

## Evening of Hope Honoree

### Mark C. Fishman, MD

MARK C. FISHMAN, PRESIDENT, Novartis Institutes for BioMedical Research (NIBR), will be the honoree at the 18th annual Evening of Hope fundraiser on April 30. He came to the global pharmaceutical company in 2002, after a distinguished career in clinical and academic medicine. Before joining Novartis, Fishman was chief of cardiology and director of the Cardiovascular Research Center at Massachusetts General Hospital, and professor of medicine at Harvard Medical School.

Under Fishman's leadership, NIBR has been a strong supporter of BSCP, sending scientists to Biomedical Science Careers Student Conferences and New England Science Symposia, and welcoming BSCP students into its internship and fellowship programs. NIBR also offers outreach programs for younger students because, Fishman says, "We're convinced that early education is important" both for students interested in science careers and those who haven't really considered it but may take to the field once they have some exposure.

Through its NetPals program in Cambridge, Massachusetts, NIBR scientists are matched with seventh grade students at a middle school in Cambridgeport, a community with a large underrepresented

minority population. The students and scientists meet and email throughout the year, focusing on science topics. The year ends with a science fair and graduation.

At a higher level, NIBR Gap Year and Summer Scholars programs, and the Biology and Biotechnology Bridge (B3) program are all geared toward underrepresented minority college and graduate students and those in between. The programs allow the students to work on their own projects under the guidance of NIBR scientists and also teach them the kinds of skills they will need, in addition to scientific research, to be successful in the fields they choose.

"Feeling comfortable with a career in science is about much more than understanding science facts. It's about learning how scientists interact and make decisions, and how they use the written and unwritten languages of their 'club,'" Fishman says. "A lot has to do with how to present and organize your thoughts. Those from more privileged backgrounds are more likely to have had opportunities for exposure to these skills earlier in life." Through the NIBR programs young students learn these skills, in addition to pursuing their research. NIBR's goal, Fishman says, is to "get these kids to the point where it comes naturally, so all they have to think about is the science." He hopes that will make them



MARK C. FISHMAN, MD

more comfortable considering biomedical research — or any activity in the biomedical sciences — as a viable career.

One former B3 scholar split her time between a research project at NIBR and undergraduate classes at MIT. She co-authored three publications in peer-reviewed journals and is now a third-year PhD student in biology at MIT. Another co-authored one publication and is now a third-year PhD student in chemical biology at the University of California, San Diego. The first student to enroll in the Gap Year

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

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## 2015 Evening of Hope

THE 18TH ANNUAL EVENING OF hope fundraiser will take place on Thursday, April 30, at The Westin Copley Place Boston. The event raises money to support BSCP programs, always offered at no cost to participants, and celebrates the organization's successes. This year the event will be co-chaired by Zoltan A. Csimma, former senior vice president and chief human resources officer of Genzyme Corporation, and Peter L. Slavin, MD, president of Massachusetts General Hospital. The 2015 honoree will be Mark C. Fishman, MD, president of Novartis Institutes for BioMedical Research (see cover story). Three individuals who have contributed a great deal to BSCP over the years — one a former BSCP student — will be named to the Honor Roll: Earlene Avalón, PhD, MPH, director, Nursing Diversity Initiatives, Boston Children's Hospital; Margaret

Brown, MS, PMHCNS-BC, clinician, continuing care outpatient services, clinical supervisor, Decanoate and Clozaril Clinics, Massachusetts Mental Health Center; and Javier Barrientos, director of Global Diversity and Inclusion, Biogen Foundation. Avalón attended the Biomedical Science Careers Student Conference as a high school and college student and serves as a conference advisor, panelist and planning committee member. She also is a planning committee member for the BSCP Skills Workshops for College and High School Students. Brown has been a Biomedical Science Careers Student Conference advisor and panelist since 2006. Barrientos is a conference panelist and a planning committee member for both the conference and the workshops.

## HOPE SCHOLARSHIPS

At the Evening of Hope, four students will be awarded Hope Scholarships of \$7,500 each:

**Aser Abrha**  
College Student  
University of Massachusetts Amherst  
*Sponsored by the Fleming Family*

**Sara Guevara**  
MD Candidate  
Warren Alpert Medical School  
of Brown University  
*Sponsored by Genzyme, a Sanofi company*

**Loren Saulsberry**  
PhD Candidate  
Harvard University  
*Sponsored by Biogen Foundation*

**Racquel Wells**  
MD Candidate  
University of Massachusetts Medical School  
*Sponsored by AstraZeneca*

## Internship Opportunities

TECH GENERATION (TECHGEN) IS A new platform being organized by the New England Venture Capital Association (NEVCA) to serve as a one-stop "common app" that will connect students to tech internship opportunities in the Boston area.

Intended to support tech companies, startups and students in their internship experiences, TechGen matches students with internships and connects them with the greater tech community through TechTreds, MeetUps, Block Parties and workshops.

Interested students can complete an online application and TechGen will put their resume in front of appropriate

startups. Interested companies contact students directly to go through the hiring process. Once they are hired, students become part of the TechGen community and have access to its social and educational programming. They are also free to browse and contact TechGen's partner companies about internship opportunities, rather than waiting to be contacted.

*For more information, go to [www.thetechgeneration.com](http://www.thetechgeneration.com).*



## Where Are They Now

### Nimisha Kalia-Satwah, MD, MPH, MBA

FORMER BSCP STUDENT AND HOPE Scholarship recipient Nimisha Kalia-Satwah, MD, MPH, MBA, is an instructor of medicine, Department of Occupational and Environmental Medicine at Johns Hopkins School of Medicine, a leading health care system based in Baltimore. With a wealth of experience that spans the globe in clinical practice, research, teaching and administration, she has chosen a career that she says is primarily administrative and clinical, with the primary emphasis on administration (which includes teaching).

Kalia-Satwah's father worked for NASA so she moved around a bit as a child but grew up primarily in Florida. She says, "I can't remember ever wanting to do anything else" than being a doctor. As a pre-med student at the University of South Florida, she learned about BSCP in her sophomore year from another student. "It seemed like a great opportunity for minority students to find mentors and like-minded students," she says.

At the first Biomedical Science Careers Student Conference she attended, in 2000, Kalia-Satwah met William Silen, MD, who became a trusted mentor for many years. The physician recalls that unlike most of her cohorts, though she knew she wanted to go to medical school, she wanted to take a little time off after college. Some people had advised her, because medical school is such a big commitment, to make sure it was what she really wanted. But when she discussed that with her fellow students, nobody shared her feelings. Silen, however, was very supportive. "That really helped me," Kalia-Satwah says. With his help she found a position with the Centers for Disease Control's Massachusetts State Lab Institute working on tuberculosis research. Part of the job involved hosting and training people from Spanish-speaking

companies. And through the Lab's relationship with Partners-in-Health, Kalia-Satwah made two need-assessment trips to Peru. While she was living in Boston, Kalia-Satwah also volunteered in the BSCP office.

During that year she applied to medical school. "I did get to see what it's like to be a clinician as well as do research," she says. The experience also raised her interest in infectious diseases and international work. While in medical school at University of South Florida, she worked in infectious disease wards in Spain and Nicaragua. And for her residency, she chose to go to Greenwich Hospital, in Connecticut. Through the hospital she was able to work in Uganda and South Africa.

By then Kalia-Satwah had decided she wanted a career with a community health focus and says an MPH was in the back of her mind. During her last year of residency she was the chief resident, so she began to learn the administrative side of medicine. At that point she applied to MBA/MPH programs and was accepted at Johns Hopkins University. At the same time, she received an occupational medicine fellowship from Johns Hopkins. She did all three simultaneously, completing them in two years instead of the year-and-a-half the degree program normally takes. Her fellowship thesis, which focused on the return-on-investment of Johns Hopkins employee health and wellness programs, applies directly to some of the work she is doing now. Before returning to Johns Hopkins in her current position she worked as an instructor in medicine at Weill Cornell Medical College and assistant attending physician at New York Presbyterian Hospital.

Throughout Kalia-Satwah's medical education, fellowship and career she has always returned to BSCP, serving as a



NIMISHA KALIA-SATWAH, MD, MPH, MBA

student advisor in 2010, 2012 and 2014. "I think BSCP has been one of the biggest gifts of my life in terms of mentorship," she says. "Even now, I'm an attending and I remember being in awe of the attendings [when I was a student]."

Kalia-Satwah says when she is at a BSCP conference, "I try to go back to my frame of mind when I was a student and ask, 'What do you need right now?'" She keeps in touch with many of the students she meets and has created a Google Doc for advisees she has met of summer programs and yearlong fellowships so they can keep track of options available to them. All are free to add to it as they hear of opportunities. "I'm building a network from the other side of being a student," she says.



## SAVE THE DATES

### Biomedical Science Careers Student Conference

The Westin Hotel Copley Place Boston  
Friday, April 1 and Saturday,  
April 2, 2016

Audience: Postdoctoral fellows, medical/dental/graduate students, post-baccalaureates, college and community college students, high school seniors and juniors

### New England Science Symposium

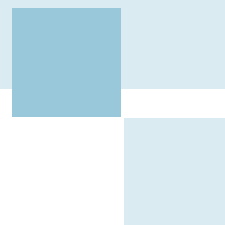
Harvard Medical School  
Sunday, April 3, 2016

Audience: Postdoctoral fellows, medical/dental/graduate students, post-baccalaureates, college and community college students

For more information, contact Lise D. Kaye at [lise\\_kaye@hms.harvard.edu](mailto:lise_kaye@hms.harvard.edu) or (617) 432-0552.

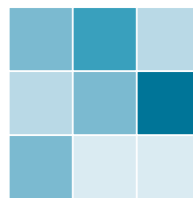
### Reminder

Please remember to update your contact information and post your resume at [www.bscp.org](http://www.bscp.org). Click on "Update/Submit Your Information," then enter your information under "Current and Former BSCP Participants."



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## MARK C. FISHMAN, MD

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Scholars program worked closely with his mentor to examine a particular aspect of lymphoma. In recognition of his work and his ability to discuss its scientific impact and relevance at a very high level, he received two poster presentation awards at the 2013 BSCP New England Science Symposium. He also co-authored two publications in peer-reviewed journals and is now a second-year PhD student in biology at MIT.

Fishman believes that many underrepresented minority students start off in the

sciences at a disadvantage. "It's a matter of exposure to a culture, a certain way of communicating, of presenting information. The more you practice, the easier it becomes."

Fishman's advice to these students who are interested in a career in the biomedical sciences is, "Realize that it is hard. It's not just the science that is hard. Don't get discouraged. Ideally you'll be able to find a mentor."

He also encourages students to "keep looking for what you want. Do you want to be in industry? Do you want to be in academia? Keep options open. Don't rush into

the first opportunity. As you figure out what is enjoyable for you, also address what is hard for you. Ask is it hard because I don't like the subject, or because I don't enjoy the sociology, the environment in which it is practiced. If you start down one path and find it isn't for you, you can always make adjustments. The opportunities are boundless." ■

