



December 10, 2013

CSUPERB is pleased to announce 2014 Howell-CSUPERB Research Scholar Awards have been made to 12 students from 7 different CSU universities, totaling \$42,000. CSUPERB received 24 applications from students at 11 different CSU campuses.

CSUPERB partners with the Doris A. Howell Foundation for Women's Health Research (<http://www.howellfoundation.org/>) to fund promising undergraduate student research projects in topics related to women's health. Together the Howell Foundation and CSUPERB recognize that research experience is critical to recruiting, training and retaining students interested in careers in women's health research. Howell-CSUPERB Scholars show great professional promise academically and in research programs. Each scholar will conduct faculty-mentored research projects during the spring and summer of 2014.

The Howell-CSUPERB Scholars for 2014 are (in alphabetical order):

1. Samariah Bautch (Biology, CSU Fresno)

Award: \$3,500 for the proposal titled "Stability Engineering of Nanobodies for the Detection and Neutralization of *Listeria monocytogenes*."

Mentor: Cory Brooks, Chemistry

2. Lindsay Bradford (Microbiology, San Diego State University)

Award: \$3,500 for the proposal titled "Contribution of Bacterial Fibrinogen Binding Glycoproteins to Streptococcal Colonization and Disease."

Mentor: Kelly Doran, Biology

3. Amanda Brambila (Chemistry & Biochemistry, San Diego State University)

Award: \$3,500 for the proposal titled "Compensatory Gene Expression in Neonatal Cardiocytes: Silencing Techniques."

Mentor: Paul Paolini, Biology & Computational Sciences

4. Nina Bubalo (Psychology, San José State University)

Award: \$3,500 for the proposal titled “Sex Differences in Cytokine Production and Macrophage Presence in Muscle Tissue in Response to Lipopolysaccharide (LPS)- Induced Inflammation.”

Mentor: Katie Wilkinson, Biological Sciences

5. Matthew Dalphin (Chemistry & Biochemistry, CSU Fullerton)

Award: \$3,500 for the proposal titled “Investigating Copper-Containing Components of the Blood Plasma.”

Mentor: Maria Linder, Chemistry and Biochemistry

6. Jesse Garcia Castillo (Microbiology, CSU Los Angeles)

Award: \$3,500 for the proposal titled “Role of Candida albicans yeast casein kinase I in governing the expression of secreted aspartyl protease required for initiating vulvovaginitis.”

Mentor: Hyunsook Park, Biological Sciences

7. Yen Luu (Biology, San Diego State University)

Award: \$3,500 for the proposal titled “Adapting current Dengue virus assays to all serotypes through multiplexing to allow high through screening for potential inhibitors.”

Mentor: Roland Wolkowicz, Biology

8. Patricia (Nhi) Nguyen (Chemistry, CSU Long Beach)

Award: \$3,500 for the proposal titled “Structural analysis and binding mechanism of apolipoprotein E cholesterol binding domain by fluorescence spectroscopy.”

Mentor: Vasanthi Narayanaswami, Chemistry & Biochemistry

9. Phuc Huu Ba (Sam) Nguyen (Biochemistry, CSU Long Beach)

Award: \$3,500 for the proposal titled “Use of a Novel Metal Binding Protein for Toxic Metal Remediation.”

Mentor: Roger Acey, Chemistry & Biochemistry

10. Cassandra Porter (Biochemistry & Pre-Nursing, CSU Chico)

Award: \$3,500 for the proposal titled “STI Testing, Sexual Behavior & Related Health Outcomes Amongst College Females.”

Mentor: Lindsay Briggs, Health & Community Services/BSS

11. Matthew Siracusa (Biology, CSU Fullerton)

Award: \$3,500 for the proposal titled “The effect of non-synonymous single nucleotide polymorphisms on the function of the human cytosolic 70-kDa heat shock protein, HSPA1A.”

Mentor: Nikolas Nikolaidis, Biological Science/NSM

12. Jodie Chih Ching Wu (Molecular Biology, San José State University)

Award: \$3,500 for the proposal titled “A Mutagenesis Screen to Identify Genes Required for Developmental Ethanol Response in *Drosophila melanogaster*.”

Mentor: Rachael French, Biological Sciences