

2021 WV-INBRE Summer Research Symposium

Undergraduate college students, the majority from West Virginia, showcased their research projects on July 30th in Huntington, WV as part of the 19th Annual West Virginia IDeA Network for Biomedical



Research (WV-INBRE) Summer Research Symposium. During the 2021 Summer Program, WV-INBRE supported twenty-eight undergraduate interns, one faculty fellow, and six high school science teachers from the West Virginia HSTA program. Seventeen interns and the faculty fellow carried out their research at West Virginia University. Eleven interns conducted their research at Marshall University. The high school science teachers performed their research at Bluefield State College, Shepherd University, West Virginia University, and Marshall University.



The research projects presented at the symposium were conducted under the direction of faculty mentors during an intensive 8-week period. The projects included studies on traumatic brain injuries, neonatal abstinence syndrome, aging, vaping, opioid use disorder, head and neck cancer, among others.

WV-INBRE, which is designed to support biomedical research in the state, is funded by a grant from the National Institutes of Health (NIH) to Marshall University, in cooperation with West Virginia University and fourteen other colleges and universities in the state. The summer program allows students enrolled in the Primarily Undergraduate Institutions (PUIs) in the WV-INBRE network research opportunities in labs at both Marshall University and West Virginia University. In addition to the formal research training they receive, students attend workshops and seminars aimed at helping them understand the research process and graduate education.

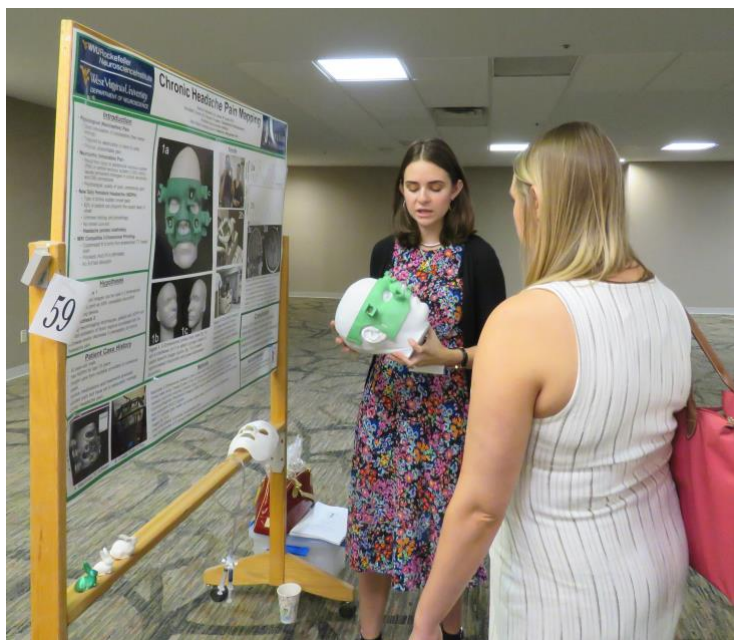
The morning session of the symposium began with oral presentations by:

. Fallon Gallimore (University of Charleston), Olivia Carpenter (West Virginia Wesleyan College), Emily Taylor (University of Charleston), and Bailey Fedun (Alderson Broaddus University); Summer Research Program Interns.

. Rebecca Spicher, High School Science Teacher at North Marion High School; WV-INBRE/HSTA Summer Research Fellow.

. Dr. Karen Kormuth, Assistant Professor in the Department of Biology at Bethany College; Summer Faculty Fellow.

This year's summer research symposium featured keynote speaker was Dr. Sally Hodder, Director of the West Virginia Clinical and Translational Science Institute, Associate Vice President for Clinical and transnational Research, and Professor of medicine at the West Virginia University School of Medicine. Dr. Hodder's talk was highly inspirational, informative, and very well received by everybody in attendance.



Following a luncheon, the symposium continued with poster presentations by students and faculty. There was a total of 83 posters. Participants presenting posters included: summer undergraduate interns and the faculty fellow from the PUIs who conducted research at West Virginia University and Marshall University during the 8-week summer research program, and students and faculty conducting research at their home institutions. The

high school science teachers supported by the WV-INBRE/HSTA initiative also presented posters.