

## **Eight minority undergraduate students selected to participate in annual Minority Biomedical Research Support symposium in New Mexico**

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Eight minority undergraduate students from the University of California, San Diego have been selected to participate in a national scientific symposium for minority biomedical researchers April 3-5 in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

One of the students, Diana L. Villanueva of Third College, will present a research paper on which she was a contributor in a session before other students who are pursuing careers in medical research related fields. Other UC San Diego students who are attending the symposium are: Ralph Olivier, Ernesto Rubio, Fermin Garduno, Thomas Packer and Ralph Reyes all of Third College; Eduardo Bermudez of Revelle College and Arleta Smith of Warren College.

Dr. Willie C. Brown, associate professor of biology and program director for the Minority Biomedical Research Support (MBRS) grant at UC San Diego, will travel to the meeting with the students.

"This annual meeting provides a forum for students to present and exchange information about research projects in which they have participated," Brown said. "It also provides an opportunity for students to seek out and identify with role models who are accomplished scientists and presents a chance for students from developing institutions to interact with other students from more developed and larger institutions."

The tenth annual MBRS symposium is sponsored by the Division of Research Resources of the National Institutes of Health and the University of New Mexico School of Medicine. It is the largest scientific gathering involving minorities in the United States with over 1,500 attendees from 81 MBRS schools.

The MBRS program at UC San Diego is intended to increase the involvement of ethnic minority students and faculty in the biomedical sciences. The NIH grants to schools throughout the U.S. include funds to pay salaries of students who serve as research personnel, to help release faculty from heavy teaching loads to conduct research projects and for travel to the annual MRS symposium and to other scientific meetings.

For more information contact: Paul W. West, 452-3120

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