



January 21, 2010

The 2010 Howell-CSUPERB Research Scholar awards were announced January 9 by Dr. Mandy Butler, Howell Foundation Board member, at the awards banquet as part of the 22nd CSU Biotechnology Symposium. Awards totaling \$33,000 were made to 11 students from 9 different CSU universities. CSUPERB received 27 applications from students at 13 different CSU campuses.

CSUPERB has partnered 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. The Howell-CSUPERB Scholars show great professional promise academically and in research programs. Each scholar will be conducting faculty mentored research projects during 2010.

The Howell-CSUPERB Scholars for 2010 are:

1. Ashley Bonneau (Biology, CSU Channel Islands)

Award: \$3,000 for the proposal titled "Silencing of the Rheb Gene in Ovarian Cancer Cells Using RNA Interference." Mentor: Nitika Parmar.

2. Cynthia Contreras (Biology, CSU Fresno)

Award: \$3,000 for the proposal titled "The Mechanism of Bisphosphonate-Induced Downregulation of CYR61 in Breast Cancer." Mentor: Jason Bush.

3. Jonathan Eichelsdoerfer (Biology, CSU Fullerton)

Award: \$3,000 for the proposal titled "Trace Metal Dyshomeostasis in Human Lysosomal Storage Disease." Mentor: Math Cuajungco.

4. James Lee (Biology, CSU Los Angeles)

Award: \$3,000 for the proposal titled "Functional Analysis of the Casein Kinase Pathway in *Candida albicans vulvovaginitis*." Mentor: Hyunsook Park.

5. Carling McMichael (Biology, CSU Long Beach)

Award: \$3,000 for the proposal titled "Increases in MMP-1, MMP-3, and ADAM-17 proteases during ovarian recrudescence in Siberian hamsters." Mentor: Kelly Young.

6. Alex Pankov (Statistics and Applied Mathematics, San Francisco State University) Award: \$3,000 for the proposal titled "Different genomic signatures associated to estrogen receptor (ER) status in breast cancer patients." Mentor: Javier Arsuaga.

7. Chris Petro (Biotechnology, California State Polytechnic University, Pomona)

Award: \$3,000 for the proposal titled "Liposomal vaccine technologies for protecting poultry against H5~9 Influenza virus." Mentor: Jill Adler-Moore.

8. Tim Slugocki (Chemistry, San Diego State University)

Award: \$3,000 for the proposal titled "The Synthesis of Sansalvamide A Derivatives and Cytotoxicity in Brest Cancer Cell Lines." Mentor: Shelli McAlpine.

9. Vincent Trapani (Chemistry, California State University Sacramento)

Award: \$3,000 for the proposal titled " β -Lactosyl Amine Glycodendrimer Synthesis by Means of an Amide Linkage." Mentor: Katherine McReynolds.

10. Heather Upton (Biology, California State University, Fresno)

Award: \$3,000 for the proposal titled "Characterization of Bacillithiol Disulfide Reductase." Mentor: Mamta Rawat.

11. Yunxia Wei (Biotechnology, California State Polytechnic University, Pomona)

Award: \$3,000 for the proposal titled "Determination of binding interactions between retrocyclin and gp41." Mentor: Shantanu Sharma.