



Thursday, April 22, 2004

## Students receive grants from Pfizer for research

Oakland University's **Center for Biomedical Research** recently announced its undergraduate summer research fellowship awards. The Pfizer Corporation donated a gift for 12 fellowships. Six other fellowships were funded by Oakland University's College of Arts and Sciences Dean's Office, the Provost's Office and the Research Excellence Fund. The students will work in biomedically oriented projects under faculty mentors in the departments of **Biological Sciences, Chemistry, Physics** and **Computer Science**.

The program begins Monday, May 3. Each fellow will be expected to devote at least 30 hours per week to the assigned project for 12 weeks.

The 2004 fellowship winners are:

**Steven Psaros**, a biology major from Shelby Township, will study the effect of sildenafil citrate on the growth of embryonic stem cells.

**Kathleen Delaney**, a biology major from Beverly Hills, Mich., will conduct research on the expression and analysis of three new members of the ponticulin gene family.

**Alexandra Ciungu**, a biology major from Sterling Heights, will conduct research on the computational and experimental analysis of splicing in plant gene expressions for a genome-wide perspective.

**Amy Siebert**, a biology major from St. Clair Shores, will research the regulation of tumor suppressor proteins by a synthetic inhibitor of angiogenesis.

**Douglas Widham**, a biology major from Macomb, will conduct research on the detection of streptococcus mutants using recombinant antibody fragments.

**Daniel Maue**, a biology major from Sterling Heights, will research ecology, epidemiology and molecular biology of antibiotic resistance in bacteria.

**Richard Kuzma**, a biology major from Rochester Hills, will perform research on the control mechanism that makes the difference between normal tissue and tumor tissue.

**Breyanne Cavanaugh**, a chemistry major from Auburn Hills, will research the determination of the mechanism of C-3's induced DNA strand scission under anaerobic condition or synthesis of DNA-anthraquinone conjugates.

**Diana Semma**, a chemistry major from Sterling Heights, will study the effect of lineolic acid oxidation products on caspase activation.

**Svitlana Dyomina**, a chemistry major from Waterford, will analyze DNA-protein interactions using quartz crystal microbalance biosensors.

**Ajeenah Brown**, a chemistry major from Detroit, will study synthetic modules for metalloproteins in the cupin superfamily.

**Ergent Zviha**, a chemistry major from Warren will research the synthesis of modified bicyclic nucleosides.

**Rebecca Wenner**, a chemistry major from Shelby Township, will study the effects of solvent-derived carboxylic acids on liver phospholipid metabolism.

**Rebecca Miller**, a chemistry major from Warren, will research in vivo catheter-type micrarray sensors for detecting

rabbit urine electrolyte ions and osmolarity levels.

**Arletta Altman**, a computer science major from Detroit, will develop a Web resource providing information on stem cell research contribution to gene therapy.

**Sandeep Walia**, a Rochester Hills student and pre-med major at the Eye Research Institute, will study the potential anti-neovascular agents that selectively block VEGFR mediated signal transduction.

**Lance Jones**, a physics major from Rochester Hills, will research the effect of lidocaine on shock-induced reentry of the heart.

**Ilco Aksovski**, a physics major from Macomb, will study the orientational anisotropy in the surface portion of articular cartilage.

#### **SUMMARY**

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