



MINORITY DIVERSITY INITIATIVE RESEARCH OPPORTUNITIES FOR MINORITIES IN THE GENOMIC SCIENCES

DEBRA MURRAY, Ph.D.

Baylor College of Medicine
One Baylor Plaza
Suite N1519, MS: BCM226
Houston, Texas 77030

713.798.8083
ddm@bcm.edu
www.hgsc.bcm.edu/mdp

The **VISITING PROFESSORS** program provides opportunities for our program participants to meet minority scientists from around the country through this program. We are proud that 60 percent of our Visiting Professors are now our HGSC MDI alumni!

We offer a Bioinformatics BootCamp course to both our programs. In the field of genomics there is a critical need for more bioinformatics scientists and we want to provide an introduction to our program participants to encourage them to learn more about this area of science. We provide biomedical and bioinformatics lectures and workshops over a four day period to increase the exposure of life science and computer science majors. We provide guided coding exercises to increase the trainee's confidence to motivate them in their area of study.

The **HUMAN GENOME SEQUENCING CENTER (HGSC)** at Baylor College of Medicine created the Minority Diversity Initiative to increase under-represented minorities (URM) in the genomic sciences. Since 2003, our Minority Diversity Initiative (MDI) has successfully prepared our program participants for graduate school. Currently, our alumni include 6 Ph.D.s, 3 Ph.D. candidates defending this year, and 15 in graduate school. The HGSC-MDI includes a summer research internship and post-baccalaureate training. These programs offer training and support to assist URMs in gaining a Ph.D. in genomics and career advancement opportunities once they obtain their doctorate.

The **MINORITY DIVERSITY INITIATIVE** includes: the HGSC—Genetics/Genomics Research Education And Training (G/GREAT) program, and HGSC—Pre-Graduate Education Training (PGET) program. diverse parenting beliefs and values that sometimes differ from the parenting practices that are addressed in parenting interventions.

Our **HGSC-G/GREAT** Summer Research Program provides research opportunities in the genomic sciences for 6 URM for 9.5 weeks each summer.



Program components: Kaplan GREprep course, biomedical/genomics research project, HGSC-GREAT Genomics and Biomedical Review Course, HGSC-Bioinformatics BootCamp course, Ethics in Genomics lecture, biweekly SMART Seminar Series, discussions with Visiting Professors and other minority scientists, and other summer activities. Each student receives a stipend, program paid housing in dormitories at Rice University, and full access to BCM facilities.

Our **HGSC-PGET** post-baccalaureate program provides support for one year to increase URM trainees chances for graduate school acceptance. Our program provides paid salary (and benefits), Kaplan GREprep course, PREP Molecular Cell Biology course, tuition support for college level courses, Ethics in Genomics course, Bioinformatics BootCamp Course, Responsible Conduct in Research course, opportunity to meet Visiting Professors, Weekly Brown Bag Series, and opportunities to present research at student research conferences. We support HGSC Research Technicians who are already on staff and recently graduated URMs with bachelor's degrees in this program.

CONTINUED ►

