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2004 Biomedical Science Careers Student Conference

THE SEVENTH BIENNIAL BIOMEDICAL Science Careers Student Conference, which took place February 27–28 at The Boston Park Plaza Hotel, was a huge success, with more than 750 high school, undergraduate, graduate and medical students registered, and more than 200 speakers and advisors. Keynote speeches were delivered by Yvonne Thompson Maddox, Ph.D., Robert K. Ross, M.D., and Kenneth Olden, Ph.D.

Joseph B. Martin, M.D., Ph.D., dean of the Faculty of Medicine at Harvard Medical School, was awarded the H. Richard Nesson, M.D. Award. BSCP established this award in 1998 to recognize “commitment to excellence through diversity and leadership in expanding academic and career opportunities for all.” Dr. Nesson was the first recipient of the award.

At the conference, every student was assigned to a mentor/advisor, and over the years, many of these relationships have borne fruit both for the students and their mentors. Workshops, panels and discussions this year ranged in topics from “What’s Next: Options After Graduate School” to “Biopharmaceuticals: The Opportunities Will Surprise You” to “Funding and Research Opportunities.”

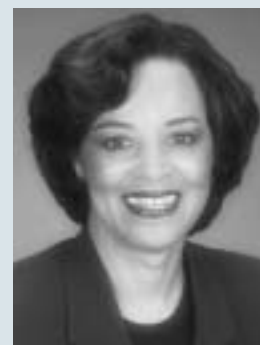
The conference closed on Saturday afternoon with an opportunity for networking and discussion, with representatives from many universities, medical schools and companies, including Abt Associates Inc., Biogen Idec, Boston Scientific Corporation, Genzyme Corporation and PAREXEL International Corporation. ■

KEYNOTE SPEAKER YVONNE THOMPSON MADDOX, PH.D.

Yvonne T. Maddox, Ph.D., is the deputy director of the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development at the National Institutes of Health (NIH), responsible for managing a large and diverse extramural program that supports research on population issues, reproductive biology, contraception, pregnancy, child development, nutrition, developmental biology, AIDS, mental retardation and medical rehabilitation. She was a featured speaker at the 1992 and 1996 BSCP Conferences.

In her current role, Dr. Maddox also is leading new approaches to funding research on innovative high-priority studies concerning mothers and children, population, and rehabilitation. She also plays a vital role in identifying issues related to women as scientists and as participants in research studies at both the NIH and the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) levels.

Dr. Maddox completed her undergraduate studies at the Virginia Union University in Richmond, Virginia. She completed advanced studies in biology at American University, and she received her doctorate in physiology and biophysics from Georgetown University, where she also served as an assistant professor and independent investigator.



YVONNE THOMPSON
MADDOX, PH.D.

■ ■ ■ KEYNOTE SPEAKERS CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

THE RUTH AND WILLIAM SILEN, M.D. AWARDS

THIS YEAR, FOR THE FIRST time, Ruth and William Silen, M.D. awards of \$300, \$200 and \$100 were given to three students who delivered outstanding oral presentations and three who created outstanding scientific posters. William Silen, who was dean for Faculty Development and Diversity at Harvard Medical School (HMS), is the Johnson & Johnson Distinguished Professor of Surgery, emeritus, at HMS.

The prize winners, selected by a panel of judges, were as follows:

Oral presentations

- *First prize* — Elizabeth Glater, graduate student, Harvard Medical School
- *Second prize* — Antonio L. Perez, undergraduate student, Harvard University
- *Third prize* — Li J. Yu, UCLA 2003, undergraduate research scholar at the National Institutes of Health

Posters

- *First prize* — Judah D. Weathers, undergraduate student, Northeastern University
- *Second prize* — Renell Morgan, University of Pennsylvania
- *Third prize* — Jordan Amatuegwu, undergraduate student, Stony Brook University. ■

New England Science Symposium

THE 2004 NEW ENGLAND SCIENCE Symposium, co-sponsored by BSCP and Harvard Medical School's Office for Diversity and Community Partnership, took place on February 27 at The Boston Park Plaza Hotel.

Lauren V. Wood, M.D., senior clinical investigator in the Pediatric HIV Working Group, HIV & AIDS Malignancy Branch of the National Cancer Institute at the National Institutes of Health, delivered the keynote speech. Dr. Wood received her medical degree from Duke University School of Medicine. She worked in the laboratory of Dr. Anthony Fauci, conducting research on cellular and humoral immune responses in HIV infection. In addition to the keynote speaker, the symposium was highlighted by 16 oral presentations of scientific research by undergraduate, graduate and medical students, and Ph.D. candidates. There was also a scientific posters session.

"The New England Science Symposium is a realization of the vision of BSCP," said James L. Sherley, M.D., Ph.D., a BSCP supporter and associate professor at MIT. "Dr. Lauren Wood



LAUREN V. WOOD, M.D. WITH STUDENTS

was complemented by exceptionally well presented undergraduate, graduate and postdoctoral research covering a wide array of biomedically relevant disciplines.... Research is not fulfilled until it is disseminated to others. I am looking forward to the [New England Science Symposium] setting the national standard for research forums that highlight the breadth and talent of minority biomedical scientists." ■

2004 BSCP CONFERENCE

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KEYNOTE SPEAKER ROBERT K. ROSS, M.D.

Robert K. Ross, M.D., is president and CEO of The California Endowment, a health foundation established in 1996 to expand access to affordable, quality health care to underserved individuals and communities in California.



ROBERT K. ROSS, M.D. WITH A STUDENT

Prior to joining this group in 2000, Dr. Ross served as director of the Health and Human Services Agency for the County of San Diego. He has an extensive background as a clinician and public health administrator. He has been actively involved in community and professional activities at both the local and national levels.

Dr. Ross has received numerous awards and honors, including the "Youth Advocacy Humanitarian of the Year" and the National Association of Health Services Executives "Health Administrator of the Year Citation."

Dr. Ross received his undergraduate, master's in public administration and medical degrees from the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia. ■



Patent Law in Biomedical Science

Andrea Ryan, Assistant General Counsel of Patents, Wyeth Research

PATENT LAW IS NOT ONE OF THE MORE common career choices of people studying biomedical science, but as someone who is actively and happily engaged in the field, I wanted to share with the BSCP community possibilities they may not have considered.

Patent attorneys are the lawyers who help prevent others from stealing the inventions of a person or company by securing and enforcing intellectual property rights like patents. These inventions often are the results of expensive scientific research and large investments of time.

A patent is a monopoly granted by the government for a new scientific invention, relating to anything from computers and electronics to useful gene sequences, proteins, antibodies and small molecules. Patent attorneys can work in law firms or “in-house,” inside companies. The job involves working with people in many different departments, from the scientists conducting research to the marketing staff trying to sell the final products.

To work in bioscience patent law, you need an undergraduate science degree (preferably chemistry or biotechnology). A Ph.D. or master’s degree is also helpful, and sometimes is required. You also must be able to use language very precisely in written work and have excellent analytical skills. Other attributes that are helpful include the following:

- Excellent communication and organizational skills
- Good people skills, to explain complex technical ideas and legal advice to clients
- The ability to meet tight deadlines and to handle several projects simultaneously
- The ability to work well under pressure
- A commercial sense and good judgment

To qualify as a patent attorney, you will have to attend three years of law school and pass both a state bar examination and one given by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office

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STUDENT PRAISE FOR BSCP CONFERENCE

“This year was my first time attending the conference, and it definitely helped me focus my career goals. I am a senior journalism student at Boston University who is interested in health policy, in particular, racial disparities in health care and promoting adequate health care for women... I was a bit uncertain about my future career plans before the conference but was able to connect with fellow students and professionals with the same interests.” — Jasmine Simone-Miller, Boston University College of Communication

“... thank you for putting on such a spectacular event... This was my second BSCP meeting, and I am still impressed and inspired as I was the first time two years ago... It was nice to see such a great number of people attend to achieve one main goal.” — Kosal Nguon, Psychiatry Research Department, Brigham and Women’s Hospital

“[The conference] really changes my perspective every time by helping [me] see myself in a different light. Thank you for letting me be a part of this.” — Cristina Velazquez, University of Massachusetts Medical School

Evening of Hope

THE SEVENTH ANNUAL BSCP EVENING of Hope took place at The Boston Park Plaza Hotel on April 15. The event, which was presided by Jack Connors, Jr., chair of Hill, Holliday, and John Littlechild, general partner at HealthCare Ventures, brings together leaders from health care, the biosciences, education and other leading businesses to raise money for all BSCP programs (offered at no cost to students), and to celebrate the successes BSCP has helped create in our community.

BSCP was selected as a Massachusetts Catalogue for Philanthropy charity. The catalogue, conceived and supported by the Ellis L. Phillips Foundation with help from other foundations and corporations, profiles 70 of Massachusetts’ outstanding cultural, environmental and human service agencies. BSCP was chosen from a total applicant pool of more than 200 organizations. BSCP Corporate Leaders,

who each donated \$25,000 to the organization this year, were Aetna Inc., Biogen Idec, Boston Scientific Corporation, Genzyme Corporation and Goldman, Sachs & Co.

James C. Mullen, president and CEO of Biogen Idec, and John W. Rowe, M.D., chair and CEO of Aetna Inc., were honored for their commitment to justice, equity and the advancement of youth, particularly on behalf of minorities and the disadvantaged. Five outstanding individuals, who have volunteered their time and expertise to BSCP over the years, were named to the 2004 Honor Roll: Alfred C. Johnson, Ph.D., National Institutes of Health; Forrester A. Lee, Jr., M.D., Yale University School of Medicine; Susan Long, Ph.D., Genzyme Corporation; Maurice Melchiono, R.N., M.S., Children’s Hospital Boston; and Jim O. Vigoreaux, Ph.D., University of Vermont. ■

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"I am a registered nurse at the Children's Hospital in Boston; **it has always been my dream to go to medical school**, but besides the support of my family, I have not met [too] many... motivators... On Friday and Saturday, I met so many people who not only motivated me but, most importantly, inspired me by the way they were helping our community... **This conference reinforced my confidence** and convinced me that 'where there is a will, there is definitely a way.'"

— *Cindy Dorsainvil, R.N., B.S.N., Children's Hospital Boston*

"... thank you for the wonderful, fruitful and productive time. As a high school student who wants to study pre-med in college, the question

now is not whether I can be a doctor, but rather when I will become one... **These meetings really change lives.**" — *Ngoda P. Manongi, Hyde Park High School*

"As a result of my job as an operating room assistant, I have known for the past two years that I wanted to be a surgeon... My biggest fear was that no matter how much I did, the 'powers that be' would not accept me as an M.D. candidate. The BSCP Conference has given me invaluable information and contacts that will **nourish and support my journey to medical school admission** and success therein. For this, I thank you." — *Akanni Clarke, Baystate Medical Center*

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PATENT LAW

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(USPTA). If you want to practice litigation (trial work), you will have to be admitted to at least one federal court. If you do not go to law school, you can still become a patent agent if you pass the examination given by the USPTA.

The Sidney B. Williams Scholarship (\$10,000 per year) is awarded by the American Intellectual Property Law Education Foundation to qualified minority law students studying patent law. The scholarship is administered by the Thurgood Marshall Fund, and applications are available at their website, www.thurgoodmarshallfund.org.

For more information about this rewarding career, which combines science and law, search

the Web for "careers in patent law" or go to www.aipla.org or www.abanet.org/intelprop/careers.html. ■

Wyeth is a global leader in pharmaceuticals, consumer health care products, and animal health care products. Wyeth Research organizes the efforts of its employees worldwide in the search for and development of new drugs that will enhance both the quality of health care and the Wyeth product line.

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www.bscp.org