



December 19, 2011

The 2012 Howell-CSUPERB Research Scholar Awards have been made to 11 students from 7 different CSU universities, totaling \$33,000. CSUPERB received 32 applications from students at 15 different CSU campuses. Awardees will be recognized January 7, 2012 by Dr. Skai Krisans, Howell Foundation board member and President Rollin Richmond of Humboldt State University at the awards banquet of the 24<sup>th</sup> CSU Biotechnology Symposium.

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 2012.

The Howell-CSUPERB Scholars for 2012 are (in alphabetical order):

1. **Luigi Basilio** (Biological Science, California State University Fullerton)

Award: \$3,000 for the proposal titled "Functional characterization Mucolipin-1 and Transmembrane-163 Proteins." Mentor: Math Cuajungco

2. **Angela Beal** (Biological Sciences, California State Polytechnic University Pomona)

Award: \$3,000 for the proposal titled "Vaccine Strategies for Protecting Poultry Against Avian Influenza Infection: Liposomal M2e and NP Plasmid Vaccines." Mentor: Jill Adler-Moore

3. **Ellese Carmona** (Biology, San Diego State University)

Award: \$3,000 for the proposal titled "The Role of Extracellular Matrix Proteins in Group B Streptococcal Penetration of Host Cell Barriers." Mentor: Kelly Doran

4. **Stephanie Dreikorn** (Biological Sciences, California State University Fullerton)  
Award: \$3,000 for the proposal titled “Furin processing of the secreted extracellular matrix protein microfibril-associated glycoprotein-2 (MAGP-2).” Mentor: Alison Miyamoto
5. **Kelly Kivlahan** (Chemistry and Biochemistry, San Diego State University)  
Award: \$3,000 for the proposal titled “An Efficient Preparation of New Hepatitis C Virus Inhibitors.” Mentor: Mike Bergdahl
6. **Yu-Huey Lin** (Biological Sciences, California State Polytechnic University Pomona)  
Award: \$3,000 for the proposal titled “Serine/Threonine Phosphorylation Regulates TWIST1 Function in Promoting Breast Cancer Cell Invasion.” Mentor: Junjun Liu
7. **Kristine Miller** (Biological Sciences, San Jose State University)  
Award: \$3,000 for the proposal titled “An investigation into the Effect of Synaptic Activity on Synaptic Partner Recognition.” Mentor: Miri VanHoven
8. **Jazma Tapia** (Biological Sciences, California State University Los Angeles)  
Award: \$3,000 for the proposal titled “Assessing lipid-derived innate immune factors in amniotic fluid and vernix caseosa protecting against intrauterine infections.” Mentor: Edith Porter
9. **Tuyen Ngoc Tran** (Chemistry and Biochemistry, California State University Long Beach)  
Award: \$3,000 for the proposal titled “Second hand smoke exposure may predispose women to heart disease.” Mentor: Vasanthi Narayanaswami
10. **Nicholas Vierra** (Biological Sciences, California State University Chico)  
Award: \$3,000 for the proposal titled “3' RACE of a low-abundance microRNA in pancreatic beta cells.” Mentor: David Keller
11. **Andrew Yale** (Biology, California State University Fullerton)  
Award: \$3,000 for the proposal titled “Analysis of Furin Enzymatic Activity on the Maturation and Secretion of Microfibril-associated Glycoprotein-2.” Mentor: Alison Miyamoto