

Major PUI Research Awards

One key aspect for development of the research network at the partner institutions is the funding of major PUI research awards to investigators. These awards serve as a major mechanism to establish research programs at partner institutions and broaden student exposure to biomedical research. Major PUI research awards provide funding for biomedical research projects within the multi-disciplinary research theme of WV-INBRE: cellular and molecular biology with an emphasis on chronic diseases, provide significant research opportunities for PUI students, and contribute to the infrastructure building in biomedical research capability at the partner institutions. These projects are also important for establishing collaborations and mentoring relationships between Project Investigators and lead institution researchers. All partner institutional faculty members within the research network are eligible to apply for these awards. A PUI faculty member cannot hold more than one major PUI research award concurrently. Awards are made for up to three years for a maximum of \$100,000 per year in direct costs. However, if an application includes the use of the Bioinformatics Core, Genomics Core and/or is focused on the use of a natural product in a research project focused on the theme of the Center for Natural Products Research, then the investigator may request up to \$125,000 per year in direct costs for up to three years. Up to four awards will be active in any one year. Requests for Proposals will be released as needed to fulfill the number of available awards.

All major PUI research projects must have a mentor. Dr. Drew Shiemke (Mentoring Coordinator, WVU) and Dr. Stan Hileman (Program Coordinator, PC, WVU) can assist partner investigators in selecting an appropriate faculty mentor from the lead institutions prior to submission of their applications, to assist them in preparing a competitive application. Mentors will be experienced senior scientists with a scientific expertise that matches the focus of the proposed research project. **Milestones** for each of the major PUI research projects will be provided to both the PI and their mentor. The major milestones are: Year 1: Establish infrastructure and attend a national/international research meeting related to the WV-INBRE funded project. Year 2: Same as year 1 PLUS present research results at a national/international meeting from the WV-INBRE-funded project and submit a manuscript for publication based on research results from the WV-INBRE funded project. Year 3: Same as Year 2 PLUS publish one or more manuscripts based on WV-INBRE funded project and submit a biomedical research grant to a national funding agency (e.g. NIH, AHA, ACS, etc.).

2019 Awards

Deanna Schmitt, Ph.D.

West Liberty University

Mentor: Heath Damron, Ph.D.

West Virginia University

Mechanism of action and efficacy of resazomycins, a novel family of antibiotics

James Walters, Ph.D.

Bluefield State College

Mentor: John Hollander, Ph.D.

West Virginia University

Metabolic regulation of mitochondrial dynamics during lipid droplet formation

2020 Awards

Deanna Schmitt, Ph.D.

West Liberty University

Mentor: Heath Damron, Ph.D.

West Virginia University

Mechanism of action and efficacy of resazomycins, a novel family of antibiotics

James Walters, Ph.D.

Bluefield State College

Mentor: John Hollander, Ph.D.

West Virginia University

Metabolic regulation of mitochondrial dynamics during lipid droplet formation

Crystal Boudreaux, Ph.D.

West Virginia School of

Osteopathic Medicine

Mentor: Cory Robinson, Ph.D.

West Virginia University

The role of AMPK pathway intermediates in rotavirus pathogenesis

Tamer Fandy, Ph.D.

University of Charleston

Mentor: Lori Hazlehurst, Ph.D.

West Virginia University

Comprehensive epigenomic and transcriptomic profiling of acute myeloid leukemia