

May 4, 2016

CSUPERB is pleased to announce the 2016 class of Presidents' Commission Scholars. Eleven undergraduates will be carrying out faculty-mentored biotechnology research projects on 9 different CSU campuses this summer.

CSUPERB recognizes that research experiences are critical to engaging and graduating students interested in biotechnology careers. The Presidents' Commission Scholars are supported by a \$6000 scholarship, in addition to \$2000 for the faculty mentor's laboratory.

CSUPERB received 27 applications from 12 CSU universities in response to this year's request for proposals.

The 2016 CSUPERB Presidents' Commission Scholars are (in alphabetical order):

1. **Sita Chandrasekaran** (Freshman, Biochemistry, San Francisco State University), "Ligand exchange in the heme domain of Cystathionine Beta Synthase." Mentor: Raymond Esquerra.
2. **Pablo Sebastian Guaman Tipan** (Sophomore, Biology, CSU Fresno), "Development of *Pichia pastoris* as a model system to test the regulation of Myosin X." Mentor: Karine Gousset.
3. **David Hyung Ik Han** (Sophomore, Psychology, San José State University), "The effects of a furry friend on stress in undergraduate students." Mentor: Cheryl Chancellor-Freeland.
4. **Annika Holm** (Freshman, Biochemistry, Sonoma State University), "Examination of the Chemical Biology of Hydropersulfides: Reactions with Metalloproteins." Mentor: Carmen Works.
5. **Cedra Labanieh** (Sophomore, Biology, CSU Fullerton), "Characterization of the interaction between a 70-kDa heat shock protein, HspA1A, and a lipid, phosphatidylserine, in stressed human cells." Mentor: Nikolas Nikolaidis.
6. **Brittany Lore** (Sophomore, Biology, California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo), "Identification of storage conditions for optimizing the shelf-life of a point-of-care device intended for the quantitation of human estradiol." Mentor: Nathaniel Martinez.
7. **Shannon McBee** (Sophomore, Chemistry, CSU Fullerton), "Peptidomimetic molecular design for the inhibition of the West Nile virus NS2B-NS3 protease." Mentor: Nicholas Salzameda.
8. **Nadia Miranda** (Sophomore, Biotechnology, CSU San Marcos), "Obesity and Immune Cell Function in the Intestine." Mentor: Julie Jameson.

9. **Sean Mulick** (Sophomore, Chemistry & Biochemistry, San Diego State University), “Optimizing MicroScale Thermophoresis assays for protein:dsDNA binding.” Mentor: Tom Huxford.
10. **Joshua Phelan** (Sophomore, Biological Science, CSU Fullerton), “Isolation of new manganese oxidizing bacteria.” Mentor: Hope Johnson.
11. **Ashley Trujillo** (Sophomore, Biology, CSU Dominguez Hills), “Using molecular and physiological approaches to study the impact of temperature and pollution on coral reproduction.” Mentor: Jacqueline Padilla-Gamino.

For more information about the CSUPERB Presidents’ Commission Scholars, see the CSUPERB website (<http://www.calstate.edu/csUPERB/grants/presidents-commission/>) or contact the program office ([csuperb@mail.sdsu.edu](mailto:csuperb@mail.sdsu.edu) / 619-594-2822).