

For Immediate Release:

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**University of Illinois College of Medicine and
Masters of Science in Medical Biotechnology
Convocation – Class of 2016**

The University of Illinois College of Medicine at Rockford will host its combined Convocation for the College of Medicine and Masters of Science in Medical Biotechnology (MBT) Class of 2016 on Saturday, May 7, 2015 at 11:00 a.m. at the Coronado Theatre in Rockford, Illinois.

Alex S. Stagnaro-Green, MD, MHPE, Regional Dean and Professor of Medicine, Obstetrics & Gynecology and Medical Education at University of Illinois College of Medicine at Rockford, will provide opening remarks. Jill B. Smart, MBA, Board of Trustees, University of Illinois, will provide a welcome address. Raymond H. Curry, MD, Senior Associate Dean of the University of Illinois at Chicago will offer remarks.

Kristine L Cieslak, MD, '93 and Michael A. Werckle, MD, Clinical Assistant Professor in the Department of Medicine, will be this year's faculty speakers. John A. Mihelcic was named class speaker for the College of Medicine and Gayathri Mani will provide class remarks for the MBT program.

The College of Medicine honors and awards were presented at Friday's Senior Banquet.

The Alpha Omega Alpha Honor Medical Society, a national medical honor society founded at the University of Illinois College of Medicine in 1902, was formed to recognize and perpetuate excellence in the medical profession. Members are elected college-wide on the basis of scholarship, personal honesty, and potential leadership. Students elected to AOA wear the organization's insignia key, adorned with a burgundy ribbon, at Convocation. The letters AOA engraved on the key represent its name and motto, "Worthy to serve the suffering." This year's inductees are: Kory D. Blank, Daniel J. Krakora, Joshua A. Brozek, Adelaide V. Packard, Bradley J. Budde and Maxwell O. Vest.

Students who have demonstrated outstanding academic achievement earn the distinction of graduating with honors. Honors students are selected college-wide based on their academic performance throughout their four years of medical school. Students earning **Graduation with Honors** this year include: Kory D. Blank, Adelaide V. Packard, Bradley J. Budde, Maxwell O. Vest, and Daniel J. Krakora.

Students selected for membership in the **Gold Humanism Honor Society Arnold P. Gold Foundation**, Lysie A. Bane, Jeffrey D. Fogle, Anghela Z. Paredes, Elizabeth L. Champion, Precious M. Gaddis, Amanda C. Patterson, Tiffany D. Chang, and Kelly V. Kahle, exhibit outstanding humanism in medicine and integrity. The Gold Foundation defines humanism as "encompassing those attitudes and behaviors that emanate from a deep sensitivity and respect for others."

The student body of the college established the **Granville A. Bennett Award** in 1968 in the name of Dr. Granville A. Bennett, professor of pathology, who served with distinction as dean of the College of Medicine. The award was presented to Kendall E. Marszalek, who has made significant contributions to medical education.

The Dr. Gary Button Rural Primary Care Medicine Award is named in memory of a graduate of the medical school and family practice residency program in Rockford. Dr. Button was a well-known family physician in Harvard, Illinois, and a faculty member in the department of family and community medicine and the Rural Medical Education (RMED) program. The award was given to Mark W. Frakes and Emily A. Metzger, students who exhibit the qualities and characteristics of Dr. Button, and who are dedicated to careers in primary care, and committed to practicing in a rural community.

The Dr. Assir Daniel DaSilva Scholarship was established in memory of a class of 2000 College of Medicine at Rockford graduate, who was killed while doing an international elective in Brazil his senior year. John A. Mihelcic exemplifies Dan's outgoing personality and sense of humor, intellectual curiosity, dedication to medicine, sensitivity to patients, and his appreciation for diversity.

Established in memory of Tom C. Reeves, who died in his sophomore year of medical school, the **Tom C. Reeves Memorial Award** recognizes Bradley J. Budde, an outstanding classmate who demonstrates promise for excellence in the medical profession.

The Winnebago County Medical Society Award was presented to Timothy V. Feldheim, who has demonstrated a desire and ability to integrate patient care with community service, and shown an interest in taking an active role in organized medicine.

The Glenn D. Netto Humanitarian Award was established in memory of Dr. Glenn Netto, a class of 1980 College of Medicine at Rockford graduate. Dr. Netto loved teaching medical students and served in various roles at the Rockford campus. The recipient, Susan Shey, is recognized as a compassionate and motivated individual who embodies the attributes Dr. Netto felt were important in being a great physician - a community servant, a life-long learner, an excellent educator, and a great listener. This award is given to a M4 who is dedicated to a career in primary care.

Department Awards

Family Medicine

Dr. L.P. Johnson Scholarship in honor of Dr. LeBaron Paul Johnson, was presented to Kelly V. Kahle, who, during the second and third years of study, has shown interest and achievement in family medicine.

Outstanding Performance in Family Medicine Award was presented to Emily A. Metzger for

outstanding performance on the family medicine clerkship.

Medicine

The Charles Spencer Williamson Award was established by the faculty and friends of the late Dr. Charles Spencer Williamson, long-time head of the department of medicine. It was presented to Varun K. Pattisapu for excellence in medicine.

The Outstanding Performance on Medicine award recognized Paul K. Lee for outstanding performance on medicine.

Obstetrics & Gynecology

The Excellence in Obstetrics and Gynecology Award was presented to Precious M. Gaddis for excellence in the field of obstetrics and gynecology.

Pathology

Friends of the late Dr. Otto Saphir, Clinical Professor of Pathology, established the **Otto Saphir Memorial Scholarship** to recognize a junior student who has shown outstanding interest and excellence in pathology. Kory D. Blank was this year's recipient.

Pediatrics

Awarded by the department of pediatrics in memory of Dr. Donald Wortmann, **the Donald H. Wortmann Pediatric Award** recognized Lucas A. Falco for excellence in pediatrics.

Psychiatry

Awarded by the department of psychiatry in memory of Dr. David Mortimer Olkon, the **David Mortimer Olkon Scholarship** honored Cheriece R. Ward for excellence in psychiatry.

Surgery

The Excellence in Emergency Medicine Award was presented to Jeffrey D. Fogle for excellence in the field of emergency medicine.

The Raymond Zbick Memorial Award was established by friends of the late Dr. Raymond Zbick and was presented to Elizabeth "Lori" Champion for excellence in anesthesiology.

The Outstanding Performance on the Surgery Clerkship award recognized Adelaide V. Packard for outstanding performance on surgery.

The Outstanding Performance on Surgery Among Students Choosing a Surgical Career award was given to Bradley J. Budde, who is choosing a surgical specialty, for outstanding performance on the surgery clerkship.

Urban Health Program Awards

The Student Achievement award was presented to Precious M. Gaddis who has demonstrated excellent leadership skills, been actively engaged in the College of Medicine and the Urban Health Program, makes a difference in her community through volunteer efforts, and excels in

academics.

The Student Leadership Award was presented to Anghela Z. Paredes who has served as a dedicated leader, been actively engaged in student organization activities, has made outstanding contributions to the College of Medicine, the Urban Health Program and the community, and dedicates her time and effort in leading fellow students.

Recognition of Faculty Awards

Golden Apple Faculty Teaching Awards recognize faculty for their excellence in teaching. The recipients selected by the graduating class are: Isaac Cha, PharmD, BCPS, Clinical Assistant Professor, Department of Family and Community Medicine; Errol C. Baptist, MD, Clinical Professor, Department of Pediatrics; and Neha Shah, MD, Assistant Professor of Clinical Medicine, Department of Medicine and Medical Specialties.

The James E. Rebel Award will be presented at Convocation in memory of James E. Rebel, a member of the Charter College of Medicine at Rockford class, who died following an automobile accident during his senior year. The recipient of this award, chosen by the senior class, Lysie Bane, exemplifies Jim's personal characteristics of dedication and enthusiasm for learning medicine and personal sensitivity towards patients, fellow students, and others.

Master of Science in Medical Biotechnology awards presented at Senior Banquet on Friday, May 6, 2016.

Pooja Narendra received the **Research Innovation Award**, which recognizes the best independent research done by an MBT student.

The Academic Excellence Award is presented to a student who demonstrates academic distinction based on cumulative GPA. This year's award was presented to Sunil Palani.

Taher Gheewala and Kirthana Prabhakar were each presented with the **Outstanding Research Award**, recognizing their excellence in their research work. Both student's respective research projects and work on those projects merited awarding the Outstanding Research Award to two students this year.

The Thermo Fisher Scientific Overall Achievement Award is presented to an outstanding student for overall academic distinction, research excellence, and leadership qualities. Akshita Pillai was the recipient of the Overall Achievement Award.

Faculty and staff members were also recognized at the banquet.

Dr. Rohit Kolhatkar received the **Research Mentor Award**. This award is presented to a faculty member who shows significant dedication for mentoring students in their laboratory.

The Excellence in Teaching Award is presented to an outstanding faculty member for teaching excellence as nominated by the majority vote of the graduating class of students. This award was presented to Dr. Guoxing Zheng.

Lastly, Nancy Olson was presented with the **Outstanding Service Award**. This award is presented to an outstanding faculty or staff member who has contributed significantly to the success of the program. Nancy has gone above and beyond the call of duty to support our students and the MBT program. We are lucky to have her on our staff and to benefit from her generosity and talents.

College of Medicine Class of 2016

Hometown, educational background, residency program, and awards:

Geethi M. Abraham

Hometown: Chicago, Illinois

Education: University of Illinois at Chicago, BS, Biological Sciences, MPH, Community Health

Specialty: Family Medicine

Residency: Northwestern McGaw, Northwestern Memorial Hospital/VA, Chicago, Illinois

William T. Anderson

Hometown: Wausau, Wisconsin

Education: University of Minnesota, BA, Anthropology

California State University at Chico, MA, Anthropology

Specialty: General Surgery

Residency: Mercy Medical Center, Des Moines, Iowa

Mark R. Baker

Hometown: Payson, Illinois

Education: University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, BS, Chemistry

Specialty: Emergency Medicine

Residency: SIU School of Medicine and Affiliated Hospitals, Springfield, Illinois

Michelle C. Baker

Hometown: Mapaville, Missouri

Education: Southeast Missouri State University, BS, Interdisciplinary Studies

Specialty: Family Medicine

Residency: Scott Air Force Base, Belleville, Illinois

Lynsie A. Bane

Hometown: Arrowsmith, Illinois

Education: University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, BS, Molecular and Cellular Biology

Specialty: Family Medicine

Residency: Wright State University Boonshoft School of Medicine, Dayton, Ohio

Kory D. Blank

Hometown: Wayne City, Illinois
Education: Eastern Illinois University, BS, Biological Sciences
Specialty: Orthopaedic Surgery
Residency: SIU School of Medicine and Affiliated Hospitals, Springfield, Illinois

Anuradha G. Bommakanti

Hometown: Naperville, Illinois
Education: University of Illinois at Chicago, BA, Economics, Biology
Specialty: Internal Medicine
Residency: Case Western/University Hospitals Case Medical Center, Cleveland, Ohio

Joshua A. Brozek

Hometown: Woodridge, Illinois
Education: University of Wisconsin-Madison, BS, Clinical Laboratory Science
Specialty: Ophthalmology
Residency: University of Maryland School of Medicine, Baltimore, Maryland
West Suburban Medical Center, Oak Park, Illinois (Medicine-Preliminary)

Bradley J. Budde

Hometown: Herrin, Illinois
Education: Illinois State University, BS, Biology
Specialty: Neurological Surgery
Residency: University of Texas Medical School, Houston, Texas

Catherine A. Budde

Hometown: Marion, Illinois
Education: Southern Illinois University, BS, Chemistry
Specialty: Diagnostic Radiology
Residency: University of Texas Medical School, Houston, Texas
Case Western/University Hospitals Case Medical Center, Cleveland, Ohio
(Medicine-Preliminary)

Christian G. Caceres

Hometown: Los Angeles, California
Education: University of California, Irvine, BS, Biology; BA, Psychology
Specialty: Internal Medicine
Residency: St. Louis University School of Medicine, St. Louis, Missouri

Elizabeth L. Champion

Hometown: Sycamore, Illinois
Education: Loyola University, BA, Classical Civilizations
Specialty: Anesthesiology
Residency: University of Texas Medical Branch, Galveston, Texas

Michelle M. Chang

Hometown: Oceanside, California

Education: Boston University, BS, Human Physiology
Specialty: Ophthalmology
Residency: Columbia University Medical Center/The Harkness Eye Institute, New York, New York
New York Presbyterian Hospital, Weill Cornell Medical Center, New York, New York (Surgery-Preliminary)

Tiffany D. Chang

Hometown: Long Grove, Illinois
Education: Dartmouth College, BA, Biology
Specialty: Family Medicine
Residency: West Suburban Medical Center, Oak Park, Illinois

Michael D. Dixon

Hometown: Belvidere, Illinois
Education: Southern Illinois University, BS, Biology
Specialty: General Surgery
Residency: University of North Dakota School of Medicine, Fargo, North Dakota (Rural Track)

Lucas A. Falco

Hometown: Villa Carlos Paz, Cordoba, Argentina
Education: University of Idaho, BS, Chemical Engineering
University of Alabama, PhD, Chemical Engineering
Specialty: Pediatrics
Residency: Johns Hopkins Hospital, Baltimore, Maryland

Timothy V. Feldheim

Hometown: Northfield, Illinois
Education: University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, BS, Molecular and Cellular Biology
Loyola University, MA, Medical Sciences
Specialty: Anesthesiology
Residency: University of Florida College of Medicine, Gainesville, Florida

Patrick J. Florido

Hometown: Watseka, Illinois
Education: University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, BS, Community Health-
Health Planning and Administration
Specialty: Internal Medicine
Residency: University of Chicago Medical Center, Chicago, Illinois

Jeffrey D. Fogle

Hometown: Galena, Illinois
Education: Moody Bible Institute, BA, Biblical Languages
Wheaton College Graduate School, MA, Biblical Exegesis
Specialty: Emergency Medicine
Residency: University of North Carolina Hospitals, Chapel Hill, North Carolina

Mark W. Frakes

Hometown: Carthage, Illinois
Education: University of Illinois-Springfield, BS, Chemistry
Specialty: Family Medicine
Residency: Texas A&M-Bryan/College Station, Bryan, Texas

Precious M. Gaddis

Hometown: Chicago, Illinois
Education: University of Minnesota, BS, Biology
Specialty: Obstetrics/Gynecology
Residency: Medical College of Wisconsin and Affiliated Hospitals, Milwaukee, Wisconsin

Jessica G. Gardiner

Hometown: Skokie, Illinois
Education: Washington University in St. Louis, BA, Psychology
Specialty: Psychiatry
Residency: University of Illinois College of Medicine, Chicago, Illinois

Nicholas R. Gonsalves

Hometown: Torrance, California
Education: Wesleyan University, BA, Neuroscience and Behavior
Fellowship: Orthopaedic Research Fellowship, Children's Hospital, Los Angeles, California

Robert K. Horsley

Hometown: Bolingbrook, Illinois
Education: Benedictine University, BS, Biochemistry and Molecular Biology
Specialty: Internal Medicine
Residency: Mayo School of Graduate Medical Education, Scottsdale, Arizona

Bryan G. Hybki

Hometown: Oglesby, Illinois
Education: Eureka College, BS, Chemistry and Environmental Science
Specialty: Psychiatry
Residency: Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center, Lebanon, New Hampshire

Aaron C. Jannings

Hometown: Carbondale, Illinois
Education: Southern Illinois University-Carbondale, BA, Radio/TV
Specialty: Family Medicine
Residency: Tripler Army Medical Center, Honolulu, Hawaii

Kelly V. Kahle

Hometown: Chenoa, Illinois
Education: Northwestern University, BA, Linguistics
Specialty: Family Medicine
Residency: East Tennessee State University, Kingsport, Tennessee

Abdul M. Khan

Hometown: Schaumburg, Illinois

Education: University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, BS, Molecular and Cellular Biology

Specialty: Surgery-Preliminary

Residency: University of Kentucky Medical Center, Lexington, Kentucky

Michael A. Kirkover

Hometown: Chester, Illinois

Education: Southern Illinois University-Carbondale, BS, Physiology

Specialty: Family Medicine

Residency: University of Kansas School of Medicine, Wichita, Kansas

Daniel J. Krakora

Hometown: Lindenhurst, Illinois

Education: University of Wisconsin-Madison, BS, Biology

Specialty: Dermatology

Residency: University of Wisconsin Hospital and Clinics, Madison, Wisconsin
Medical College of Wisconsin and Affiliated Hospitals, Milwaukee, Wisconsin
(Transitional)

Paul K. Lee

Hometown: Los Angeles, California

Education: University of California-Berkeley, BA, Molecular and Cellular Biology

Specialty: Internal Medicine

Residency: Huntington Memorial Hospital, Pasadena, California

Natalie A. Mahoney

Hometown: Ashland, Illinois

Education: Illinois College, BS, Biology

Specialty: Family Medicine

Residency: SIU School of Medicine and Affiliated Hospitals, Springfield, Illinois

Kendall E. Marszalek

Hometown: Galena, Illinois

Education: Clarke College, BS, Biology, Communications

Roosevelt University, MS, Biotechnology/Chemical Science

Specialty: Family Medicine

Residency: University of Illinois College of Medicine at Rockford, Rockford, Illinois (Dixon Rural)

Emily A. Metzger

Hometown: Rochelle, Illinois

Education: University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, BS, Molecular and Cellular Biology, BS,
Spanish

Specialty: Family Medicine

Residency: University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health, Madison, Wisconsin

John A. Mihelcic

Hometown: Staunton, Illinois

Education: University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, BS, Molecular and Cellular Biology

Specialty: Family Medicine

Residency: Indiana University Health Ball Memorial Hospital, Muncie, Indiana

Amanda K. Miller

Hometown: Salem, Illinois

Education: St. Louis University, BS, Biology

Specialty: Anesthesiology

Residency: University of Wisconsin Hospital and Clinics, Madison, Wisconsin

Michael R. Moravek

Hometown: Lemont, Illinois

Education: University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, BS, Molecular and Cellular Biology

Specialty: Pathology-Anatomic and Clinical

Residency: Loyola University Medical Center, Maywood, Illinois

Adelaide V. Packard

Hometown: Downers Grove, Illinois

Education: University of Illinois at Chicago, BS, Biology

Specialty: Obstetrics and Gynecology

Residency: Jackson Memorial Hospital, Miami, Florida

Anghela Z. Paredes

Hometown: Lima, Peru

Education: University of Florida, BS, Food Science and Human Nutrition, MS, Food Science and Human Nutrition

Specialty: General Surgery

Residency: Ohio State University Medical Center, Columbus, Ohio

June J. Park

Hometown: Wilmette, Illinois

Education: Washington University in St. Louis, BA, Biology, Neuroscience

Specialty: Dermatology

Residency: Stony Brook Teaching Hospitals, Stony Brook, New York
St. Mary's Health Center, St. Louis, Missouri (Medicine-Preliminary)

Amanda C. Patterson

Hometown: Chicago, Illinois

Education: Howard University, BS, Biology

Specialty: Family Medicine

Residency: Baylor College of Medicine, Houston, Texas

Varun K. Pattisapu

Hometown:Crystal Lake, Illinois

Education: Loyola University, BS, Biochemistry

Specialty: Internal Medicine

Residency: Cedars-Sinai Medical Center, Los Angeles, California

Patricia Rivera

Hometown:Chicago, Illinois

Education: Loyola University, BBA, Accounting

Specialty: Obstetrics and Gynecology

Residency: Aurora Health Center/Aurora Sinai Medical Center, Milwaukee, Wisconsin

Susan Shey

Hometown:Fremont, California

Education: University of California-Berkeley, BA, Molecular and Cellular Biology

Specialty: Internal Medicine

Residency: California Pacific Medical Center, San Francisco, California

Graeme R. Twanow

Hometown:Spring Valley, Illinois

Education: Illinois Wesleyan University, BA, History

Specialty: Emergency Medicine

Residency: Advocate Christ Medical Center, Oak Lawn, Illinois

Maxwell O. Vest

Hometown:Godfrey, Illinois

Education: University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, BS, Biology

Specialty: Plastic Surgery-Integrated

Residency: University of Nevada Affiliated Hospitals, Las Vegas, Nevada

Cheriece R. Ward

Hometown:Hazel Crest, Illinois

Education: Northwestern University, BA, Psychology

Specialty: Psychiatry

Residency: University of Chicago Medical Center, Chicago, Illinois

Andrew R. Wherley

Hometown:Eureka, Illinois

Education: Olivet Nazarene University, BA, Chemistry

Specialty: Family Medicine

Residency: University of Missouri, Kansas City, Missouri

Jordan D. Wood

Hometown:Danville, Illinois

Education: University of Colorado at Boulder, BS, Psychology

Specialty: Family Medicine

Residency: Southern Illinois University, Carbondale, Illinois

Rafael L. Yah

Hometown: Chicago, Illinois

Education: DePaul University, BS, Physics and Math; University of Wisconsin-Madison, MS,
Medical Physics

2016 Residency Match Participant

Walter I. Zavala

Hometown: Lima, Peru

Education: University of Florida, BS, Health Science

Specialty: Family Medicine

Residency: Kaiser Permanente, San Diego, California

Shuting Zhong

Hometown: Rockford, Illinois

Education: Illinois Wesleyan University, BS, Biology

Specialty: Plastic Surgery-Integrated

Residency: University of North Carolina Hospitals, Chapel Hill, North Carolina

Master of Science in Medical Biotechnology Candidates

With hometown, education, mentor and project title

Banan Darwich

Hometown: Damascus, Syria

Education: Arab International University, Syria, B.Pharm, Pharmacy

Mentor: Rohit Kolhatkar, PhD

Project Title: Development of Oligospermines as Nucleic Acid Carriers

Anushree Datar

Hometown: Pune, India

Education: Sinhgad College of Engineering, India, B.Tech, Biotechnology Engineering

Mentor: Rohit Kolhatkar, PhD

Project Title: Development of Minicircle DNA as a Novel Therapeutic Tool

Jeremy Ebersole

Hometown: Sterling, Illinois

Education: Southern Illinois University, Carbondale, MSc, Molecular, Cellular & Systemic
Physiology

Internship Site: University of Illinois College of Pharmacy at Rockford and ThermoFisher
Scientific

Project Title: Mass Spectrometry Applied to Drug Delivery and Proteomics Research

Adedamola Elujoba

Hometown: Lagos, Nigeria
Education: Olabisi Onabanjo University, Nigeria, BS, Biochemistry
Mentor: Jaehyung Cho, PhD
Project Title: Role of Extracellular ERO1 α in Platelet Thrombus Formation

Taher Gheewala

Hometown: Lunavada, Gujarat, India
Education: Manipal University, India, BS Hons, Biotechnology
Mentor: Gnanasekar Munirathinam, PhD
Project Title: Photodynamic Therapy Using Photosensitizers and LED's as a Therapeutic Strategy against Prostate Cancer

Douglas Jankowski

Hometown: Rockford, Illinois
Education: Rockford University, BS, Biology
Course-work Only Track

Ssu-Ting Lin

Hometown: Chiayi County, Taiwan
Education: National Taiwan University, Taiwan, BS, Agricultural Chemistry
Internship Site: Rockford Cardiovascular Associates
Project Title: Efficiency of Central Venous Intervention

Mikhila Mahendra

Hometown: Hyderabad, India
Education: Osmania University, India, MSc, Biotechnology
Mentor: Karen Anderson, PhD, MD
Project Title: TPD52: A Target for Antigen-specific Immunotherapy of Breast Cancer

Gayathri Mani

Hometown: Chennai, India
Education: Anna University, India, B.Tech, Industrial Biotechnology
Mentor: Nihal Ahmad, PhD
Project Title: Combinatorial Effects of SIRT1 and PLK1 Inhibitors on Melanoma Management

Pooja Narendra

Hometown: Mysore, India
Education: Sri Jayachamarajendra College of Engineering, India, BE, Biotechnology
Mentor: Rohit Kolhatkar, PhD
Project Title: Use of Minicircle DNA as a Tool to Induce RNAi to Knockdown Oncogenic EML4-ALK in Lung Cancer Cell Lines

Sunil Palani

Hometown: Bangalore, India
Education: M.S. Ramaiah Institute of Technology, India, BE, Biotechnology
Mentor: Aoshuang Chen, PhD and Guoxing Zheng, PhD

Project Title: Resistance of B-1 Cells to Dexamethasone Depends upon Akt Signaling Axis

Bhavani Patel

Hometown: Bangalore, India

Education: Visvesvaraya Technological University, India, BE, Biotechnology

Mentor: Mathew T. Mathew, PhD

Project Title: Synthesis of Ultrananocrystalline Diamond (UNCD) Coatings for Biomedical Applications: Electrochemical Behavior and Surface Characterization

Akshita Pillai

Hometown: Port Blair, Andaman and Nicobar, India

Education: VIT University, India, B.Tech, Biotechnology

Mentor: Gnanasekar Munirathinam, PhD

Project Title: Polygodial: A Potential Sesquiterpene Dialdehyde for Castration Resistant Prostate Cancer Treatment

Kirthana Prabhakar

Hometown: Chennai, India

Education: Anna University, India, B.Tech, Industrial Biotechnology

Mentor: Vijayasaradhi Setaluri, PhD

Project Title: Regulatory Role of MIR-214 in WNT and Notch Signaling Pathway

Kratika Singhal

Hometown: Ghaziabad, India

Education: Jaypee Institute of Information Technology, India, B.Tech, Biotechnology

Internship Site: ThermoFisher Scientific

Project Title: Reversal of Methionine Oxidation in Proteins using Methionine Sulfoxide Reductases

Steven Whitlow

Hometown: Rockford, Illinois

Education: Southern Illinois University, Edwardsville, BS, Biological Sciences

Course-work Only Track