IBB's 2007 SUMMER UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH POSTER SESSION

The IBB 2007 Summer Undergraduate Research Poster Session was a success and marked the end of the HHMI Bionanotechnology and NSF REU Cellular Engineering IBB 2007 Summer Undergraduate Programs. The following three undergraduates each won $100 top prizes for their poster presentations based on their outstanding scientific merit of the work, appearance of their poster, and their oral presentation/ discussion:

- **Nicholas Frankel**, a HHMI Bionanotechnology Intern working in the laboratory of **Dr. Michael Diehl**, won a top prize for his poster entitled "Modular Enzyme Microarrays for Metabolic Engineering."
- **Iris Kim**, a NSF REU Cellular Engineering Intern working in the laboratory of **Dr. Jennifer West**, won a top prize for her poster entitled "Regulation of Endothelial Vessel Formation in Synthetic Biomimetic Hydrogels."
- **James Ramos**, a NSF REU Cellular Engineering Intern working in the laboratory of **Dr. Ka-Yiu San**, won a top prize for his poster entitled "Recombinant *E. Coli* Succinate Production from Different Carbon Sources."

A group shot of some of the IBB NSF REU and HHMI participants at the IBB 2007 Summer Undergraduate Research Poster Session

EDGAR O'REAR TRAVEL GRANT RECIPIENTS

Edgar O'Rear Travel Grants are given to outstanding graduate students of IBB faculty members. Selected recipients can receive up to $2500 for costs associated with attending a scientific conference. Students are nominated by their IBB advisor who submits the student's curriculum vitae, the name and description of the conference that the student would attend, a brief statement from the advisor regarding the benefits of this meeting for the student, and a budget of anticipated costs for attending the conference.

The 2007 Edgar O'Rear Travel Grant recipients are:

- **Janet Barzilla**, a Bioengineering graduate student, will attend the Heart Valve Biology Conference.
- **Eric Botello**, a Physics & Astronomy graduate student, will attend the Biophysical Society.
- **Zannatul Ferdous**, a Bioengineering graduate student, will attend the Gordon Research Conference.
- **Leda Klouda**, a Bioengineering graduate student, will attend the World Biomaterials Congress Conference.
- **Rahul Kumar Das**, a Chemistry graduate student, will attend the Biophysical Society Conference.
- **Julia Leslie**, a Bioengineering graduate student, will attend the World Biomaterials Congress Conference.
- **Yang Lu**, a Mechanical Engineering graduate student, will attend the American Society for Mechanical Engineering Conference.
- **Christie Peebles**, a Bioengineering graduate student, will attend the American Institute of Chemical Engineers Conference.
- **Sarah Ratzel**, a Biochemistry & Cell Biology graduate student, will attend the Plant Biology 2008 Conference.
- **Elizabeth Stephens**, a Bioengineering graduate student, will attend the Heart Valve Biology Conference.
- **Yen Sun**, a Physics & Astronomy graduate student, will attend the Biophysical Society Conference.
- **Yitai Tang**, a Biochemistry & Cell Biology graduate student, will attend the American Society for Cell Biology Conference.
- **Cuong Than**, a Computer Science graduate student, will attend the Asia Pacific Bioinformatics Conference.

Congratulations to these IBB graduate student scientific conference ambassadors!

HHMI Intern Nicholas Frankel accepts his top prize poster award from Dr. Jennifer West.

NSF REU Intern Iris Kim accepts her top prize poster award from Dr. Jennifer West, IBB's Director.

HHMI Intern Karl Runbeck explains his poster to Dr. Stacey Kalovidouris, IBB's Executive Director.

PROFILES OF THE CURRENT NIH BIOTECHNOLOGY TRAINING GRANT GRADUATE STUDENTS

The Biotechnology Training Program for PhD graduate students was established by an NIH Training Grant awarded to the Institute of Biosciences and Bioengineering at Rice University in 1991. The goal of the training program is to train graduate students from various disciplines in the broad aspects of biotechnology and in the industrial application of these techniques. The program provides stipends and research support for graduate students interested in a research career in biotechnology. It allows students access to the tools of biotechnology while specializing in a particular research area. Students receive training in broad areas of biotechnology that relate to commercial application of these techniques. A core of

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