

Postbaccalaureate Research Education Program in Biomedical Sciences PREP

Term: 2021-2022 | Issue 4 | Date: May 2022

PREP Symposium

PREP held the 4th Annual PREP Symposium May 25, 2022. **Dr. Carmen Hinojosa-Laborde, Deputy Program Manager, CRT5-Pain and Sensory Trauma, US Army Institute of Surgical Research**, delivered the keynote address, “Challenges of Battlefield Pain Management”.

Each of the PREP Scholars presented the research they’ve worked on with their mentors throughout the year.



Cheyleann Del Valle-Ponce de Leon, BS

Undergraduate University: Inter American University of Puerto Rico

Major: Nursing

Faculty Research Mentor/Department:

Dr. Martin Ronis, Pharmacology

Title: Does Acetate Mediate Skeletal Bone Toxicity of Alcohol?



Tiara Hamilton, BS

Undergraduate University: Dillard University

Major: Chemistry

Faculty Research Mentor/Department:

Dr. Flavia Souza-Smith, Physiology/Dr. Patricia Molina, Physiology

Title: Mechanisms of Ethanol-Induced Lymphatic Endothelial Cell Permeability: Role of Prox-1, and Notch Signaling Pathway



Kelly Lozano-Ortiz, BS

Undergraduate University: Universidad Ana G. Mendez

Major: Biology

Faculty Research Mentor/Department:

Dr. Angela Amedee, Microbiology, Immunology & Parasitology/ Dr. Robert Siggins, Physiology

Title: Association of Senescent Cells and Viral Loads in SIV-Infected Female Rhesus Macaques



Samira Mohammed, BS

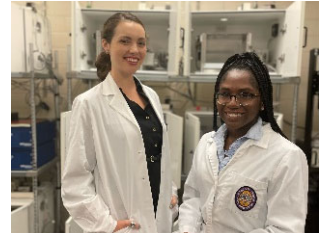
Undergraduate University: Xavier University

Major: Psychology of Science

Faculty Research Mentor/Department:

Dr. Elizabeth Avegno, Physiology

Title: VTA-Extended Amygdala Orexin Signaling in Anxiety-Like Behavior



Heather Soileau, BS

Undergraduate University: Xavier University

Major: Biochemistry

Faculty Research Mentor/Department:

Dr. Sunyoung Kim, Biochemistry

Title: Decoding Allosteric Pathways Used by Small-Molecule Inhibitors of Human Kinesin-5



Olivia Warren, BS

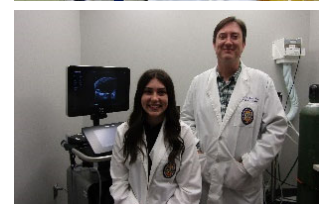
Undergraduate University: Northwestern State University

Major: Biology & Physical Science

Faculty Research Mentor/Department:

Dr. Jason Gardner, Physiology

Title: Role of Inflammation in Nicotine Induced Pulmonary Hypertension



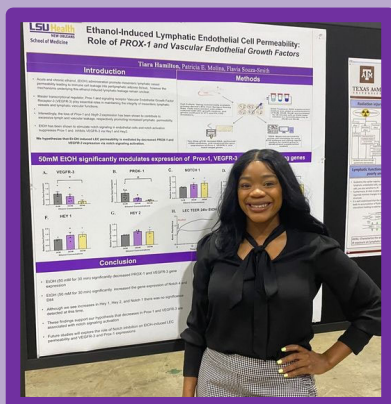
PREP Attends National Conferences

PREP Scholars attended the Annual Biomedical Research Conference for Minority Students virtually in November 2021. They networked, recruited, and presented posters on their research.



Kelly Lozano-Ortiz and Olivia Warren received Best Presentation Award for their Poster Presentations.

Scholars presented posters at several conferences throughout the year. Heather Soileau attended the Biophysical Society Meeting in San Francisco in February 2022, Cheyleann Del Valle-Ponce de Leon attended Society of Toxicology Meeting in San Diego and Tiara Hamilton attended Experimental Biology in Philadelphia in April 2022.



Scholar Outreach Activities



Scholars collected donations to give health bags to 50 children and the homeless community.



Kelly Lozano-Ortiz participated in the Hispanic Annual Health Fair as an Ambassador of the All of Us Program.



Kelly Lozano-Ortiz, Tiara Hamilton & Olivia Warren attended Xavier University Wellness Day.

2021/2022 Scholars Upcoming Plans

Accepted to PhD Graduate Programs

Cheyleann Del Valle Ponce de Leon, Boston University, Department of Pharmacology & Experimental Therapeutics

Tiara Hamilton, Emory University, Cancer Biology Program

Kelly Lozano-Ortiz, University of Texas at San Antonio, Department of Neuroscience, Developmental & Regenerative Biology

Samira Mohammed, Pace University, Clinical Psychology

Heather Soileau, Rockefeller, Sloan Kettering, and Weill Cornell

Olivia Warren, Research Associate, LSUHSC-New Orleans, Department of Physiology

Past Scholars: What are they up to now?

2018/2019 Scholars

Paula Datri

Masters Candidate, William Carey
University

Shekinah Hernandez

Masters Candidate, Tulane
University School of Medicine

Joselyn Knowling

MD Candidate, LSUHSC School of
Medicine,

Ashlee Williams

n/a

2019/2020 Scholars

Chelsea Callicoatte

PhD Candidate, University of
California Irvine

Shana Littleton

PhD Candidate, University of
Michigan

Diego Vargas

PhD Candidate, University of
Colorado at Boulder

Anita Waye

PhD Candidate, University of
Illinois at Chicago

2020/2021 Scholars

Sheldon Davis

PhD Candidate, University of
Miami

Zari McCullers

PhD Candidate, Penn State College
of Medicine

Roshaun Mitchell-Cleveland

n/a

Allison Norman

PhD Candidate, University of
Tennessee Health Sciences Center

Diego Torres

PhD Candidate, Vanderbilt
University

Welcome 2022-2023 PREP Scholar!

Isabella Liano, BS

Neuroscience

University of Texas at El Paso



Research Mentor: Patricia E. Molina, MD, PhD

PREP APPLICATION DATES

Open: December 1st

Notice: April 30th

Deadline: March 1st

Start Date: June 1st

PREP CONTACTS

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<http://PREP.lsuhs.edu>