institution:

Duke University

Maria G. Garcia Mendoza

Cellular & Molecular Biology

Advisor: Dr. Patricia Keely

Johnnie Walker

Biophysics

Advisor: Dr. Brian Fox

Program Structure & Activities

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 Topics & Events Include:

- Intellectual Property & Patents
- Teaching in Higher Education
- Communicating Science to the Public
- Invited Speaker: Dr. Beronda Montgomery from Michigan State University
- Annual SciMed GRS & Engineering GRS Poster Session
- End of semester potluck

SciMed GRS utilizes a cohort model, welcoming each incoming group of students with programming and opportunities relevant to the first-year transition to graduate school. Students remain connected with their cohort and the larger SciMed GRS community throughout their graduate careers.

Student input has been integral to SciMed GRS since the inception of the program. In early stages of program development, a student executive committee informed and shaped the program direction. Student committees continue to play an important role in the program. The student meeting committee selects speakers and the student-initiated mentoring committee (SciMed GRS Connects) plays a key role welcoming the incoming group of first-year graduate students each fall.



SciMed GRS Students Presenting at 2011 SciMed GRS Poster Session Top: Brandon Wright (Physiology), Middle: Angie Umana (Microbiology), David Campos (Medical Physics), Bottom: Maya Warren (Food Science)

Alejandra Huerta: NSF Graduate Research Fellowship Recipient



Photo by Wolfgang Hoffman, UW-Madison College of Agricultural and Life Sciences

Name: Alejandra Huerta
Hometown: Salinas, California
Grad Program: Plant Pathology
Advisor: Dr. Caitlyn Allen

Why I came to UW-Madison: I held a Research Experience for Undergraduates (REU) position under the direction of Dr. Gregory Gilbert, an alumnus from the department of Plant Pathology at UW-Madison. His guidance, support, encouragement, mentorship and teachings expanded

my personal and professional knowledge. I thought, "If the department of Plant Pathology at UW-Madison was the right place for Dr. Gilbert, and prepared him to be the successful scientist, excellent mentor, and great role model, then that is the place where I want to get my education!"

Greatest highlight of graduate school: My biggest graduate school accomplishment to date is receiving the National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship during my first year of graduate school. To know that NSF trusts my abilities as a scientist is extremely gratifying. I asked for feedback from faculty, coordinators, and graduate students when writing for the fellowship. When I reflect on this accomplishment I think of what it took to get there...the Village. I am deeply grateful for all of the support I received. Another highlight was developing and leading a two day workshop for the first-ever Latino youth conference at UW-Madison for middle school children in the Madison area.

Involvement with SciMed GRS:

I love SciMed GRS and the opportunities it provides. I've been fortunate to participate in SciMed GRS community events and serve on the mentoring committee. I am involved in outreach and recruiting opportunities. I was sponsored by SciMed GRS to travel to my home institution to talk about my research experience at UW-Madison. I will be travelling to Society for Advancement of Chicano(a)s and Native Americans in Sciences (SACNAS) conference this fall to present my research and meet prospective students.

I enjoy sharing my experience with those who might have similar questions, doubts, or difficulties that I did when considering graduate school. By sharing how I got my questions answered, eliminated doubts, and overcame difficulties, I hope to encourage them to move forward with their educational goals. I will always strive to be the best I can be but life is not about how great we are as individuals. I believe it is about the greatness in all of us when given the opportunity to excel.

Beginning with orientation, I connected with other doctoral students and with administrators and faculty in the SciMed program who made it clear that they were interested in my success and that of my cohort. I kept bumping into these friendly faces on campus as we settled into our routines, and together figured out how things are run at UW Madison.

- Third year student on her experience with SciMed GRS

SciMed GRS is looking forward to...

Connecting with outreach and service activities in the campus and Madison community. Our newly formed student outreach committee will be serving as the outreach arm to the SciMed GRS program.

Expanding the "SciMed Connects" mentoring initiative for first year students. This fall the group will be mentoring the largest group yet! We are identifying approaches to make this program even more effective in supporting students the first-year transition to graduate school.

Continuing to support student travel to conferences and home institutions, facilitating opportunities to expand their professional networks and reconnect with mentors.

CONNECTING WITH ALUMNI! SciMed GRS would love to connect with individuals that were AOF scholars while graduate students at UW-Madison. Please let us know if you are visiting and would be interested in connecting with the SciMed GRS group.



SciMed GRS Students at Welcome Dinner: Adrian, Arriaga (Guest) Soraya Arriaga (Endocrinology & Reproductive Physiology), Margertha McLean (Nutritional Sciences, MS '11)

2010-11 SciMed GRS Advisory Committee

Ian Bird
Thomas Browne
Michael Culbertson
Charles Czuprynski
Richard Eisenstein
Amin Fadl
Jeremy Foltz
Brian Fox
Douglass Henderson

Obstetrics & Gynecology
CALS Assistant Dean
Genetics
Comparative Biomedical Sciences
Nutritional Sciences
Animal Science
Agricultural & Applied Economics
Biochemistry
Engineering Physics & Medical Physics

James Keck
Charles Lauhon
Sara Patterson
Nicole Perna
Dorothy Sanchez
Linda Scholl
Ahna Skop
Abbey Thompson
Juan Zalapa

Biomolecular Chemistry
Pharmaceutical Sciences
SciMed GRS Director
Genetics
Graduate School Representative
Graduate School Representative
Genetics
SciMed GRS Coordinator
Horticulture

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



Photo by Jeff Miller, UW-Madison, University Communications

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*We welcome any questions,
comments and updates! Please
direct correspondence to:*

Abbey Thompson
SciMed GRS Coordinator
email: akthomp1@wisc.edu
Phone: 608-890-2308



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UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

We'd love to hear from you! Please take a moment to share some information. You can complete and return this from or send your updates via email to: akthomp1@wisc.edu

Name: _____

Degree(s) and Year(s) _____

Home address: _____

Email: _____

Phone number: _____

Position: _____

Employer _____

News to share in future SciMed GRS newsletter:

Return via email (akthomp1@wisc.edu) or to:

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