FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

National Conference Presents 24 Students with Awards for Microbiology Research

Washington, DC (January 9, 2012). The Annual Biomedical Research Conference for Minority Students (ABRCMS) congratulates 24 students who received awards for microbiology research presented at the 2011 conference, held November 9-12 in St. Louis, Missouri. ABRCMS, the largest professional conference of its kind in the nation, is designed to encourage underrepresented minority students to pursue advanced training in the biomedical and behavioral sciences, including mathematics; it also provides faculty with resources for facilitating these students’ success.

More than 3,300 people attended the 2011 ABRCMS, including approximately 2,100 students, 750 faculty and program directors, and 500 recruiters for graduate and summer research programs. Nearly 1,500 of the attending students participated in poster and oral presentations in 12 subdisciplines of the biomedical and behavioral sciences. All undergraduate and postbaccalaureate presentations were evaluated by active-researcher scientists, and the students with the highest scores in each scientific discipline and for each educational level received monetary awards. Nineteen organizations contributed to awards of $250 each to 215 students for outstanding research, and the awards for the microbiology discipline — sponsored by the American Society for Microbiology and the New York University Sackler Institute of Graduate Biomedical Sciences — were presented to the following students:

Oral Presentations
- Chidiebere Akusobi, Senior, Yale University
- Lourdes Ramirez, Senior, Florida International University

Poster Presentations
- Kahryl Bennett, Junior, Oakwood University
- Marsalis Brown, Sophomore, Oakwood University
- Elizabeth Calzada, Senior, The University of Texas at El Paso
- Ellese Carmona, Senior, San Diego State University
- Martha Dua-Awereh, Junior, Brooklyn College
- Erika Guin, Sophomore, St. Edward's University
- Nicole Hernandez, Sophomore, University of California, Irvine
- Aubrey Herrera, Junior, The University of Texas at Austin
- Christopher Holloway, Junior, Oakwood University
- Elizabeth Laws, Junior, Washington State University
- Jessica Malcolm, Junior, Oakwood University
- Vivien Maltez, Postbaccalaureate, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
- Frederick Ojukwu, Senior, Mercer University
- Daniel Pique, Senior, University of Georgia
- Borley Quaye, Senior, Spelman College
- Stephanie Silva-Del Toro, Junior, University of Puerto Rico, Mayaguez
- Monica Thomas, Senior, University of Central Florida
- Jose Vargas-Muniz, Senior, University of Puerto Rico, Mayaguez
- Anthony Venida, Junior, University of Maryland, Baltimore County
- Japjit Verraich, Senior, University of San Francisco
- Courtnee Wright, Senior, Albany State University
- Theodore Zaki, Sophomore, University of California, Irvine

ABRCMS is managed by the American Society for Microbiology and supported by a grant from the Minority Opportunities in Research Division of the National Institute of General Medical Sciences at the National Institutes of Health. For more information, please visit www.abrcms.org.

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