



SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH
UNIVERSITY AT ALBANY State University of New York



BMS | Department of
Biomedical Sciences

2011

Wadsworth Center

New York State
Department of Health

2011



**The New
Faces of BMS**



Faizzan Ahmad



Faizzan Ahmad is a PhD candidate in the Neuroscience track from New York City. He has a bachelor's degree in Molecular Biology and a Master of Arts in Molecular Cell and Developmental Biology from CUNY Queens College. He is currently rotating in the labs of Dr. Christopher Fasano and Dr. Sally Temple studying how neural stem cells decide to make neurons in different regions of the brain. Faizzan hopes to utilize stem cell biology to find cures for the most pressing diseases of our time.

Wei Du



Wei Du is pursuing a Master's degree and is interested in both the Immunology and Infectious Disease track and Neuroscience track. Wei is from China and received her undergraduate degree from Harbin Medical University of China and a Master's degree from Peking University. Currently, Wei is rotating in Dr. Valerie Bolivar's lab performing behavioral tests related to Autism.

Devon Marie Fitzgerald



Devon Fitzgerald is from Winston-Salem, NC and has a B.A. in Molecular Biology from Kenyon College. The Immunology and Infectious Disease track interests her because infectious disease is still a leading killer in many parts of the world; because of the poor infrastructure and living conditions in the areas most effected, infectious disease research could benefit from collaborations between laboratory research and public health fields such as epidemiology. During her career, Devon hopes to contribute to basic research that serves as a basis for improving global health while teaching and mentoring the next generation of scientists.

Jessica Gracias



Jessica Gracias is pursuing a Master's degree in the Neuroscience track. Jessica is from India, where she received her Bachelor of Pharmacy from Goa College of Pharmacy. Pursing a PhD is one of Jessica's long term goals. Currently, Jessica is working in Dr. X. Y. Chen's Lab studying H reflex conditioning and locomotion.

Sarah Hirsch



Sarah Hirsch is a PhD candidate from St. Louis, Missouri. As an undergraduate, Sarah studied Biology and English Literature at Yeshiva University and received her Master's degree in Biology from New York University. Currently, Sarah is deciding between the Neuroscience and Molecular Genetics tracks and looks forward to exploring each one further during rotations. During her career, she hopes to elucidate the underpinnings of disease that will manifest in clinical applications.

Danielle Kelley



Danielle Kelley is a PhD candidate from La Grande, Oregon. She attended Eastern Oregon University and has a bachelor's degree in Biochemistry. Danielle is interested in viral pathogens and their interaction with the host immune response and as such, chose the Immunology and Infectious Disease track. She feels that emerging infectious diseases are very important in our globalized community and thus would like to work for the CDC or WHO with emerging infectious diseases on an international level.

Elisabeth Knoll



Elisabeth Knoll is originally from Kinderhook, NY and is pursuing a PhD in the Infectious Disease and Immunology track. Elisabeth received her undergraduate degree from Russell Sage College in Troy, NY where she majored in Biology and Minored in Art. After her PhD, Elisabeth's professional goal is to become a key researcher in the biomedical sciences and find medical solutions to disease.

William Lainhart



William Lainhart is a PhD candidate from Clyde, NY (Central New York – Finger Lakes region) who studied Biological Sciences at Cornell University, College of Agriculture and Life Sciences. He is no stranger to SUNY as he has two Master degrees in Biological Sciences and Epidemiology from SUNY University at Buffalo. He is in the Infectious Disease and Immunology track which provides him the opportunity to obtain his professional goal of impacting zoonotic disease understanding, management and surveillance.

Kara Levinson



Kara Levinson is from Eagle River, Alaska and is a PhD candidate in the Immunology and Infectious Disease track. She holds a B.S. in Microbiology from Northern Arizona University and a MPH in Hospital & Epidemiology from University of Michigan. Kara's professional goal is to become a state public health laboratory director which will allow her to conduct novel research that has direct applications to contemporary healthcare issues.

Rachel Nelson



Rachel Nelson is from Saratoga Springs, NY and has a B.S. from Siena College in Loudonville, NY where she studied Biochemistry, Physics and Math. Rachel is in the Molecular Genetics track, in pursuit of a PhD, with a focus on cancer genomics. She chose to pursue a career in public health to assist in the national and global medical deficits to which she was exposed to while volunteering in both American and international medical clinics. Rachel plans to attend medical school after obtaining her PhD and hopes to continue her volunteer work in international health clinics as a profession.



Janmeet Singh Saini



Janmeet Singh Saini is pursuing his PhD and has chosen the Molecular Genetics track. Janmeet is from India, where he obtained his undergraduate degree in Human Genetics followed by a Master's degree in Human Genetics from Guru Nanak Dev University. He is currently rotating in Valerie Bolivar's lab studying the genetics of commissure development in mice. Upon graduation, Janmeet hopes to continue academic research in genetics.

Alicia Salinero



Alicia Salinero is in pursuit of a PhD and is in the Molecular Genetics track because it has a broad range of applications and is the basis for how things work. She is originally from Albany and received her bachelor's degree in Molecular Biology from Hampshire College in Amherst, MA. Alicia is currently rotating in Joan Curcio's lab working on inserting an inducible promoter in TY1 retrotransposons in yeast.

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Malini Solanki



Malini Solanki has joined the BMS department as a Master's candidate. She is from New Jersey and has a BS in Biology Neuroscience from Penn State University. She is in the Neuroscience track and looks forward to continuing her research and making a difference in the field. Her work in Dr. Bolivar's lab, studying the anatomy and behavior of BTBR mice, has resulted in two presentations for the upcoming Neuroscience Meeting in November along with manuscripts for two publications.

