Happy Holidays from the UChicago PREP!

The University of Chicago PREP Program would like to wish a Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays to all of our PREP Scholars, alums and friends, and best wishes for the New Year! We are proud of all you have accomplished and as always would love to hear from you with any updates. Our news is that the UChicago PREP has a publication about our program currently in press. We’ll let you know when the publication is available to read.

Wishing you all peace, health and happiness this holiday season and throughout 2020,

The UChicago PREP staff

UChicago PREP attends the 2019 ABRCMS Conference

All 8 current UChicago PREP Scholars along with Director Dr. Nancy Schwartz attended the Annual Biomedical Research Conference for Minority Students (ABRCMS) professional development and graduate fair conference in November 2019, in Anaheim, California. Three Scholars were selected to present posters on their research and all attended networking sessions, research presentations, workshops, and recruitment fairs in order to prepare for their graduate applications. All have now submitted applications to PhD programs and are currently anxiously waiting their interviews and decisions regarding graduate school next year.

PREP/IMSD Midwest Regional Symposium 2020

The annual PREP/IMSD Midwest Regional Symposium, “Scientific Innovation Through Diverse Perspectives”, will be held May 8-9, 2020 at the Mayo Clinic campus in Rochester, MN. With the theme “Clear Vision for 20/20”, PREP and IMSD students will have an opportunity to attend career development sessions, give oral or poster presentations, and network with other local students from PREP and IMSD programs in the Midwest area. This event is highly anticipated each year and is sure to be a highlight of the year for our current PREP Scholars. Registration is due in early February – look for more details to come soon and save the date!

UChicago PREP Application

The 2020-2021 PREP application is now open! Interested students can apply through our website by March 31, 2020: https://bsdprep.uchicago.edu/. Applicants are selected on a rolling basis, so all are encouraged to apply early!
PREP Alum Updates

Congrats to all of our former PREP Scholars who have completed their graduate degrees! 29 UChicago PREP alums have received their PhD so far and overall over 94% of our PREP alums have matriculated into higher education graduate programs. We are very proud of all of you!

2019 PhD and MD Graduates

Nathalia Torres Jimenez, PhD, University of Minnesota (PREP class of 2012)
Yaiyr Astudillo-Scalia, PhD, Arizona State University (PREP class of 2013)
Leila Reyes Ruiz, PhD, University of Chicago (PREP class of 2014)
Natassia Buckridge, MD, University of Illinois (PREP class of 2015)
Liz García Peterson, PhD, University of Wisconsin-Madison (PREP class of 2015)

Our full list of graduates is posted on our website. If you’ve graduated recently, please let us know! Fill out our 2019 PREP Alum Survey.

PREP Alum Spotlight

Dr. Liz M. García Peterson, PhD, completed the UChicago PREP program in 2015 then enrolled at the University of Wisconsin-Madison for her graduate studies in Molecular & Environmental Toxicology. Under the mentorship of her thesis advisor, Dr. Nihal Ahmad, Liz studied the role of the SIRT6 protein in melanoma development and progression. Her dissertation research led to 4 publications including 2 first author manuscripts. Throughout graduate school, Liz attended AACR and other national conferences where she presented her research. She was supported by a SciMed Graduate Research Scholar (GRS) Fellowship and an NIAMS Diversity Supplement while at UW-M. Liz was also involved in organizing science outreach activities for graduate students, and served as a TA and mentor in the laboratory to undergraduate students. Liz graduated from UW-Madison with her PhD in May, 2019 and was subsequently awarded an NIH IRTA Fellowship. She is now continuing her postdoctoral studies at the National Institute of Health in Washington, D.C.

Congratulations Liz on all your accomplishments!

If you have any recent awards or career news that you would like to share, please e-mail us at lrisner1@pedsbsd.uchicago.edu or fill out our 2019 PREP Alum Survey. We’d love to hear from you!

The University of Chicago PREP has a new website! Visit us at: http://bsdprep.uchicago.edu/