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April 2012 Highlights



MURI Scholar Cansu Sener presents her team's research at Research Day 2012

MURI Team Projects Announced

The Center for Research and Learning is pleased to announce the Summer 2012 MURI team research projects that have been funded. Eight projects were chosen representing several different disciplines. We are currently in the process of selecting students to work on the projects and we are very excited about this upcoming summer program. Congratulations to all of our team researchers! Please click the list below to see each of the projects.

» [MURI Team Projects](#)



Research Day was a huge success!

Research Day 2012 Recap

The Research Day events began in the morning with undergraduate, graduate and professional student poster presentations and undergraduate oral presentations. There were about 170 presentations in the morning sessions alone. In the afternoon, faculty members were given a chance to present. This year's keynote address was given by Dr. Joan Ferrini-Mundy, Assistant Director for Education and Human Resources of the National Science Foundation.

Research Day provides an opportunity for the IUPUI faculty, staff and students and their academic, industrial and governmental partners, and the broader community to come together and find out more about the research enterprise at IUPUI, explore new collaborations and lay the foundation for new partnerships.

Congratulations to everyone who presented!

» [Click for more information](#)

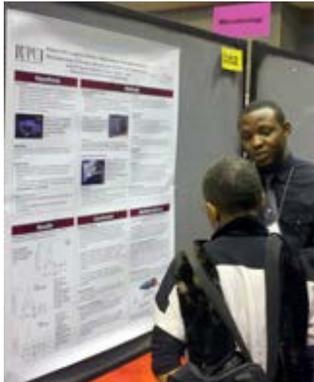


The ISSEC Competition honed the students presentation skills.

ISSEC Competition Recap

The Ideas Solving Social and Economic Challenges (ISSEC) is a competition to reward IUPUI students for their innovative ideas to solve social and economic challenges facing the nation and the world. The emphasis of the competition is on providing answers to real-world problems, through new approaches, products, services or ventures. The student competitors had just three minutes to convince the judges that their ideas were the best. They were not allowed to use props, slides or any other visual aids.

» [Read More on ISSEC](#)
 » [ISSEC Website](#)



Daniel Popoola at ABRMS.

Undergraduate Student Feature: Daniel Popoola

Daniel Popoola, a senior majoring in biology at the Purdue School of Science, is an **Indiana Clinical and Translational Science Institute Scholar (CTSI)** and a **McNair Postbaccalaureate Achievement Program Scholar (McNair)**. "CTSI introduced me to research. As the first program that I participated in, it unveiled my potentials in the field of research. And later, the McNair program curriculum guided me through effectively planning my future. The McNair program is a career builder."

Daniel works with his mentor, Dr. Zachary Rodd, researching the effects of nicotine on alcohol-seeking behavior by microinjection directly into the brain, using rat models. The clinical implication of their project is to, "understand and eventually secure a pharmaco-therapeutic means of averting the negative consequences of the simultaneous consumption of nicotine and alcohol over addiction to both drugs."

Daniel presented his research at the National Conference for Undergraduate Research in March 2012 and at IUPUI Research Day in April 2012. He also presented before the United States Congress at the Posters on the Hill event at Capitol Hill, Washington DC at the end of April.

➤ [Click here for more on Daniel](#)



Dr. Zachary Rodd

Mentor Feature: Dr. Zachary Rodd

Dr. Zachary Rodd is currently a preceptor on a research training program in the genetic aspects of alcoholism. He is also a preceptor for a first year medical course that introduces new medical students to the dynamics of doctor-patient interactions. In addition, he acts as a mentor to post-doctoral fellows, graduate students and undergraduate students. When asked what it's been like working with his mentor, Daniel Popoola said, "Working with [Dr. Rodd] is simply an outstanding experience. Every single step of the learning process, both inside and outside the lab, is always educative and entertaining."

Dr. Rodd's current research projects include the examination of the natural reward system, the development of novel drug-seeking models, elucidating the neurocircuitry of drug reward and seeking, developing models of excessive alcohol consumption (and the biological basis for the transformation from moderate intake to problematic intake), regulation of drug addiction by neuropeptides and neuroimmune factors, the development of polydrug abuse models and the alterations in gene and protein expression in discrete brain regions produced by chronic drug use.

➤ [Click for more on Dr. Zachary Rodd](#)



Tomás Mejome won the BJR Award.

Congratulations to our Award Winners!

Congratulations to all of our CRL award winners for 2012. We are so impressed with your work this year.

Alyssa Gutiérrez: 2012 IUPUI Chancellor's Award for Outstanding Undergraduate Research; **Tomás Mejome:** 2012 Bowling-Jones-Russo Memorial Undergraduate Research Award; **Dr. Stephen K. Randall:** 2012 Center for Research and Learning Director's Award for Outstanding Leadership in Mentoring Undergraduates

Our Research Day award winners are:

Tsungai Chingombe, for "Effect of Treadmill Running on Cardiac and Skeletal Muscle Metabolism and Right-ventricle Inflammation in Rats with Pulmonary Arterial Hypertension"; **Alyssa Gutiérrez,** for "Effectiveness of an At-home Based, Physical-activity Program for Families who have Children with Intellectual Disabilities"; **Floyd Timm,** for "Head Circumference, as

Predicted by Facial Measures in Mouse Model of FASD"; **Sonya Waterhouse**, for "Characteristics of Museum-exhibit Learning Objects in the 21st Century"; **Oaksoon Callahan, Samantha Adamson, and Amanda Jolliffe**, for "Super Bowl City: The Real Faces of XLVI Unmasked"; **Cornelius Audu**, for "How Maltose-binding Proteins Recognize Substrates: Insights from Computer Simulations"; **Ahmed Malik**, for "Embryonic Bone Development and NFAT Expression in the TS65DN Mouse Model for Down Syndrome"

- » [Click here to learn about our CRL Awards](#)
- » [Click here to learn about our Research Day Awards](#)



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Like us on Facebook!



Nanotechnology students at work

Nanotechnology Discovery Summer Camp for High School Students, Summer 2012

The IUPUI Nanotechnology Discovery Academy (INDA) Summer Camp is a week-long day camp (June 11-15, 2012, or June 25-29, 2012) that provides a unique opportunity for high-school students entering their sophomore, junior and senior years to explore the interdisciplinary field of nanotechnology on the IUPUI campus. Nanotechnology concerns the control of matter in the nanometer scale: one nanometer is one billionth of a meter, or 100,000 times smaller than the diameter of a human hair. This cutting-edge field is becoming an essential part of science, engineering, medicine and many other disciplines. The camp fee (\$295) covers all camp materials and supplies and includes daily lunch and the cost of one IUPUI course credit. Need-based scholarships may be available; housing and transportation unavailable. APPLICATION DEADLINE: MAY 18, 2012.

Participating high-school students will work with faculty mentors to:

- Discover innovative technologies
- Gain hands-on laboratory experience
- Engage in research and learning activities
- Earn one college-credit hour in science or engineering

- » [For more on Nanotech Camp](#)



Mark Canner (left), MURI and UROP Scholar at 2012 Research Day

One More Chance to be a Leader in Research

The CRL invites all current and past CRL scholars to submit an application to become a CRL Ambassador!

The Center for Research and Learning Ambassadors Program provides students with the chance to network with research faculty and community members, plus gain invaluable experience and exposure by promoting their research and the center to students, alumni and the community. These students would encourage student interest in undergraduate research, advocate for the interests of undergraduate-student researchers and attend CRL events and conferences.

To be selected for the newly formed Ambassadors Program requires that you be a current or previous participant in any CRL program, be a currently enrolled student at IUPUI, and maintain a respectable GPA. Because Ambassadors represent the CRL, they must ensure the Center's reputation

is preserved. Once you've applied, you will need to be nominated by a faculty member and then if selected undergo a personal interview. Applicants also must provide outside references. Once chosen, the successful candidates will be appointed by the Center for Research and Learning for one year.

» [Click here to apply](#)



Share the News with CRL

The Center for Research and Learning needs your input! We are looking for news to recognize the achievement of student research scholars, promote student organizations and share ideas. Please contact us at crlstaff@iupui.edu.

