

3rd NIH Graduate & Professional School Fair
Thursday, July 8, 2010
Speaker Biosketches

10:15 – 11:15 am
Getting to Professional School
Natcher Auditorium

Faculty Panel

Luisa A. DiPietro, PhD

Dr. DiPietro is a Professor of Periodontics and Director of the Center for Wound Healing and Tissue Regeneration at the University of Illinois at Chicago College of Dentistry (UIC COD). She received both a DDS degree and a PhD in Immunology from the University of Illinois at Chicago, and completed a general practice residency in dentistry at Michael Reese Hospital in Chicago. From 1993-2006, Dr. DiPietro was a member of the faculty of the Stritch School of Medicine at Loyola University where she served as the Vice Chair of Research in the Department of Surgery as well as the Associate Director of the Burn and Shock Trauma Institute. While at Loyola, she was active on the Admissions Committee and was also the Director of an NIH supported T32 training program for surgical residents. She joined the faculty of the UIC COD in spring of 2006, and currently serves as the Director of an NIH funded T32 training program for PhD and DDS-PhD students and postdoctoral fellows. e-mail: Ldipiet@uic.edu

Robert F. Ruiz

Robert F. Ruiz was appointed Director of Admissions at The University of Michigan Medical School in July 2004. Prior to his appointment at Michigan, Director Ruiz was Vice President for Application Services for the American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine. He previously held the post of Director of Admission and Student Recruitment at the Oklahoma State University College of Osteopathic Medicine. Director Ruiz also served as Regional Director, Senior Counselor, and Assistant Director of Undergraduate Admissions at Tulane University in New Orleans, Louisiana. He is a graduate of the University of Michigan. e-mail: rfr Ruiz@umich.edu

Gregory Vaughn

Mr. Vaughn is the Assistant Director of MD Admissions at Stanford University School of Medicine. He is responsible for the MD program's outreach and recruitment activities and coordinates the application review process. Greg previously served as Executive Director of the Stanford Medical Youth Science Program, a Stanford School of Medicine based program serving low-income and underrepresented minority students. Additionally, Greg's background includes undergraduate admissions and international education responsibilities at multiple colleges and universities. e-mail: gvaughn@stanford.edu

10:15 – 11:15 am
Getting to Graduate School (**Videocast**)
Lister Hill Auditorium

Faculty Panel

Joel D. Oppenheim, PhD

Dr. Oppenheim is a Professor of Microbiology and presently serves as the Senior Associate Dean for Biomedical Sciences and Director of the Sackler Institute of Graduate Biomedical Sciences at NYU School of Medicine. In these positions he oversees all PhD (>300 students) and Postdoctoral (>340) Research Programs. He serves on the NYU School of Medicine's MD and MD/PhD Admissions Committees and chairs the Ph.D. Admissions Committee. He is the founder and director of the NYU's Summer Undergraduate Research and Postdoctoral Program. He has served on many national advisory committees (NIH, NRC, NSF, ASM, Leadership Alliance), grant study sections (NIGMS, NSF, Sloan Foundation), as a reviewer of numerous NRC, NSF and NAS reports involved with graduate education and the recruitment and retention of underrepresented students to graduate programs. He also has served (serves) on the external advisory boards and program review boards of a number of state and national accrediting agencies. Dr. Oppenheim has been an invited speaker to over 70 colleges and universities, at the NRC, NSF and NIH as well as at ABRCMS, McNair, SACNAS and UNCF/Merck national meetings, speaking to students and faculty on topics ranging from how to prepare for and apply to graduate and professional schools to strategies for the recruitment and retention of students and career options.

e-mail: joel.oppenheim@nyumc.org

Nancy B. Schwartz, PhD

Dr. Schwartz is Associate Dean for Postdoctoral Affairs and co-Director of the Office of Graduate Affairs. She is also Director of the MD/PhD Growth and Development Training Program (GDTP), the Post-baccalaureate Research Education Program (PREP), and the new HHMI-PhD/MS Translational Training Program. The GDTP offers basic science training in a broad range of disciplines by supporting students in a joint MD/PhD program; the program has a successful 35 year history. The PREP provides opportunities for underrepresented minorities who hold a recent bachelor's degree in science to work as laboratory technicians for one to two years at the University of Chicago, while participating in academic activities designed to help them prepare for successful application to an advanced degree program. The HHMI-PhD/MS Translational Training Program is designed to engage students in both basic biological and clinical research, and to bridge the gap between highly specialized research and human disease processes in the context of a formal PhD program. Both the GDTP program and the PREP educational programs are funded by the NIH. Dr. Schwartz received her BS, MS and PhD from University of Pittsburgh. e-mail: n-schwartz@uchicago.edu

10:15 – 11:15 am
Pharmacy: From Admissions to Career Opportunities
Natcher Balcony A

William Douglas Figg, Sr., PharmD, MBA (CAPT USPHS)

Dr. Figg received his BS in Biology from Georgetown College, his BS in Pharmacy from Samford University and his doctoral degree from Auburn University. He completed his internship at the University of Alabama at Birmingham Hospital and his fellowship in

Drug Development at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill. He also received an MBA degree from a combined program at Columbia University and the London Business School. Dr. Figg joined the National Cancer Institute in 1992. The following year he became head of the Molecular Pharmacology Section and the Clinical Pharmacology Program. Since then his research has focused on using pharmacological principles to optimize the treatment of cancer and on identifying genes involved in the development of prostate cancer. Dr. Figg has over 500 peer-reviewed publications and has received numerous awards and honors. e-mail: william.figg@nih.gov

11:30 am – 12:30 pm
MD/PhD Is It for You?
Natcher Auditorium

Terry B. Rogers, PhD

Dr. Rogers is a Professor of Biochemistry & Molecular Biology and has served as the Director of the University of Maryland School of Medicine Medical Scientist Training Program for 14 years. He currently holds leadership positions in national MD/PhD organizations. He is a member of the Steering Committee and Co-Chair of the Communications Committee of the MD/PhD Section of AAMC and serves on the Executive Committee of the National Association of MD/PhD Programs. Dr. Rogers has served as a member of review panels for the HHMI Med Fellows Program and the HHMI Early Career Physician Scientist Awards. He received his B.S. in Chemistry from Cornell University. He then pursued his Ph.D. at the University of California, Davis in Biochemistry. He currently directs a research program that examines the molecular mechanisms of stem cell therapy in cardiac disease. e-mail: trogers@som.umaryland.edu

Ruth Gotian, MS

Ruth Gotian has served as the Administrative Director of the Weill Cornell/Rockefeller/Sloan-Kettering Tri-Institutional MD/PhD Program for the last 14 years. She received her BS and MS in Business Management from the University at Stony Brook in New York. Since joining the staff of the Tri-Institutional MD/PhD Program, Mrs. Gotian has seen the size of the program increase by nearly 25%. The number of applications to their MD/PhD Program has increased by over 30% and the number of underrepresented minority students in their program has doubled and is now one of the highest in the country. e-mail: rgotian@med.cornell.edu

11:30 am – 12:30 pm
Public Health: From Admissions to Career Opportunities (**Videocast**)
Lister Hill Auditorium

Faculty Panel

Jacqui R. Comshaw, MPA

Ms. Comshaw is the Director of Admissions for Yale School of Public Health. She has over twenty years of professional experience in higher education. Much of her experience has been in the student loan industry, however she later moved into

academic admissions and financial aid. Since 2001 she has worked as the Director of Admissions at the Yale School of Public Health in New Haven, Connecticut. She was a founding contributor in the development of SOPHAS (Schools of Public Health Application Service) and was recently elected to the SOPHAS Advisory Council. e-mail: jacqui.comshaw@yale.edu

Allison Foster, MPH, CAE

Ms. Foster is the Deputy Executive Director of the Association of Schools of Public Health (ASPH), which represents the CEPH (Council on Education for Public Health) accredited schools of public health in North America. Allison has been with ASPH for fifteen years and in addition to other responsibilities, manages the centralized application service SOPHAS and oversees student recruitment activities. e-mail: afoster@asph.org

Michael Ward, MEd

Mr. Ward currently serves as the Associate Dean for Student Affairs at the Bloomberg School of Public Health at Johns Hopkins University. At Hopkins he has oversight responsibilities for Admissions, Financial Aid, Records and Registration, Career Services, Disability Support, Student Diversity, and the Student Outreach Center. His work has focused on leading educational experiences as well as enrollment management services for various student populations including: graduate students, studio artists, educators in training, and many others. Mike has served as a student affairs administrator for over nineteen years. During the past ten years he has worked primarily with graduate students. Mike earned his bachelor's degree in Literature at the College of St. Francis in Illinois. His master's degree is in higher education administration and is from Kent State University in Ohio. e-mail: mward@jhsph.edu

11:30 am – 12:30 pm

Psychology: From Admissions to Career Opportunities
Natcher Balcony A

Denise Saunders, PhD

Dr. Saunders is a Career Counselor and Consultant for OITE at NIH. She provides career services to post doctoral fellows at NIEHS in Research Triangle Park, North Carolina. She is a Licensed Psychologist and National Certified Counselor. She holds a BS in Psychology, an MS in Counseling, and a PhD in Counseling Psychology from Florida State University. In addition to her work with OITE she maintains a private practice in Chapel Hill, NC providing mental health and career counseling and consultation to her clients. Prior to this she worked as a Counseling Psychologist at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and at the University of Virginia. She has taught both undergraduate and graduate students as an adjunct faculty member at several institutions and served as the Assistant Director of the Florida State University Career Center. Dr. Saunders' interests in practice and research have focused on the connections between career and mental health counseling. e-mail: dsaunders@nc.rr.com

12:45 – 1:45 pm

Interview Basics
Natcher Auditorium

William J. Higgins, PhD

Dr. Higgins, an Associate Professor in Biology, has spent 37 years as a faculty member at the University of Maryland. He teaches Physiology and Organismal Biology, directs two online courses for high school teachers in the Master of Chemical & Life Sciences Program, and serves as an advisor in the OITE at NIH. Dr. Higgins spent 17 years in various administrative positions at Maryland, is an academic advisor for more than 100 undergraduates per semester, and served as the major advisor and/or Thesis Chair for 10 PhD students, 21 MS students, and 7 undergraduate honors and individual studies students. He received a BS in Biology from Boston College and a PhD in Physiology from Florida State University. e-mail: Higginsw@mail.nih.gov

12:45 – 1:45 pm

Grants for PhD and MD/PhD Students

Lister Hill Auditorium

Faculty Panel**Shawn R. Drew, PhD**

Dr. Drew is a program director in the MORE (Minority Opportunities in Research) Division of the National Institute of General Medical Sciences, NIH where she manages research and research training programs aimed at increasing the number of scientists from historically underrepresented populations in leadership positions. Dr. Drew also manages the Biostatistics T32 training grants and is the Institute's liaison for the BRMD (Biostatistical Methods and Research Design) study section of R01 research grants. Before her current position, Dr. Drew was Director of the NIH Academy, an intramural postbaccalaureate research training program focused on health disparities. She earned her BS degree in Chemistry from Spelman College and her PhD in Biology from Howard University. She conducted postdoctoral work at the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestion and Kidney Diseases, NIH. e-mail: drewl@mail.nih.gov

Melissa C. Green, PhD

Dr. Green is currently a Health Sciences Grants Manager with Congressionally Directed Medical Research Programs (CDMRP; Ft. Detrick, MD), where she is responsible for the negotiation and management of scientific awards within DOD's Breast Cancer Research Program. She came to the CDMRP after spending six years as a science education administrator with the United Negro College Fund Special Programs Corporation in Fairfax, VA. Before assuming her role as the Director of the Science & Technology Division at UNCFSP, Dr. Green held Research Associate positions at the Morehouse School of Medicine (Atlanta, GA) and Kansas State University (Manhattan, KS). In these positions, she advanced her knowledge and expertise in cancer biology, virology, and reproductive medicine. Dr. Green earned her BS degree in Chemistry from Claflin College (Orangeburg, SC) and her PhD in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology from the Indiana University School of Medicine (Indianapolis, IN). e-mail: Melissa.green@uncfsp.org

Gisèle Muller-Parker, PhD

Dr. Gisèle Muller-Parker is a Program Director for the Graduate Research Fellowship Program in the Division of Graduate Education at the National Science Foundation. She was Professor of Biology at Western Washington University from 1990 to 2010, where she taught courses in marine biology, symbiosis, and botany and served as the

Assistant Director of Shannon Point Marine Center. Dr. Muller-Parker received degrees from SUNY at Stony Brook (BS in Biology), the University of Delaware (MS in Marine Studies), and UCLA (PhD in Biology). e-mail: gtmuller@nsf.gov

Margaret Petrochenkov, PhD

Margaret "Peggy" Petrochenkov is a Program Officer at the National Academies where she has been involved in policy, evaluation strategies, selection of review panels, design of fellowship applications, and database management for 20 years. She is currently one of the organizers of the Fellowship Roundtable, a group that meets twice a year to discuss fellowship program administration. The Fellowships Office administers fellowships on behalf of the Ford Foundation and arranges review panels for the Vietnam Education Foundation Fellowships. We also administer postdoctoral awards for placement in federal laboratories and the Jefferson Science Fellows Program which permits senior academics in science to spend a year at the State Department. Dr. Petrochenkov earned her BA degree at the University of Colorado and her Master's and PhD degrees in comparative literature at Indiana University, specializing in cultural criticism and literary theory; she is fluent in French and Russian. e-mail: MPetroch@nas.edu

2:00 – 3:00 pm

Succeeding Once You Get There: Professional School
Natcher Auditorium

Chenits Pettigrew, Jr., EdD

Dr. Pettigrew is currently the Assistant Dean for Student Affairs and Director of Diversity Programs at the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine. Dr. Pettigrew has held administrative positions and taught at the University of Pittsburgh, Carlow University, UCLA, Tuskegee University, and Florida Community College. He received his BA in Political Science from Westminster College (PA). He received his MEd in Higher Education from the University of Pittsburgh and his EdD in Institutional Management in Higher Education from Pepperdine University. e-mail: cpettigrew@medschool.pitt.edu

2:00 – 3:00 pm

Succeeding Once You Get There: Graduate School (**Videocast**)
Lister Hill Auditorium

Patricia Phelps, PhD

Dr. Phelps is Director of Science, Training, and Diversity in the School of Medicine's Office of Graduate Education at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (UNC). She received her PhD in physiology at North Carolina State University and began her career as a biologist at the EPA. Dr. Phelps then joined Embrex, Inc., a small start-up company in Research Triangle Park, as a Research and Development Scientist. Pat remained at Embrex for 18 years where she held progressive positions including Discovery Group Leader, Manager of Technology Development, and Senior Director for New Product Development and Global Marketing. As the Director of a department comprised of 23 scientists and engineers, she gained extensive experience in mentoring

and advising junior scientists. Pat had always been passionate about science outreach, mentoring, diversity and teaching. She currently directs a staff of four PhD scientists who lead professional and career development services for biomedical graduate students, provide science outreach programs, coordinate ethics training, and direct NIH and NSF funded science education programs for undergraduates, postbaccalureates, and graduate students. Dr. Phelps is a member of UNC's Biomedical and Biological Sciences PhD Program and serves on the admissions committee. e-mail: pphelps@email.unc.edu