ASM Biology Scholars Program Assessment Residency Announces 2011 Scholars

Washington, DC (June 21, 2011) — Thirteen exemplary biologists have been chosen to participate in the inaugural Assessment Residency of the American Society for Microbiology (ASM)/National Science Foundation (NSF) Biology Scholars Program. The Biology Scholars Program is a national leadership initiative that seeks to improve undergraduate biology education based on evidence of student learning. The program has brought together more than 100 Scholars to create and disseminate examples of scholarship in teaching in biology; these examples have been made possible through the program’s three independent, but intertwined, virtual residency programs: the Assessment, Research, and Transitions Residencies.

The yearlong Assessment Residency offers its Scholars an opportunity to increase their understanding and use of assessment tools and practices and data analysis. “Assessment Residency Scholars use evidence-based research in student learning to develop and revise the strategies they use to assess student learning,” says institute leader Carol Hurney, an associate professor of biology at James Madison University, Harrisonburg, Va., and chair of the Assessment Residency Steering Committee. “More importantly, the Scholars explore both summative and formative assessment strategies that align with specific learning goals they develop for their courses.”

ASM congratulates the Scholars of the 2011 Assessment Residency:

- Shivanthi Anandan, Drexel University, Philadelphia, PA
- Chantilly Apollon, City College of San Francisco, San Francisco, CA
- Dan Aruscavage, Kutztown University, Kutztown, PA
- Gail Begley, Northeastern University, Boston, MA
- Kerry Cresawn, James Madison University, Harrisonburg, VA
- Ronald Gerrits, Milwaukee School of Engineering, Milwaukee, WI
- Jay Hosler, Juniata College, Huntingdon, PA
- Nitya Jacob, Oxford College of Emory University, Oxford, GA
- Narveen Jandu, Harvard University, Boston, MA
- Kristin Lewis, University of Notre Dame, Notre Dame, IN
- Colleen McLinn, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY
- Philip Mixter, School of Molecular Biosciences, Washington State University, Pullman, WA
- Jennifer Roecklein-Canfield, Simmons College, Boston, MA

These Scholars kicked off their residencies with the intensive Measuring Student Learning Institute, held June 22-26, 2011, in Washington, DC. At the institute, Scholars received close mentoring from Hurney and her co-leaders, Janet Branchaw of the University of Wisconsin-Madison and Jenny Knight of the University of Colorado, Boulder. As former Scholars themselves, the Hurney, Janet Branchaw, and Knight brought the voice of experience to guiding residency participants in.
measuring student foundational knowledge, monitoring gains in learning and performance, and collaborating with colleagues to improve student learning and performance.

The Biology Scholars Program is sponsored by ASM with support from the NSF, Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching, and American Association for the Advancement of Science BioSciEdNet Collaborative. In addition, several life science professional societies partner with and contribute expertise to the program; these include the American Association for the Advancement of Science, American Institute of Biological Sciences, American Physiological Society, American Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, American Society for Cell Biology, American Society for Plant Biology, American Society of Human Genetics, Ecological Society of America, Genetics Society of America, and Society of Toxicology.

The next Assessment Residency begins with the 2012 Measuring Student Learning Institute scheduled for June 27-30. Applications will be accepted through February 15. Learn more at www.biologyscholars.org.

The ASM is the world’s largest scientific society of individuals interested in the microbiological sciences. Its mission is to advance the microbiological sciences as a vehicle for understanding life processes and to apply and communicate this knowledge for the improvement of health and environmental and economic well-being worldwide.

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