

GSRM Internship

A Pathway to Increase Diversity in Science Research

ISSUE NO 9 | 07.29.2019 | GSRM: WEEK TEN

GENOMICS SUMMER RESEARCH
FOR MINORITIES



You did it! I am writing this section after I picked up your posters from the printing shop. I am amazed by your accomplishments and grateful for your dedication. I can't wait to see you shine at the summer symposium.

This week make sure you have time to conclude your experiments and lab book entries. If another student takes on your project next week, will he or she be able to follow your conclusions and protocols? Make sure you have time to chat with your mentors and co-mentors, ask for feedback and thank them for their time, resources and kindness.

What to expect
for week number
ten?

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Thursday August 1st, 2019
2019 Summer Symposium

Where: Alumni House UofU 155 Central Campus Dr, Salt Lake City, UT 84112

Time: 8:30 – 9:00 AM CHECK-IN & POSTER SET-UP

9:00 – 10:25 AM POSTER SESSION I

10:35 AM – 12:00 PM POSTER SESSION II

12:00 – 12:15 PM POSTER TAKE-DOWN

View Program Book here: https://our.utah.edu/wp-content/uploads/sites/12/2019/07/2019_SummerSymposiumProgram.pdf

Reflections
Few words before
the summer ends!

Thursday August 1st, 2019
GSRM Program Evaluation

Where: HSEB 2931

Time: 1:30 – 3:00 PM (Jazmine, James, Elvy, Celine, Jordan, Yeng)

3:00 – 4:30 PM (Alex, Tunji, Bailee, Paola, Izzy, Shai)

Friday August 2nd, 2019
GSRM Closing Ceremony

Where: William Building Board Room and Patio

Time: Farewell Lunch 1:30 – 2:30 PM (Come hungry it will be delicious)

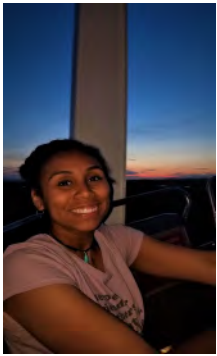
Closing Remarks, Certificates and Cake: 2:30 PM

Mentors, co-mentors, speakers and GSRM friends are invited.

As discussed, we can walk to the Red Butte Garden afterwards.

GSRM thanks the
support from
NHGRI,
U of U & the
Department of
Pediatrics

Reflections

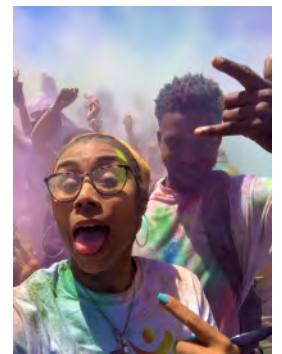
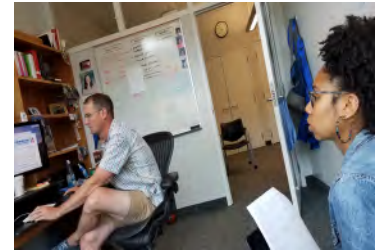


"My time in Utah has definitely molded me into a better version of myself. Here, I answered the door to opportunity, and this summer I've seen myself transform right before my eyes. I realized Utah was the perfect soil to support my growth and development. Here, I set the intention to trust that I am always at the right place at the right time. I trusted that I had a role in a computational lab although I had no coding experience. I trusted that I would

step out of my shell and make meaningful connections with those around me. I trusted I would rise to every occasion and reveal undiscovered pieces of myself in order to surpass the expectations that were placed upon me. Here, I began to build a solid foundation of self-love and self-confidence, which allowed me to see myself in a completely new light.

I am eternally grateful to all those who made this life-altering opportunity possible for me and my fellow GSRM interns. I truly appreciate your time and dedication to us and the program. Dr. Slattum and Dr. Yost, thank you so much for your thoughtful planning and execution of the program. To my mentors, Aaron and Amelia, I am so thankful for your nurturing and hands-on guidance, which illuminated another avenue in science that I didn't know I was capable of. You've poured so much into me this summer and I'm truly overflowing with gratitude. Your calm, cool and collected demeanor made me feel comfortable learning in a new environment. Your commitment and authenticity made me enjoy being a part of your team. And above all else, thank you for your investment of time, which has caused a meaningful change in my life. Wishing you all the best."

Jordan Sinclair Swanier



"To the Yost lab, I am eternally grateful. The time that I have spent there has been full of learning opportunities, patience, exploration, and wonderful discovery. Words could not describe my gratitude and love for the people that have paved the way to expanding my horizons and venturing into new interests. I would love to give a special thanks to Angie who has been an incredible mentor and an even better friend. I admire her passion for science, her extraordinary intellect, and her ability to be so happy and friendly to those that surround her and share her beautiful light. I would also like to thank Dr. Yost who has been so personable when giving advice and has welcomed me so warmly into his lab. Dr. Yost has a super busy schedule yet he was always aware of needs and was available (virtually or physically) to assist in any way possible. Thank you once again for all that you have taught me and how you've changed me."

I admire her passion for science, her extraordinary intellect, and her ability to be so happy and friendly to those that surround her and share her beautiful light. I would also like to thank Dr. Yost who has been so personable when giving advice and has welcomed me so warmly into his lab. Dr. Yost has a super busy schedule yet he was always aware of needs and was available (virtually or physically) to assist in any way possible. Thank you once again for all that you have taught me and how you've changed me."

Shai Miguel



"It was so important for me to attend this program. Ever since I was little, I had a misconception that only "certain people" were given opportunities to attend summer programs, travel, and have fun responsibilities within society. My time in Utah provided me with the tools, the knowledge, the self-esteem, and the relationships I needed in order to grow. I am thankful for the friends I've made and the humble hearts that I've come to know this summer. Thank you Gloria and the Bonkowsky Lab for your guidance and comforting hospitality".

Bailae Alonzo



"Just as Iron sharpens Iron, positive people will inspire you to be positive". I wasn't entirely sure what to expect when I flew out to Utah for GSRM. However, I am glad and grateful for the opportunity. I have learned so much and met a lot of wonderful people. In summary, it was a fun and unforgettable experience. Special shoutout and thanks to the Chow Lab, Dr Yost, Dr Slattum and the GSRM family. ❤️"

Adetunji Adeniran-Adetoye (Tunji)





"On the first day of the internship—orientation—we were asked to write one word for what we wanted to get out of this program. My word along with a number of others was growth. Little did I know that day that I would get much more out of this opportunity than growth. These 10 weeks have been demanding but so rewarding. Not only did I learn so much through the lab space thanks to the Claudio Villanueva Lab, but weekly, we were also given the opportunity to listen to a number of scientists and established professionals in their fields talk about their research and stories. I believe it is safe to say that this program has exceeded each intern's expectations. From the research to the shadowing opportunities to the seminars. I have learned new lab techniques, how to better communicate my science, and learned a lot about the field in general.

Aside from the science, I don't believe that any of us were prepared to become as close as we all have. We have all developed friendships that I believe are long-lasting. There are memories made throughout this summer that we will all remember. I would like to specifically thank Gloria Slattum Ph.D. and Joseph Yost Ph.D. for all that they have done for this internship and for us interns. Gloria specifically has put so much time and energy into making these 10 weeks run as smoothly as possible whether it be that we have what we need in the apartment to making sure that we have well written abstracts for the conference to making sure that everyone is in a healthy state of mind. She has especially been very hospitable for those not from Utah. There would be no one else who could even come close to being as good as a program director as Dr. Slattum (Gloria) has been.

To close, I would once again like to say thank you so much to many people who had to do with the creation and the establishment of this internship and my selection for it. I would highly recommend this internship to any undergraduate student."

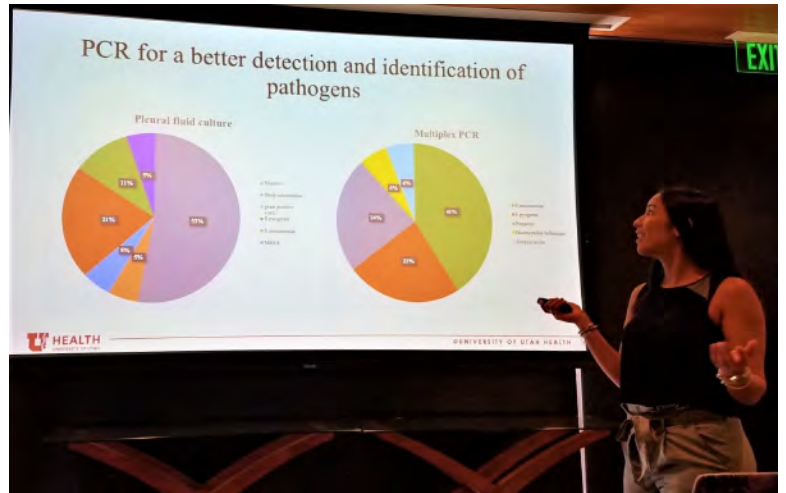
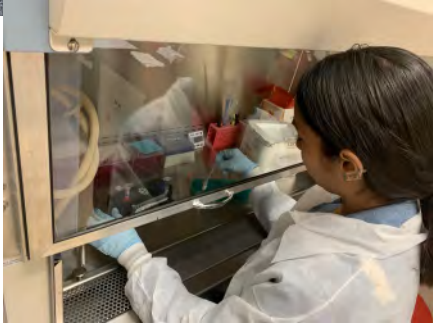
James Banks





“As all you may know, today is the last week of the Genomic Summer Research for Minorities, and I just wanted to say " Gracias" for being an amazing first-time internship. Thank you for the opportunity of allowing me to be part of this clinical research. I can confidently say I wouldn't have grown and learned as much as I have these past 2 months without everyone's constant support, guidance and feedback. Also, all the happy memories I will be taking back home that I spent with my new friends in this program. I'll especially miss the movie night's, the adventures we all have, the laughter and the smile of each of you. This internship was truly an outstanding one”.

Paola Fonseca-Romero (Pao)



“This summer was incredibly impactful. I met amazing people, made lasting connections, and had the privilege to work alongside a fantastic team of mentors. I want to extend my sincerest gratitude to Dr. Tristani and Dr. Torres for welcoming me to their team. I will forever be grateful to Dr. Slattum, Dr. Yost, and all the GSRM team for granting me this invaluable experience”.

Alexandra Acuna (Alex)



If you were to ask me two months ago to define genomics, I would've looked you straight into your eyes, and replied, full of confidence, "It's genetics' cousin". If you were to ask me two months ago what I expect of Utah, I would've looked you dead in your eyes, once more, and replied (still full of confidence, of course), "Tumbleweeds". Thanks to the GSRM program, so much has changed in just two short months. If you were to ask me to reflect on the program, the experiences I've had, the relationships I've built, the knowledge I've grasped, and the memories I've made, I would look you straight into your eyes, pause, fight back a few tears and say, "It's been an opportunity of a lifetime."

I can not fully convey my gratitude and appreciation to the people who have invested the time and energy into making this program all that it is. The things that I have absorbed from this program go far beyond the confinement of a classroom, and surpass the environment of yes, even a laboratory. I feel not only fortunate and privileged to have been involved in such an unparalleled program, but extremely blessed. Long after I am into my own medicinal practice, there will be times when I reflect upon my time in Utah. As I ponder those memories, I know that I will feel those same emotions and feelings again that were once, so unbelievably tangible. So to the staff, faculty, PI's, lab mates, and co-mentors on behalf of the students of the GSRM program, we thank you! Your service has not gone unnoticed. Thank you for your help and sacrifices; but even more, thank you for your time.

Respectfully,
-Obadiah Issachar Kirk "El Capitán"

P.S.: We in Utah *insert Izzy voice here*



"Through the program, I have gained wisdom, love, cultural competency, courageous leadership, and authenticity. From the mentorship in the Kwan lab to the courage to be myself, this program was a family that has impacted me in ways I could never have imagined. GSRM has given me the opportunity to slowly transcend the limitations set on minorities like everyone in the program by not only having me, but a group of diverse individuals comes together. And with that, Ua Tsaug."

Yeng Yang



"My time in the GSRM program at the University of Utah has been memorable. I have had the opportunity to new learn skills and contribute to two research projects during these 10 weeks. I have enjoyed working with Dr. Fagerlin and our collaborators Dr. Dal Cin at the University of Michigan and Dr. Scherer at the University of Iowa. I worked hard, but I know the GSRM staff and members of my lab worked even harder to help make my experiences great. What I appreciated most about coming to the University of Utah was the culture of service. Just by talking with people and reaching out via email I was able to find the help I needed from experts throughout the university. "

Jazmine Abril





"I grew up fascinated with science. I loved watching PBS science shows, reading through the library's science books, participating in science fairs. When I got to college, feelings of stress began to overwhelm the excitement I had towards science. Being away from home while struggling at school, I doubted whether I was capable of pursuing a career in science. I worried that my aspirations toward working in the cancer field were misguided by experiences witnessing my mother endure cancers and did not align with my actual scientific abilities. Despite my doubts, I still wanted to work towards my goals. Although I applied to GSRM not firmly believing in myself, I am so grateful to have had everyone in GSRM continuously believe in me.

I am grateful for my mentors who patiently taught me techniques to understand cancer. From my time in the lab, I have learned that assisting in research is empowering; I no longer feel as though I can only helplessly watch my mother endure numerous cancers but instead use science as a powerful tool to confront the disease that has affected generations of my family. I am grateful for the professionals I have met who understand the necessity of diversity in science, affirming that I do have a place in the field. I am grateful for the friends I have made in this program who have continuously shared their stories and kindness. Although we won't be able to see each other again until SACNAS, I still can look back at memories of movie nights, getting stuck in salt flats, camping and so many other moments. Participating in the GSRM program reinstalled my passion for science and the confidence that I can be successful in the medical science field".

Elvelyn Fernandez (Elvy)





"When reflecting how far I've come throughout this internship, I remember the dinner that first night when we were presented with individually crafted, beaded hummingbirds made for us from indigenous people in Gloria's community. I was stunned by this beautiful gift that reflected the hard work and thoughtfulness of the maker. This beaded hummingbird serves as a larger metaphor for the program; I would like to thank everyone for the hard work they put into GSRM and the mentorship, giving me this experience to have the grace and fearlessness of a hummingbird".

Celine Slam



"As we are nearing the end of this GSRM chapter, I am called to reflect in our time together. It's amazing to see what we have created! To me this was an opportunity to experience the true meaning of community, diversity and inclusion. It was remarkable to see everyone come with their gifts and individual contributions and to see what it is to support each other. Thank you ALL for making our very first GSRM Summer Internship a true success.

I'm grateful to all those who played their part in holding space throughout the internship. Thank you to Joe and Maija for trusting me and for your unconditional support. Many thanks to our speakers, mentors, co-mentors, clinicians, administrators, GSRM office, family and friends for sharing your vision with me, your knowledge and your time. Thank you for co-creating this beautiful program together.



Many thanks to all our dear students: Alex, Tunji, Bailee, Jazmine, James. Elvy, Pao, Izzy, Shai, Celine, Jordan and Yeng, for showing up in a good way and for trying something new with us. Your courage and commitment inspire me every day. Dear Colibries (hummingbirds): May you fly away with grace and beauty; may you have the strength and precision to go where you are most needed!

I look forward to our reunion in Hawaii. I can't wait to watch how this all evolve from here.

With Love,
Gloria Slattum"

"First, I thank the students in our inaugural GSRM class for spending the summer with us in Utah. Hearing your stories, where you come from, your unique points of view, and your dreams and aspirations for your professional development, has been inspirational. I am particularly grateful for how you all worked together to form a cohesive and lively group, and I am confident that you have formed bonds amongst yourselves that will continue to serve you with supportive friendships for many years. Second, I thank our dedicated mentors and co-mentors, for opening your research groups to our GSRM students, and for spending many hours helping our students experience the multifaceted aspects of genomics and genetics research. I thank our team in Pediatrics Research Enterprise group for putting their help throughout the year in organizing our program. Finally, I thank Gloria Slattum for her full-hearted dedication and for building an exceptionally successful inaugural summer.

Congratulations to all of you! I look forward to staying in touch with our GSRM students and hearing about your paths in future.

With Warmest Regards,
Joe"



Keep in touch! I hope our paths will cross again.



Many Many Thanks ...



GSRM Speakers

Lorenzo Botto
Judith Neugebauer
James Tabery
Andreana Holowatyj
Lynn Jorde
Martin Tristani
Claudio Villanueva
Jorge L. Contreras
Jose Rodriguez
Bradley L. Damarest

GSRM Office

H. Joseph Yost
Maija Holsti
Sarah Barth
Amanda Locke
Gloria Slattum
Many thanks to GSRM big
Brother: NARI program and
Scott Willi

Kind Support

All at the REO Office
Marilyn Jones
Brandi Johnson
Nancy Litz
Teresa Upton

GSRM Mentors and Co-mentors

Anne Blaschke
Shannon Nielsen
Josh Bonkowsky
Erika Scholl
Katy Glaittli
Clement Chow
Emily Coelho
Stavros G. Drakos
Sutip Navankasattusas
Thirupura Shankar
Dinesh Ramadurai
Angela Fagerlin
Rebecca Delaney
Kristen Kwan
Sri Pratima Nandamuri
Aaron Quinlan
Amelia Wallace
Paul A. Sigala
Amanda Mixon
Martin Tristani
Natalia Torres
Claudio Villanueva
Vanja Panic
Alana Welm
Alicia Lai
H. Joseph Yost
Angie Serrano

Friends from Abroad

For Sending Hummingbirds to Our Students
Jan Peychl, Czech Republic
Roman Kollar, Ecuador And Czech Republic
<https://www.bosquemedicinal.com/>
Tribu Saraguro, Familia Angel, Ecuador
Honza from Sklenářka, Czech Republic

And Too Many More ...

