

# Postbaccalaureate Research Education Program in Biomedical Sciences PREP

Term: 2019-2020 | Issue 2 | Date: May 2020

## PREP Attends ABRCMS

PREP Scholars, and Dr. Fern Tsien, attended the Annual Biomedical Research Conference for Minority Students in Anaheim, CA in November 2019. They networked, recruited, and presented posters on their research.



Scholars presented posters several times during the year. LSUHSC New Orleans Summer Research Program Day, where Diego Vargas won Best Poster.



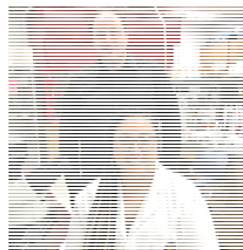
Xavier University of Louisiana's 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Symposium and LSUHSC New Orleans Graduate Research Day. Shana Littleton presented a poster at the South Central Chapter of Society of Toxicology meeting in Shreveport, LA.

## PREP Symposium

PREP held the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Symposium on May 7, 2020. This year the presentations were given virtually. Dr. Gilda Barabino, Dean and Professor of Grove School of Engineering at The City College of New York presented "Making a World of Difference Through a Career in Biomedical Sciences and Engineering".



Each of the PREP Scholars gave presentations on the research they've worked on with their mentors throughout the year.



### Chelsea Callicoatte, BS

**Undergraduate University:** California State University, Northridge

**Major:** Cell and Molecular Biology

**Title:** "Pramipexole as a Non-Opioid Analgesic Strategy for Chronic Inflammatory Pain"

**Faculty Research Mentor/Department:** Dr. Scott Edwards, Physiology



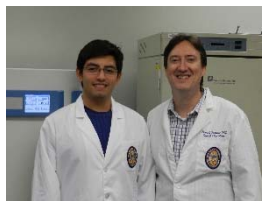
### Shana Littleton, BS

**Undergraduate University:** University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

**Major:** Molecular and Cellular Biology

**Title:** "ROS Mediated Alcohol Induced Skeletal Bone Toxicity"

**Faculty Research Mentor/Department:** Dr. Martin Ronis, Pharmacology



### Diego Vargas, BS

**Undergraduate University:** University of Michigan

**Major:** Biomedical Engineering

**Title:** "Effects of Nicotine on Cardiac Fibroblasts"

**Faculty Research Mentor/Department:** Dr. Jason Gardner, Physiology



### Anita Wayne, BS

**Undergraduate University:** University of Illinois at Chicago

**Major:** Biological Sciences

**Title:** "Higher SIV Levels are Observed in Blood and Tissue Reservoirs of ART-Treated Female Macaques Exposed to Chronic Binge Alcohol"

**Faculty Research Mentor/Department:** Dr. Angela Amedee, Microbiology

## Community Outreach

PREP Scholars, Chelsea Callicoatte and Shana Littleton volunteered with Girl Scouts of America to give information about Women in Science.



Scholars volunteered at the annual HEAL NOLA during summer 2019 to give information to Latino families about medical care.



In addition, Diego Vargas worked with children at St. George's showing them how to work in science. The scholars volunteered to build a house for Habitat for Humanity.

## Scholars Upcoming Plans

Accepted to PhD Graduate Programs

- Shana Littleton  
University of Michigan
- Diego Vargas  
University of Colorado at Boulder
- Anita Waye  
University of Illinois at Chicago

Chelsea Callicoatte will work as a Research Associate in California and apply to graduate school in the fall.

## Welcome 2020-2021 PREP Scholars!

### Sheldon Davis, BS

Pennsylvania State University  
Biochemistry & Molecular Biology

### Zari McCullers, BS

Towson University  
Cell and Molecular Biology

### Roshaun Mitchell-Cleveland, BS

Southern University of New Orleans  
Biology/Mathematics

### Allison Norman, BS

Alcorn State University  
Biochemistry

### Diego Torres, BS

Texas State University  
Biochemistry & Spanish

## PREP APPLICATION DATES

Open: December 1<sup>st</sup>  
Deadline: March 1<sup>st</sup>

Notice: April 30<sup>th</sup>  
Start Date: June 1<sup>st</sup>

## PREP CONTACTS

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<http://PREP.lsuhs.edu>