ILLINOIS SUMMER RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM

Broadening participation in higher education
July 21-22, 2016 | I-Hotel and Conference Center
Welcome to the 2016 Summer Research Symposium. The Graduate College at Illinois is very proud to sponsor this annual symposium, which showcases our equity and diversity programs along with the exceptional research talents of the next generation of scholars.

This year’s conference is the culmination of two longstanding Graduate College programs, SPI and SROP at Illinois, and seven partner programs: Discoveries in Bioimaging, EBICS, McNair, nano@illinois, POETS, SROP at UIC, and SURE Tox—each of which is dedicated to broadening participation in graduate education.

The success of these programs depends on the boundless energy and aspiration of the participating students as well as the dedication of the team leaders, program directors, and staff who help those students thrive. It is also the result of the commitment and inspiration of faculty who serve as mentors. Their passion and generosity make achievement possible and we are deeply appreciative of their time and effort.

On behalf of the Graduate College, I’d like to thank you for joining us for the 2016 Illinois Summer Research Symposium. Your participation is truly appreciated.

Sincerely,

Wojtek Chodzko-Zajko
Dean of the Graduate College
PARTICIPATING PROGRAMS

DISCOVERIES IN BIOIMAGING REU
National Science Foundation Research Experience for Undergraduates for Discoveries in Bioimaging

EBICS REU
National Science Foundation Center on Emergent Behaviors of Integrated Cellular Systems

MCNAIR
TRiO Ronald E. McNair Postbaccalaureate Achievement Program

NANO@ILLINOIS (REU AND RET)
National Science Foundation Research Experience for Undergraduates and National Science Foundation Research Experience for Teachers

POETS
Power Optimization of Electro-Thermal Systems

SPI
Summer Pre-Doctoral Institute

SROP AT ILLINOIS
Summer Research Opportunities Program for Undergraduates at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

SROP AT UIC
Summer Research Opportunities Program for Undergraduates at the University of Illinois at Chicago

SURE Tox
Summer Undergraduate Research Experience in Toxicology at the University of Illinois
SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

THURSDAY, JULY 21

12:00 – 1:00 p.m   Check-in & Registration – Chancellor Ballroom (Outside)
12:00 – 1:30 p.m   Lunch for Registered Attendees – Illinois Ballroom A
1:15 – 1:30 p.m   Welcome – Illinois Ballroom A
       Speaker: Daniel Wong, Associate Director, Educational Equity Programs, Graduate College
1:45 – 2:45 p.m   Poster Session I (Posters 1-35) – Chancellor Ballroom
3:00 – 4:00 p.m   Poster Session II (Posters 36-71) – Chancellor Ballroom
4:15 – 5:15 p.m   Speed Networking Social Event – Illinois Ballroom B & C
5:30 – 6:30 p.m   Dinner for Registered Attendees – Illinois Ballroom A
6:30 – 8:00 p.m   Talent Show – Chancellor Ballroom

FRIDAY, JULY 22

9:30 – 10:30 a.m.   Session 1 – Oral Presentations, various
10:45 – 11:45 a.m.   Session 2 – Oral Presentations, various
12:00 – 12:50 p.m.   Lunch – Faculty Appreciation Lunch, Chancellor Ballroom
       Speaker: Assata Zerai, Associate Dean, Graduate College
1:00 – 2:00 p.m.   Session 3 – Roundtable Presentations (Tables 1-11) – Illinois Ballroom A
2:15 – 3:15 p.m.   Session 4 – Roundtable Presentations (Tables 12-22) – Illinois Ballroom A
3:30 – 4:30 p.m.   Session 5 – Oral Presentations, various
4:45 – 5:45 p.m.   Session 6 – Oral Presentations, various
6:00 – 8:00 p.m.   Dinner for Registered Attendees – Chancellor Ballroom
6:45 – 7:15 p.m.   Award Presentations – Chancellor Ballroom
7:15 – 7:45 p.m.   Keynote Speaker – Chancellor Ballroom
       Ave Alvarado, Director, Educational Equity Programs, Graduate College

All conference sessions, meals, and speakers will be held in the I Hotel and Conference Center
POSTER PRESENTATION SCHEDULE - SESSION I

1. The Semiotic Organization of Inconsistencies and Credibility in a Criminal Trial
   Angelica Lago | SROP-UIC

2. African American Mothers’ Trajectory Identifying a Need and Seeking Mental Health Services for their Children with a Disruptive Behavior Disorder
   Alexandra Ramos Fernandez | SROP-UIC

3. Caring for our American Heroes: Need of Yesterday and Today Veterans with the Implications of Caregivers
   Abisola Smith | SROP-UIUC

4. The Impact of Microaggressions on Black Women in Higher Education
   Brittnee Bolton | SROP-UIUC

5. Financial Effects of Removing Antibiotics from the Livestock Industry
   Brian Cornish | SROP-UIUC

6. Alignment and Deposition of Nanowires in Microfluidic Devices
   Zachary Roga | SROP-UIUC

7. Functionalities of Porins and Efflux Pumps in Escherichia coli and their Influences on Antibiotic Resistance
   Kristen Munoz | SROP-UIUC

8. Spliceosomal U1A-SL2 RNA Complex Binding Affinity in Macromolecular Crowding
   Andres Arango | SPI-UIUC

9. Response to Brain Injury in the Hypoxia-Tolerant Naked Mole-Rat
   Tatiana Betancur Giraldo | SROP-UIC

10. Identifying Barriers and Facilitators associated with Policy Implementation of the Baby-Friendly Initiative (BFHI) in Rural Illinois Hospitals
    Winifred Obanor | SROP-UIC

11. Photo-induced Spin Crossover Phase Transitions of [Fe(HTrz)2(trz)][BF4] within the Thermal Hysteresis Loop
    Aaron Mena | SROP-UIUC

12. Prenatal Exposure to a Phthalate Mixture Causes Transgenerational Effects in the Uterus
    Jerrica Gibson | SROP-UIUC

13. Maternal Stress and its Association with Cognitive Behavior in Infants
    Shade Rodriguez | SROP-UIUC

14. Evaluating Camera-Based Navigation of a Ground Robot
    Abdiel Pérez | SROP-UIUC

15. Charge Pattern Effects on Polyelectrolyte Counterion Condensation
    Jason Madinya | SPI-UIUC

16. A Synthesis Route to Functionalize Polyethylene for the Capture of Carbon Dioxide
    Alexander Horn | SPI-UIUC
POSTER PRESENTATION SCHEDULE - SESSION I

17. Investigating a Cheaper More Efficient Method of Generating and Interpreting Electromyography Signals for Muscle Activation
   Viviana Bermudez | SROP-UIUC

18. Model-Based Design of Electro-Thermal Systems
   Angel Rosado | SROP-UIUC

19. Effects of Vegetative Morphology on Mean Flow and Turbulent Statistics in Oscillatory Flows
   Gerardo Veliz | SROP-UIUC

20. Nanoimaging of Polymeric Systems
   Boris Djiguemde | SROP-UIUC

21. Three Dimensional In-Vitro Culture Platform for Neuromuscular Junctions in a Physiologically Relevant Setting
   Roy Brooks Rivera | SROP-UIUC

22. Identifying the Role for shp in Preventing Cholestasis
   Ryan Shaw | SROP-UIUC

23. Elucidating the Effect of BPA Exposure on Corticotrope Function
   Rae-Shelle Mortimer | SROP-UIUC

24. Graphene Kirigami
   Erik Vyhmeister | SROP-UIUC

25. Cheese, Meat, and Oil: Fat Consumption among Mexican Americans and Association with Diabetes
   Andrea Huerta | McNair

26. CNT-PVA Highly Aligned Composites
   Daniel Jacques | SROP-UIUC

27. Quantifying the Emergent Behaviors of Neurons
   Olaoluwa Akinsola | SROP-UIUC

28. Image Analysis Method for All Optical Stimulation and Recordings from Neurons in Culture
   Denise Medina | SROP-UIUC

29. Evaluation of Adipose-derived Mesenchymal Stem Cells for their Effect on Angiogenesis and Muscle Recovery in Diabetic Hindlimb Ischemic Mice
   Hannah Bouvin | SROP-UIUC

30. Growth Techniques to Synthesis Scalable Two-Dimensional Materials for Heterostructures Devices
   Fatou Cisse | SROP-UIUC

31. Evaluation of Binding Affinity through SPR of Quantum Dot-antibody Conjugates to VEGF and PDGF Receptors
   Jacob Erstling | SROP-UIUC

32. Hydrogels for Suture Applications
   Tremaan Robbins | SROP-UIUC
POSTER PRESENTATION SCHEDULE - SESSION I

33. Quantitative Analysis of Binding and Internalization of Pro-Inflammatory and Anti-Inflammatory Cytokines in Macrophages
   Sophie Xie | SROP-UIUC

34. Fabrication of Graphene Bowties
   Eric Wynne | SROP-UIUC

35. Calibration and Optimization of Microfluidic Device for Clinical Pathology
   Kinsey Schultheis | Bioimaging-REU
36. The Impact of Airbnb in Exacerbating the Available Housing Stock
   Gianna Partee | SROP-UIUC

   Evelyn Zepeda | McNair

38. How Latino Cultural Values Influence the Health of Familial Caregivers
   Ayerin Gomez | SROP-UIC

39. Do Students of Color Experience Hostile Behavior on a Midwest University Campus
   Nick Flores | SROP-UIUC

40. Health amongst Women and Children in Tanzania: How Health Activism has Influenced Health Policy There
   Xavier Rogers | SROP-UIUC

41. In Utero Exposure to di(2-ethylhexyl) phthalate in Mice Affects Development and Function of the Uterus
   Reinaldo Mercado | SROP-UIUC

42. Neonicotinoids and the Inflammatory Response in Porcine PBMC’s
   Imani Williams | SROP-UIUC

43. Characterizing the Growth of Spinal Cord Tissue in Co-culture with C2C12 Myoblast Strips
   Christopher Brenden | SROP-UIUC

44. Confirming Computational Models of Anti-Angiogenic Treatments with Enzyme Linked Immunosorbent Assays
   Nicole Grubb | SROP-UIUC

45. Progress towards the Total Synthesis of the Isomalabaricane Natural Product Skeleton
   Jordan Langston | SPI-UIUC

46. Sedentary Lifestyle Behaviors and Attention Hyperactivity Disorder in Children
   Lundon Burton | SROP-UIC

47. The Transgenerational Effects of Pre-natal Exposure to BPA on the Gonadal Development and Cognitive Behavior in Male Mice
   Rekia Salter | SROP-UIUC

48. Developing a Proportional-Integral-Derivative Control Demonstrator to Improve Undergraduate Education
   Mark Lozano | SROP-UIUC

49. Using Multiple AprilTags for Post Estimation
   Francesca Palamara | SROP-UIUC

50. Using Machine Learning to Image Biomechanical Properties of Soft Tissue with Neural Networks
   Wendy Reyes | SROP-UIUC
51. Is Stream Size a Determining Factor of Species Richness and Total Abundance of Caddisflies (Trichoptera)
   Jeff Jaureguy | SROP-UIUC

52. Active Hot Spot Cooling with Jumping Droplet Condensation
   Sabrina Yin | SROP-UIUC

53. A Look into the Theory and Applications of Superhydrophobic Surfaces
   James Carpenter | SPI-UIUC

54. Performance of Zinc Electrode in a Desalination Battery
   Emmanuel Kayiwa | SROP-UIUC

55. Effect of Growth Factor Supplementation on Cell Behavior in Mineralized polycaprolactone–collagen–glycosaminoglycans (PCL-CGCaP) Scaffolds
   Aleczandria Tiffany | SPI-UIUC

56. Label-free and Non-invasive Identification of 32D Cells and Mesenchymal Stem Cells Using Raman Spectroscopy
   Isamar Pastrana-Otero | SPI-UIUC

57. A Comparison of Mouse Embryonic Stem Cell Differentiation Protocols for the Production of Functional Motor Neurons for Use in the Field of Soft Robotics
   Sekinat Mumuney | SROP-UIUC

58. Effects of Inflammatory Bowel Disease on Bone Strength and Density During Development and Early Life
   Malik Snowden | SROP-UIUC

59. The Role of Glutamate Signaling in the Structure and Dynamics of Dendritic Filopodia
   Karla Ramos | SROP-UIUC

60. A Quantitative Analysis of Angiogenic-Associated Receptors Using Flow Cytometry on Isolated Cells
    Kareem Al-Qadi | Bioimaging-REU

61. Association between Healthy Eating Index and Fat Distribution
    Maribel Barragan | SROP-UIUC

    Matthew Kavanaugh | SROP-UIUC

63. Correlation Analysis between Brain’s Structural Connectivity and Walking Performance Test in Multiple Sclerosis Patients Using Diffusion Tensor Imaging
    Jorge Maldonado | SROP-UIUC

64. The Effects of Temperature and Stress on 2D Electron Gas Mobility and Concentration in AlGaN/GaN HEMTs
    Larissa Del Rosario | SROP-UIUC

65. Four-dimensional Analysis of Neuron Repair
    Alison Taylor | SROP-UIUC
POSTER PRESENTATION SCHEDULE - SESSION II

66. Scale-up Quantification and Characterization of Hapalindole H and Ambiguine I from Cyanobacteria Westiellopsis prolifica for In Vivo Mice Studies
   Brandon Dale | SROP-UIC

67. Spatial Gene Expression Analysis of Cancerous Tissue through the Combination of Microfabrication Techniques and RT-LAMP
   Brianna Thornton | SROP-UIUC

68. Synthesis and Characterization of Gold Nanorod-MOF Core-Shell Structures
   Christian Franco | SROP-UIUC

69. Knowledge Spaces: The Mathematics Behind Assessment and Learning
   Madina Bolat, Qingci An, and Jose Sanchez | Illinois Mathematics Summer REU

70. Zipf’s Law: A Universal Law for Empirical Data from Word Frequencies to Olympic Records
   Daniyar Omarov, Laila Zhexembay, and Khoa Tran | Illinois Mathematics Summer REU
ORAL PRESENTATIONS

ALMA MATER

The Science of Small Things
The Effects of Temperature and Stress on 2D Electron Gas Mobility and Concentration in AlGaN/GaN HEMTs
Larissa Del Rosario | SROP-UIUC

Evaluation of Binding Affinity through SPR of Quantum Dot-antibody Conjugates to VEGF and PDGF Receptors
Jacob Erstling | SROP-UIUC

Photo-induced Spin Crossover Phase Transitions of [Fe(HTrz)2(trz)][BF4] within the Thermal Hysteresis Loop
Aaron Mena | SROP-UIUC

Microparticle Shedding as a Response to Lung Transplant Injury
Jordan Goodrich | SROP-UIC

EXCELLENCE

Microfluidic and Heterostructure Devices
Calibration and Optimization of Microfluidic Device for Clinical Pathology
Kinsey Schultheis | Bioimaging-REU

Alignment and Deposition of Nanowires in Microfluidic Devices
Zachary Roga | SROP-UIUC

Growth Techniques to Synthesis Scalable Two-Dimensional Materials for Heterostructures Devices
Fatou Cisse | SROP-UIUC

Performance of Zinc Electrode in a Desalination Battery
Emmanuel Kayiwa | SROP-UIUC

INNOVATION

Education Now: Learning, Misrepresentation, Retention
Scholarly Misrepresentation?: A Review of the Literature Highlighting Bias in African Development
Arianna Jenkins | McNair

Enrolling But Not Graduating: Retention Among Latino College Students
Celina Hernandez | SROP-UIC

Developing a Proportional-Integral-Derivative Control Demonstrator to Improve Undergraduate Education
Mark Lozano | SROP-UIUC

The Militarization of Public Education: First-generation low-income Latinas and the Junior Officers’ Training Corps (JROTC) Program
Jazmin Ocampo | SROP-UIC
**ORAL PRESENTATIONS**

**KNOWLEDGE**

**Revolts, Restoration, Recognition**

Afro-Mexican@s: Representations of Blackness in México and the Fight for Recognition
Crystal Galván | SROP-UIC

Health amongst Women and Children in Tanzania: How Health Activism has Influenced Health Policy There
Xavier Rogers | SROP-UIUC

Public Order and National Restoration: Military Constitutionalism in Allende’s Chile, 1970-1973
Victor Cuicahua | SROP-UIUC

Rebels in Matanzas: Cuban Slave Revolts Southern Fear and Politics in the Antebellum United States
Taryn Vaughn | SPI-UIUC

**LINCOLN**

**Health and Nutrition: Effects of Socioeconomic Status, Sex Differences, Fat Distribution, and Physical Activity on the Body**

Tailoring a Healthy Eating and Physical Activity Digital Game for Older Adults
Martina Sepulveda | SROP-UIC

Association between Healthy Eating Index and Fat Distribution
Maribel Barragan | SROP-UIUC

Sex Differences in Cardiovascular Function Following Acute Lower Body Resistance Exercise
Hernán Méndez | SROP-UIC

The Effect of Socioeconomic Status Attitude and Perceptions Nutrition and Environment on Obesity in African American Women
Deborah Adeoye | SROP-UIC

**LOYALTY**

**Effects of Chemical Exposure on Health**

Gestational Exposure to a Phthalate Mixture Adversely Affect Steroidogenesis and Ovarian Follicle Numbers in Females
Jessica Gutierrez | SROP-UIUC

Phyllanthusmin: Evaluating the Effectiveness of a Potential Natural Product Chemotherapeutic against Ovarian Cancer
Denisse Herrera | SROP-UIC

Synthesis of Constrained Derivatives of Linezolid to Investigate Gram-Negative Antibacterial Activity
Martin Garcia Chavez | SPI-UIUC
ORAL PRESENTATIONS

TECHNOLOGY

Synthesis of Polymers, Chemicals, and Compounds

Synthesis of Chloramphenicol Derivatives via γ-alkylation of Silyl Dienol Ethers
Reggie Holifield | SROP-UIC

Quantitative Analysis of Binding and Internalization of Pro-Inflammatory and Anti-Inflammatory Cytokines in Macrophages
Sophie Xie | SROP-UIUC

A Synthesis Route to Functionalize Polyethylene for the Capture of Carbon Dioxide
Alexander Horn | SPI-UIUC

Diversity Oriented Synthesis of Novel Flavonoids
Aaliyah Dent | SROP-UIC
ORAL PRESENTATIONS

ALMA MATER

Neurons: Imaging and Analysis
Image Analysis Method for All Optical Stimulation and Recordings from Neurons in Culture
Denise Medina | SROP-UIUC

Four-dimensional Analysis of Neuron Repair
Alison Taylor | SROP-UIUC

The Influence of Interpolated Testing on Organizational Processes in Learning
Breyauna Spencer | SROP-UIC

Quantifying the Emergent Behaviors of Neurons
Olaoluwa Akinsola | SROP-UIUC

EXCELLENCE

Condensation and Hydrophobicity in Engineering Applications
A Look into the Theory and Applications of Superhydrophobic Surfaces
James Carpenter | SPI-UIUC

Active Hot Spot Cooling with Jumping Droplet Condensation
Sabrina Yin | SROP-UIUC

Charge Pattern Effects on Polyelectrolyte Counterion Condensation
Jason Madinya | SPI-UIUC

Hydrogels for Suture Applications
Tremaan Robbins | SROP-UIUC

INNOVATION

The Body in Focus: Aging, ADHD, Multiple Sclerosis, and Sodium Legislation Across the Age Groups
Evelyn Zepeda | McNair

Prevalence and Clinical Characteristics of Multiple Sclerosis in a Hispanic Cohort at The University of Illinois Chicago
Carolina Caban | SROP-UIC

Sedentary Lifestyle Behaviors and Attention Hyperactivity Disorder in Children
Lundon Burton | SROP-UIC

Why so salty? A Critical Review of the Literature on Sodium Legislation in the United States and Ecuador
Ahrianna Mitchell-Sodipe | McNair
**ORAL PRESENTATIONS**

**KNOWLEDGE**

**Genetics/Genomics**

Identifying the Role for shp in Preventing Cholestasis  
Ryan Shaw | SROP-UIUC

How Porins and Efflux Pumps of Escherichia coli Affect Cell Membrane Permeability and Antibiotic Uptake  
Kristen Munoz | SROP-UIUC

Spliceosomal U1A-SL2 RNA Complex Binding Affinity in Macromolecular Crowding  
Andres Arango | SPI-UIUC

Understanding the Role of hlh-3 in the Determination and Differentiation of Sexually Dimorphic Neurons in C. Elegans  
Carolina Castro | SROP-UIC

**LINCOLN**

**Issues Affecting Students of Color at Predominantly White Educational Institutions**

The Impact of Microaggressions on Black Women in Higher Education  
Brittnee Bolton | SROP-UIUC

A Meeting at the Summit: Perspectives of Black and Latino Males Students at a Predominantly White Institutions  
Jacob Reed | McNair

Diversity as a Crutch: Black Students and Inclusive Practices at Predominantly White Institutions  
Aaminah Long | McNair

Do Students of Color Experience Hostile Behavior on a Midwest University Campus  
Nick Flores | SROP-UIUC

**LOYALTY**

**React and Respond: Analyzing, Predicting, Surviving**

The Prediction of Acute Chest Syndrome in Sickle Cell Disease Using Ultrasonography  
Savannah Soppet | SROP-UIC

Response to Brain Injury in the Hypoxia-Tolerant Naked Mole-Rat  
Tatiana Betancur Giraldo | SROP-UIC

Correlation Analysis between Brain’s Structural Connectivity and Walking Performance Test in Multiple Sclerosis Patients Using Diffusion Tensor Imaging  
Jorge Maldonado | SROP-UIUC

Effects of Inflammatory Bowel Disease on Bone Strength and Density During Development and Early Life  
Malik Snowden | SROP-UIUC
**ROUND TABLES**

**Table 1**

How Latino Cultural Values Influence the Health of Familial Caregivers  
Ayerin Gomez | SROP-UIC

The Use of Flavorings in Tobacco Products among Young Adults  
Diamond Harris | SROP-UIC

Tailoring a Healthy Eating and Physical Activity Digital Game for Older Adults  
Martina Sepulveda | SROP-UIC

Caring for our American Heroes: Need of Yesterday and Today Veterans with the Implications of Caregivers  
Abisola Smith | SROP-UIC

**Table 2**

The Impact of Microaggressions On Black Women In Higher Education  
Brittnee Bolton | SROP-UIC

Inflammation Racism & Racial Socialization: Examining the Biopsychosocial Effects of Race Related Stress  
Danyelle Dawson | SPI-UIUC

Do Students of Color Experience Hostile Behavior on a Midwest University Campus  
Nick Flores | SROP-UIC

**Table 3**

The Effect of Socioeconomic Status Attitude and Perceptions Nutrition and Environment on Obesity in African American Women  
Deborah Adeoye | SROP-UIC

Sedentary Lifestyle Behaviors and Attention Hyperactivity Disorder in Children  
Lundon Burton | SROP-UIC

Diet and Inflammatory Markers in Hispanic/Latino Children  
Viridiana Luna | SPI-UIUC

Sex Differences in Cardiovascular Function Following Acute Lower Body Resistance Exercise  
Hernán Méndez | SROP-UIC

**Table 4**

Microparticle Shedding as a Response to Lung Transplant Injury  
Jordan Goodrich | SROP-UIC

Phyllanthusmins: Evaluating the Effectiveness of a Potential Natural Product Chemotherapeutic against Ovarian Cancer  
Denisse Herrera | SROP-UIC

Structural Analysis of Inner Ear Hair Cell Mitochondria  
Joseph Lesus | SROP-UIC
Table 5

A Look into the Theory and Applications of Superhydrophobic Surfaces
James Carpenter | SPI-UIUC

A Synthesis Route to Functionalize Polyethylene for the Capture of Carbon Dioxide
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Jason Madinya | SPI-UIUC

Evaluating Camera-Based Navigation of a Ground Robot
Abdiel Pérez | SROP-UIUC

Table 6

Nanoimaging of Polymeric Systems
Boris Djiguemde | SROP-UIUC

A Comparison of Mouse Embryonic Stem Cell Differentiation Protocols for the Production of Functional Motor Neurons for Use in the Field of Soft Robotics
Sekinat Mumuney | SROP-UIUC

Label-free and Non-invasive Identification of 32D Cells and Mesenchymal Stem Cells Using Raman Spectroscopy
Isamar Pastrana-Otero | SPI-UIUC

Effect of Growth Factor Supplementation on Cell Behavior in Mineralized Polycaprolactone–collagen–glycosaminoglycans (PCL-CGCaP) Scaffolds
Aleczandria Tiffany | SPI-UIUC

Table 7

Growth Techniques to Synthesis Scalable Two-Dimensional Materials for Heterostructures Devices
Fatou Cisse | SROP-UIUC

Hydrogels for Suture Applications
Tremaan Robbins | SROP-UIUC

Alignment and Deposition of Nanowires in Microfluidic Devices
Zachary Roga | SROP-UIUC

Table 8

Quantifying the Emergent Behaviors of Neurons
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Larissa Del Rosario | SROP-UIUC

Diversity Oriented Synthesis of Novel Flavonoids
Aaliyah Dent | SROP-UIC
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**Table 9**

The Impact of Disparities in Resource Allocation on High School Student Achievement in the Chicago Public School System  
Olawole Daramola | SROP-UIUC

El Jíbaro Travels to Chicago: Political Representation and New Puerto Rican Identity  
Claritza Maldonado | SROP-UIUC

The Black Female Experience at Independent Schools  
Devean Owens | SPI-UIUC

**Table 10**

But Do We Want to Go There?: School Choice In Chicago  
Citlali Arroyo | SROP-UIC

Enrolling but not Graduating: Retention Among Latino College Students  
Celina Hernandez | SROP-UIC

Social Ties: An Explorative Study of Parental Social Networks and School Choice  
Kennedi Hildreth | SROP-UIC

The Militarization of Public Education: First-generation Low-income Latinas and the Junior Officers’ Training Corps (JROTC) Program  
Jazmin Ocampo | SROP-UIC

**Table 11**

Cultural Differences in Experience with Civil Justice Problems  
Jessenny Hernandez | SPI-UIUC

The Semiotic Organization of Inconsistencies and Credibility in a Criminal Trial  
Angelica Lago | SROP-UIC

The Short-Term Outcomes of the Add Us In Chicagoland Consortium: Jobs for Youth Program  
Jazmin Lara | SROP-UIC
**ROUNDTABLES**

**Table 12**

Spliceosomal U1A-SL2 RNA Complex Binding Affinity in Macromolecular Crowding  
Andres Arango | SPI-UIUC

Development of a BINOL-Phosphate Library for Optimization of Bronstead Acid Catalyzed Reactions  
William Bell | SPI-UIUC

Elucidating the Role of hlh-3 in the Determination and Differentiation of Sexually Dimorphic Neurons in C. elegans  
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Martin Garcia Chavez | SPI-UIUC

**Table 13**

Investigating a Cheaper More Efficient Method of Generating and Interpreting Electromyography Signals for Muscle Activation  
Viviana Bermudez | SROP-UIUC

Three Dimensional In-Vitro Culture Platform for Neuromuscular Junctions in a Physiologically Relevant Setting  
Roy Brooks Rivera | SROP-UIUC

Vancomycin Concentration in Sickle Cell Patients  
Jennifer Oderinde | SROP-UIC

Automation of a Golden Gate Modular Cloning Strategy  
Raul Sun Han Chang | SPI-UIUC

**Table 14**

Synthesis and Characterization of Gold Nanorod-MOF Core-Shell Structures  
Christian Franco | SROP-UIUC

CNT-PVA Highly Aligned Composites  
Daniel Jacques | SROP-UIUC

Graphene Kirigami  
Erik Vyhmeister | SROP-UIUC

Fabrication of Graphene Bowties  
Eric Wynne | SROP-UIUC

**Table 15**

Scale-up Quantification and Characterization of Hapalindole H and Ambiguine I from cyanobacteria Westiellopsis prolifica for In Vivo Mice Studies  
Brandon Dale | SROP-UIC

Role of OX40L-JAG1 Co-signaling in TCR Independent Treg Expansion  
Patricia Rodríguez | SROP-UIC
**ROUNDTABLES**

The Prediction of Acute Chest Syndrome in Sickle Cell Disease Using Ultrasonography  
Savannah Soppet | SROP-UIC

Spatial Gene Expression Analysis of Cancerous Tissue through the Combination of Microfabrication Techniques and RT-LAMP  
Brianna Thornton | SROP-UIUC

**Table 16**

Public Order and National Restoration: Military Constitutionalism in Allende’s Chile, 1970-1973  
Victor Cuicahua | SROP-UIUC

Mental Effects of Corrective Rape in South Africa  
April Sheared | SPI-UIUC

Rebels in Matanzas: Cuban Slave Revolts Southern Fear and Politics in the Antebellum United States  
Taryn Vaughn | SPI-UIUC

**Table 17**

Exploring Intersex with an Intersectional Framework  
Alishia Alexander | SPI-UIUC

Gwendolyn Brooks: The Construction of Truth in Memoir  
Ceazar Castañeda | SROP-UIUC

A New Reading of Danzy Senna’s Novel Caucasia  
Cierra Humphrey | SPI-UIUC

African Americans Connection with Japanese Artists  
Brian Williams | SROP-UIC

**Table 18**

Characterizing the Growth of Spinal Cord Tissue in Co-culture with C2C12 Myoblast Strips  
Christopher Brenden | SROP-UIUC

Evaluating the Mechanism of Oxidative Amination of Homoallylic Alcohols  
Tiara Brown | SPI-UIUC

Confirming Computational Models of Anti-Angiogenic Treatments with Enzyme Linked Immunosorbent Assays  
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Synthesis of Chloramphenicol Derivatives via γ-alkylation of Silyl Dienol Ethers  
Reggie Holifield | SROP-UIC

**Table 19**

Response to Brain Injury in the Hypoxia-Tolerant Naked Mole-Rat  
Tatiana Betancur Giraldo | SROP-UIC
### ROUNDTABLES

**Prevalence and Clinical Characteristics of Multiple Sclerosis in a Hispanic Cohort at The University of Illinois Chicago**  
Carolina Caban | SROP-UIC

**Bridging the Gap: Clinical Research and Traditional Neurogenic Language Disorder Rehabilitation**  
Elizabeth Torres | SPI-UIUC

**Exercise Programming and Counseling Preferences of Adult Cancer Survivors: A Systematic Review**  
Jaime Wong | SPI-UIUC

#### Table 20

**Identifying Barriers and Facilitators Associated with Policy Implementation of the Baby-Friendly Initiative (BFHI) in Rural Illinois Hospitals**  
Winifred Obanor | SROP-UIC

**African American Mothers’ Trajectory Identifying a Need and Seeking Mental Health Services for their Children with a Disruptive Behavior Disorder**  
Alexandra Ramos Fernandez | SROP-UIC

**The Impact of Mental Health Diagnoses on Parent-Child Relationships: From a Foster Care Perspective**  
Kade’Jah Stephens | SROP-UIC

**The Effect of Ethnic Identity on the Relationship between Parent-Adolescent Communication and Depressive Symptoms in Adolescent Girls**  
Colleen Vaughan | SPI-UIUC

#### Table 21

**The Impact of Airbnb in Exacerbating the Available Housing Stock**  
Gianna Partee | SROP-UIUC

**The Influence of Interpolated Testing on Organizational Processes in Learning**  
Breauna Spencer | SROP-UIC

**Eureka! Sudden Representational Change Predicts Insight**  
Joshua Williams | SROP-UIC

#### Table 22

**Kenyan Women’s Differential Access to Clean Water and Sanitation in Kenya**  
Lakrista Cummings | SPI-UIUC

**Afro-Mexican@s: Representations of Blackness in México and the Fight for Recognition**  
Crystal Galván | SROP-UIC
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ALMA MATER

Computational Modeling of Environmental, Electrical, and Health Systems
Effects of Vegetative Morphology on Mean Flow and Turbulent Statistics in Oscillatory Flows
Gerardo Veliz | SROP-UIC

Structural Analysis of Inner Ear Hair Cell Mitochondria
Joseph Lesus | SROP-UIC

Model-Based Design of Electro-Thermal Systems
Angel Rosado | SROP-UIC

Nanoimaging of Polymeric Systems
Boris Djiguemde | SROP-UIC

EXCELLENCE

Deciding Factors: Selection in the Information Age

Computational Histology - Machine Learning in Cancer Tissue Analysis
Matthew Kavanaugh | SROP-UIC

Using Machine Learning to Image Biomechanical Properties of Soft Tissue with Neural Networks
Wendy Reyes | SROP-UIC

Evaluating Camera-Based Navigation of a Ground Robot
Abdiel Pérez | SROP-UIC

Using Multiple AprilTags for Post Estimation
Francesca Palamara | SROP-UIC

INNOVATION

Words and Language in a Cross-cultural Context

The Semiotic Organization of Inconsistencies and Credibility in a Criminal Trial
Angelica Lago | SROP-UIC

El Jíbaro Travels to Chicago: Political Representation and New Puerto Rican Identity
Claritza Maldonado | SROP-UIC

African Americans Connection with Japanese Artists
Brian Williams | SROP-UIC

Gwendolyn Brooks: The Construction of Truth in Memoir
Ceazar Castañeda | SROP-UIC

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Examining Public Services: Caregiving, Foster Care, and Mental Health for Communities of Color

The Impact of Mental Health Diagnoses on Parent-Child Relationships: From a Foster Care Perspective
Kade’Jah Stephens | SROP-UIC
ORAL PRESENTATIONS

African American Mothers’ Trajectory Identifying a Need and Seeking Mental Health Services for their Children with a Disruptive Behavior Disorder
Alexandra Ramos Fernandez | SROP-UIC

How Latino Cultural Values Influence the Health of Familial Caregivers
Ayerin Gomez | SROP-UIC

Caring for our American Heroes: Need of Yesterday and Today Veterans with the Implications of Caregivers
Abisola Smith | SROP-UIUC

LINCOLN

Health and Community in Focus: Effects of Depression, Obesity, and Tobacco on Populations of Color

The Use of Flavorings in Tobacco Products among Young Adults
Diamond Harris | SROP-UIC

Playing Safe: Environmental Patterns Influencing Physical Activity among Hispanic Families in the U.S. and Mexico
Kimberly Galvez | McNair

The Effect of Ethnic Identity on the Relationship between Parent-Adolescent Communication and Depressive Symptoms in Adolescent Girls
Colleen Vaughan | SPI-UIUC

LOYALTY

Policy of STEM Research

Financial Effects of Removing Antibiotics from the Livestock Industry
Brian Cornish | SROP-UIUC

Is Stream Size a Determining Factor of Species Richness and Total Abundance of Caddisflies (Trichoptera)
Jeff Jaureguy | SROP-UIUC

Identifying Barriers and Facilitators Associated with Policy Implementation of the Baby-Friendly Initiative (BFHI) in Rural Illinois Hospitals
Winifred Obanor | SROP-UIC
ORAL PRESENTATIONS

ALMA MATER

Devices, Models, and Treatments for Improved Human Health

Spatial Gene Expression Analysis of Cancerous Tissue through the Combination of Microfabrication Techniques and RT-LAMP
Brianna Thornton | SROP-UIUC

A Quantitative Analysis of Angiogenic-Associated Receptors Using Flow Cytometry on Isolated Cells
Kareem Al-Qadi | Bioimaging-REU

Investigating a Cheaper More Efficient Method of Generating and Interpreting Electromyography Signals for Muscle Activation
Viviana Bermudez | SROP-UIUC

Confirming Computational Models of Anti-Angiogenic Treatments with Enzyme Linked Immunosorbent Assays
Nicole Grubb | SROP-UIUC

EXCELLENCE

Nano-structures

Fabrication of Graphene Bowties
Eric Wynne | SROP-UIUC

CNT-PVA Highly Aligned Composites
Daniel Jacques | SROP-UIUC

Synthesis and Characterization of Gold Nanorod-MOF Core-Shell Structures
Christian Franco | SROP-UIUC

Graphene Kirigami
Erik Vyhmeister | SROP-UIUC

INNOVATION

Biomolecule Characterization for Living Systems

Vancomycin Concentration in Sickle Cell Patients
Jennifer Oderinde | SROP-UIC

The Role of Glutamate Signaling in the Structure and Dynamics of Dendritic Filopodia
Karla Ramos | SROP-UIUC

Scale-up Quantification and Characterization of Hapalindole H and Ambiguine I from cyanobacteria Westiellopsis prolifica for In Vivo Mice Studies
Brandon Dale | SROP-UIC

Role of OX40L-JAG1 Co-signaling in TCR Independent Treg Expansion
Patricia Rodriguez | SROP-UIC
ORAL PRESENTATIONS

KNOWLEDGE

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Evaluation of Adipose-derived Mesenchymal Stem Cells for their Effect on Angiogenesis and Muscle Recovery in Diabetic Hindlimb Ischemic Mice
Hannah Bouvin | SROP-UIC

A Comparison of Mouse Embryonic Stem Cell Differentiation Protocols for the Production of Functional Motor Neurons for Use in the Field of Soft Robotics
Sekinat Mumuney | SROP-UIC

Three Dimensional In-Vitro Culture Platform for Neuromuscular Junctions in a Physiologically Relevant Setting
Roy Brooks Rivera | SROP-UIC

Beginnings of a Biobot: Co-culturing Spinal Cord Tissue and Muscle Stem Cells
Christopher Brenden | SROP-UIC

LINCOLN

Educational Choice, Disparities, and Grades: Issues in Contemporary Public Education

The Impact of Disparities in Resource Allocation on High School Student Achievement in the Chicago Public School System
Olawole Daramola | SROP-UIC

But Do We Want to Go There?: School Choice in Chicago
Citlali Arroyo | SROP-UIC

Social Ties: An Explorative Study of Parental Social Networks and School Choice
Kennedi Hildreth | SROP-UIC

How and What Do Teachers Communicate in Parent-Teacher Conferences? An Examination of Family Ethnicity and Child Academic Grades
Tracy Reyes | McNair

LOYALTY

Urban Impacts: Examining AirBnB, Youth Programs, STEM Incubators, and Representational Change in our Communities

Eureka! Sudden Representational Change Predicts Insight
Joshua Williams | SROP-UIC

The Short-Term Outcomes of the Add Us In Chicagoland Consortium: Jobs for Youth Program
Jazmin Lara | SROP-UIC

The Impact of AirBnb in Exacerbating the Available Housing Stock
Gianna Partee | SROP-UIC

Silicon Valley in Englewood: An Incubator in a Distressed Urban Community
Osazomon Imarenezor | McNair
CLOSING BANQUET AND KEYNOTE ADDRESS
Friday, July 22 | 6:00 – 7:45 p.m. | I Hotel – Chancellor Ballroom

Awards and Recognitions
Daniel Wong - Associate Director, Educational Equity Programs, Graduate College, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Keynote Address - Celebrating 30 years of SROP at Illinois
Answering the Call to Educate Through Increased Access and Inclusion

Ave Alvarado - Director, Educational Equity Programs, Graduate College, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Ave M. Blackwell Alvarado has served as the Director of Educational Equity Programs at the University of Illinois (Illinois) Graduate College for more than 20 years. In her position, she is responsible for developing and directing programs and services that address issues of access, inclusion, and retention to graduation of current and prospective graduate students in graduate programs at Illinois. She served as the Director of the Illinois Summer Research Opportunities Program (SROP) and was responsible for developing and implementing the GRE Institute and the Illinois Summer Research Symposium (ISRS) for underrepresented students participating in summer research programs across campus. In addition to her work with the SROP, she designed, developed, and directed the Summer Pre-Doctoral Institute (SPI), the Community of Scholars Campus Visit program for newly admitted graduate students who are in the process of accepting offers made by Illinois and other admitting institutions; and ASPIRE, an early application, decision, and admission success program for prospective graduate students who are applying to Illinois. She has served on numerous national, regional, state, and local boards and committees, some of which include the Committee on Institutional Cooperation’s (CIC) Panel on Increase Access of Minorities in Graduate Education, the Illinois Board of Higher Education’s (IBHE) Illinois Minority Graduate Incentive Program/Illinois Consortium of Educational Opportunity Program (IMGIP/ICEOP) Fellowship board, and as President of the National Name Exchange. Through her work with numerous Minority Serving Institutions (MSI) she prompted the establishment of the Graduate College Illinois Partners for Diversity (IPD) summit. At Illinois, she served as the Co-chair of the Chancellor/Provost Committee on Race and Ethnicity (CORE), and currently serves as the Co-Chair of CORE’s Graduate/Professional Education Committee and serves as an Executive Committee member of the Council on Teacher Education, and is a member of the Campus Committee on Alumni Relations (C-CAR). She is the proud 2012 recipient of the Chancellor’s Larine Y. Cowan “Make a Difference” Award for Leadership in Diversity and is a Chancellor’s Academic Professional Excellence (CAPE) Awardee.
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<td>Lakrista Cummings</td>
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<td>Larissa Del Rosario</td>
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<td>Jacob Erstling</td>
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<td>Christian Franco</td>
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