

# ODASIS NEWSLETTER

Vol. 12



ODASIS Celebrates

# 30 Years

**Office for Diversity  
and Academic  
Success in the  
Sciences (ODASIS)**

# RUTGERS

School of Arts and Sciences



## Thanks to all alumni donors!

ODASIS would like to thank all alumni for their generosity and contributions and would like to highlight those that donated during 2015-2016:

- Schubert Perotte, M.D.
- Robert K. Mensah, D.D.S.
- Lilia Reyes, M.D.
- Marcus Johnson, D.D.S.
- Owano Pennycooke, M.D. and Shelley Ann Pennycooke, M.D.
- Gbolabo Sokunbi, M.D.
- Ronniel Mercado, M.D.
- Nadine Bloomfield, O.D.
- Luis Mora, D.P.M.
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- Squire Servance, J.D.
- Anita Womack
- Nnajindu Ugoji, Ph.D
- Jennifer Anderson
- Allison Smith
- Paul Codjoe, M.D.
- Angelique Ridore, M.D.

## And the Award goes to...

Dr. Michael Beals, Vice Dean for Undergraduate Education, School of Arts and Sciences, received the ODASIS Lifetime Achievement Award for his dedication to the provision of academic support for undergraduate students; Dr. Didier Demesmin, Medical Director of University Pain Medicine Center, was presented the ODASIS Alumni Outstanding Achievement Award; and Chris Sharma, who has devoted many years to providing instruction in Organic Chemistry for ODASIS, was recognized with the ODASIS Outstanding Achievement Award.

# ODASIS Celebrates 30 Years



As we celebrated our amazing students at the 2016 ODASIS Graduation and Awards Ceremony, we also marked 30 years of cultivating student success and increasing diversity in the health professions.

“ODASIS goes to the heart of our mission as the State University of New Jersey” said, Dr. Robert Barchi, President of Rutgers University. “In the past few years, ODASIS has tripled the number of graduates going to professional schools and diversified health professions to reflect the faces of those they serve.”

Among the many attendees, we were honored to welcome Dr. Marc Nivet, Chief Diversity Officer for the Association of American Medical Colleges. Dr. Nivet frequently travels across the country to promote programs, initiatives, and individuals whose mission is to diversify medical schools.

“Diversity is a driver of excellence—medical schools are better when minority students are in the classes,” Dr. Nivet explains. “Inclusion promotes excellence in education and quality patient care. Without minority students in the medical field, we become deficient in our ability to reach excellence.”

During his visit, what impressed Dr. Nivet most was the sheer number of talented students in the ODASIS program. “When I travel the country, people continually say we don’t have minority students in college majoring in health, but when I go to the ODASIS ceremony, I see hundreds of kids that have gone through the program,” he says. “This breaks that false narrative that these students don’t exist. When we have programs like ODASIS that give students the support they need, they will be successful.”

After Dr. Ronniel Mercado, an ODASIS graduate (featured at right), announced his plan for the Mercado-Khan Scholarship, Dr. Nivet was touched by Dr. Mercado’s dedication to continue the program’s legacy of support.

“That’s what the program is all about,” Dr. Nivet said, “You don’t just move on and forget. You give back and bring others up with you. It’s in the DNA of the ODASIS program. Everyone is working together and pulling the next generation along. It’s superb in that way.”

# A Word of Thanks from our Alumni

***With the Mercado-Khan Scholarship, Dr. Ronniel Mercado is ensuring that more students hear the words that led to his success: “Welcome to ODASIS!”***

Dr. Ronniel Mercado's first interaction with Dr. Kamal Khan didn't exactly go as he expected.

In the fall of 1997, Ronniel, then a first year, cut a long line of students waiting to see the Director of ODASIS, a man Ronniel had heard he must see if he was serious about becoming a doctor. At this first visit, Ronniel was hoping Dr. Khan would be able to sign off on his scholarship from Coca-Cola.

When he presented Dr. Khan with the scholarship form, Ronniel jokes, “Dr. Khan basically kicked me out of his office and told me to come back when I had a 3.5 GPA or higher.”

The following semester, Ronniel earned a 3.8 GPA and was back in Dr. Khan's office. After signing the form, Dr. Khan looked at Ronniel and said, “Welcome to ODASIS.”

Little did Ronniel know that this would be the beginning of one of the most influential experiences in his college career.

It wasn't just the tutoring from ODASIS, but also the support and guidance from his ODASIS peers and advisors that helped Ronniel most.

Ronniel's ODASIS peers and mentors eventually became his family at Rutgers. “We were constantly studying together,” he explains, “and we made it fun.” As the courses became harder and as

he and his peers began to take on more challenges, Ronniel knew that everyone not only wanted to do well in their own classes, but they also wanted to see each other succeed.

Today, Dr. Ronniel Mercado is a Co-Founder and Vice President of Pioneer Medical Group, a Florida-based hospitalist group that ensures patients are treated with compassion. Six months ago, the company started a community service initiative with medical students from the University of South Florida. Each month, a doctor from Pioneer Medical Group accompanies medical students to the downtown area of Tampa to serve the poor and homeless by providing food, shelter, physical exams, and medicine. Dr. Mercado is humbled to be able to help others in Florida after serving in the New Jersey area for so long. He was recognized for his dedication to helping others, compassionate nature, clinical skills, and respect for nurses in 2012 when he was named as the Florida Hospital Zephyrhills Doctor of the Year.

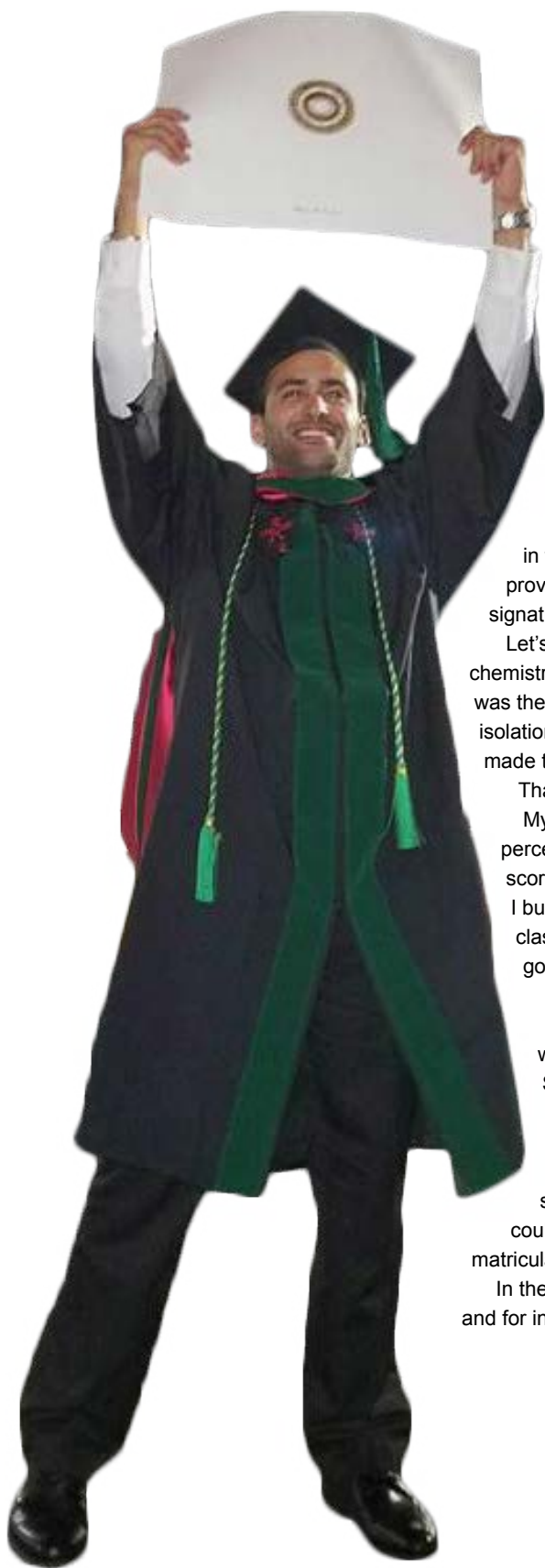
Although he now resides in Florida, Dr. Mercado isn't done giving back to the New Jersey community. At the 2016 ODASIS Graduation and Awards Ceremony, he announced his generous \$10,000 donation to create the Mercado-Khan scholarship. Ronniel teases, “Dr. Khan was like a drill sergeant” in his unconventional ways, but they work. He hopes that the scholarship given in Dr. Khan's honor will grow in the future to benefit more pre-med students whose college experiences were forever changed when they heard the words:

***“Welcome to ODASIS!”***





# Student Spotlights



## Setting a Strategy for Success

As I prepare to begin my residency at the Harvard Combined Orthopaedic Residency Program, I think about the road that led me here. I laugh about the mistakes I made and what I might have done differently. I can't change the past, but I can offer insight on how failures can lead to success.

High school seemed like a joke—I spent my time fighting, playing sports, and being popular. That came back to bite me when I started at Rutgers University. My placement test scores were miserable, and I had to take remedial biology and the lowest level of math. This was devastating for someone considering medical school. But I studied hard, went to office hours, and got tutoring. I finished my first year as a B student.

But that wasn't good enough to get into medical school.

In my second year, I was introduced to The Office for Diversity and Academic Success in the Sciences (ODASIS). This program laid the foundation for my success. ODASIS provides career guidance, motivational workshops, mandatory study hall, and tutoring. Its signature strength is helping students learn how to truly study.

Let's be clear: the courses required to get into medical school are tough. My first organic chemistry test was a harsh reality check. I got a 32! I asked my ODASIS advisors for help. This was their plan: countless hours of studying, tutoring, office hour visits, and sometimes, complete isolation before tests. In the end, I "aced" organic chemistry. I figured out why I didn't do well, and made the necessary corrections.

That's how you get into medical school!

My next challenge was the MCAT. On the first diagnostic test I scored below the 10th percentile. I figured I was toast. But I sat down with advisors and developed a strategy. My scores gradually climbed over months to well over the 90th percentile. There's no secret here: I buckled down and studied day and night. When I didn't understand something, I'd bug my classmates until someone explained it in a way that I could understand. If I didn't know why I got a problem wrong, I'd ask others how they got it right.

That's how you get into medical school!

After being accepted into Rutgers-Robert Wood Johnson Medical School, I decided I wanted to give back. I worked with my fellow student Jorge Rocha to start The Mini-Medical School Initiative, a program for the underserved population of students in New Brunswick.

Our mission was to increase the number in college STEM majors, and ultimately, medicine.

We acted as role models, teachers, and friends. We worked with students for two years, giving motivational workshops, lectures, and interactive labs. They learned clinical exam skills, anatomy, and how to read x-rays of fractures. We held interactive labs where they

could learn different orthopedic procedures. All 25 students were accepted into college, with 20 matriculating as STEM majors. Of those 20, a total of six applied to nursing and 11 as pre-med.

In the end, I feel truly grateful to ODASIS for helping me develop the skills I needed to succeed and for inspiring me to help others achieve their dreams as well.

**—Wylie Lopez**

## When Preparation Meets Opportunity

As a clueless first year walking through the second floor of Nelson Labs, I had no idea what was in store for me when I decided to become a part of the ODASIS program. I didn't know that the program would challenge me to work harder, study smarter, and manage my time better. I didn't know that I would make amazing friends who are still by my side four years later. And I definitely didn't expect to get into my first choice of medical school on a full scholarship!

They always say to give credit where it is due, and though I know my work ethic played a key role, I also know that I would not be where I am today without ODASIS.

Being a part of ODASIS my freshman year taught me to work twice as hard as everyone else. This statement holds true for many people, but carries particular weight for minorities. Learning that lesson early on was extremely important and empowering.

The academic advising and tutoring sessions provided by ODASIS gave me the direction I needed, streamlining the medical school process so I could graduate on time.

Up until junior year, I thought organic chemistry would be the most difficult challenge of my undergraduate career. Then I began studying for the MCAT and I realized that organic chemistry wasn't so bad! Eight months of study in which I sacrificed sleep to stay on top of my classes and gave up weekends to attend MCAT class was the hardest thing I ever had to do.

Looking back, I wonder how I survived as I juggled teaching, studying, and community service on top of MCAT prep. I know it was all possible due to the support from my peers in the ODASIS MCAT class. Seeing how hard they worked toward their goal gave me the motivation to keep going. We were all in the same boat. We were all making sacrifices. And we all wanted each other to succeed. In addition, there was always someone in the program willing to listen, whether it was the former Assistant Director, Taruna Chugeria, or the ODASIS Director himself, Kamal Khan, who always wants the best for the students even if that meant administering some tough love when needed.

I got through that year because of family. I got through that year because of friends. I got through that year because the people in ODASIS helped me when they could, and pushed me to help myself when they could not. I will always be thankful. When I finally took the test and received my score, I knew I had ODASIS to thank.

Now, in my senior year, I've done so much. I've been taught by ODASIS for two years, and I've been a Biology Instructor for the program for one year. I wanted to give back to the program that did so



much for me, so I became an MCAT instructor. It was an incredibly rewarding experience, and I was able to teach 40 wonderful individuals, all of whom I hope I helped in their journey to become physicians.

Now, as I get ready to graduate, I'm anxious to start medical school. But I'm not intimidated because I know ODASIS prepared me not only for my undergraduate career, but for what comes next. ODASIS is truly important. It strives to prepare young minority students for a very difficult path by guiding them to be the intelligent, resilient, and hardworking people they need to be to succeed.

If luck is what happens when preparation meets opportunity, then I was very lucky, and will continue to be lucky, because ODASIS has prepared me for all the opportunities that will come my way.

**—Zariah Chappell**

## Equal Opportunity Fund

A state funded program, EOF provides academic, financial, personal, and professional support services to first-generation college students, who are New Jersey residents, and qualify on the basis of financial and academic need.

### EOF Alumni Graduating from Graduate, Doctoral, or Professional Programs:

- Marie Beauvais
- Ting Chen
- Javier Gomez
- Felipe Guzman
- Claudia Herreros
- Cheryl Li
- Shane Mahabir
- Natasha Ramsey
- Denisse Reyes
- Santhana Sriradchatha

### ODASIS EOF Participants Graduating and applying to Graduate, Doctoral, or Professional Programs:

- Joanna Acevedo
- Quincy Akaba
- Edna Antwi
- Lubna Begum
- Elana Forgash
- Gowa Gomez
- Lamont Jackson
- Daniela Ortega
- Joseph Romero
- Claudia Rugama

### Graduating EOF Seniors accepted to Graduate, Doctoral, or Professional Programs:

- Ziyodakhon Abdujabborova
- Efua Bolouvi
- Elyse Candelaria
- Myriam Cruz
- Sam Green
- Shifan Li
- Chike Okafor
- Eliana Palacios
- Elaf Saeed
- Grace Suttle

# Power Couples

***ODASIS provides students academic advising and support. However, within ODASIS a special few gain more: a life partner. Many of these couples are leaders in their fields and became "Power Couples." Here, they share their journeys thus far.***

## Dr. Darryl Hill and Dr. Erica Scavella



As an undergraduate at Rutgers University-New Brunswick, Dr. Darryl Hill noticed Dr. Erica Scavella-Hill carrying an organic chemistry textbook as he was waiting in line to enter Tillett Dining Hall on Livingston Campus in 1989. He asked her if she was majoring in biology and planned on attending medical school, as he was. She told him that she was, and the two struck up a conversation. They soon became good friends and eventually started dating.

After graduating from Rutgers and attending the recently renamed Rutgers–Robert Wood Johnson Medical School as Access Med Phase II students, the two decided to make their relationship permanent. Dr. Hill, who was one year ahead of Dr. Scavella-Hill in medical school, planned to pursue residency training in the Washington, DC metropolitan area. When he was matched with his first choice internal medicine residency program at the University of Maryland Medical System, it was then that he asked Dr. Scavella-Hill to marry him. Dr. Scavella-Hill decided to pursue the same specialty at the same hospital one year later.

Both Darryl and Erica choose to pursue careers in Internal Medicine. Despite having pursued the same specialty, Darryl and Erica took very different paths. He chose the

traditional role of a physician, running his own medical practice and even making house calls. Erica, who always had an interest in academic and administrative medicine, spent the first 11 years of her career in an academic setting where she took care of patients and regularly interacted with medical students, residents, fellows, and clinical researchers. During her last few years in academic clinical practice, she began administrative work in clinical healthcare quality, and for the past 5 years she has been exclusively working as a Senior Medical Investigator ensuring healthcare quality.

When looking back on their years as undergrads, Dr. Hill and Dr. Scavella-Hill both knew that they had the potential to be successful, however, they also knew they would not complete their journey without their fair share of challenges. Darryl and Erica, like so many of their Rutgers classmates realized that the support offered by Dr. Kamal Khan and Dr. Francine Essien in ODASIS was essential to their success, both in graduating from Rutgers with Biology degrees and getting accepted into medical school. Despite the difference in years, Darryl and Erica supported each other academically through shared study times and simply boosting each other's confidence.

According to Dr. Darryl Hill and Dr. Erica Scavella-Hill, true success is being happy with their personal and professional accomplishments, as well as being able to reap the rewards from the years of hard work and dedication, including serving as role models and sources of support for their two sons. "For us, our success most integrally included raising our sons into productive citizens who were prepared to enter college after the completion of high school." When looking back on their journey together, it is amazing to see all that can happen from simply carrying an organic chemistry textbook around campus.



## On My Summer Vacation...

ODASIS welcomed 38 new students, as part of the **2016 Summer Preparatory Program**. This intensive five-week, two-credit preparatory program is designed to prepare incoming freshmen for Chemistry I, Calculus I, and Expository Writing. Additionally, the students attended various motivational and informational workshops and visited Robert Wood Johnson Medical School and Temple University Medical School. Funding for this program is provided by Merk and Co. as well as the Rutgers University–New Brunswick Strategic Plan.

**“These classes not only taught me the material I would be exposed to in the fall, but also better study habits.”**  
- Bintia Sakho

**“My life has changed over these five weeks and I feel as though I couldn’t have a stronger foundation for starting in the fall semester.”** - Alec Rosati

**“For someone who was the first in their family to take the SATs, let alone go to college, ODASIS has been my salvation”** - Claudia Torres

**“I learned so much more about myself and my capabilities. I have become much more confident in myself”**  
- Rachael Ogbanna

**“Apart from the materials and information I got from this program, my favorite part would be the people. This ODASIS family kept me sane throughout the five weeks.”** - Zali Kamara



## And Now She’s on Her Way



“I am so proud to have been a participant in the EOF program,” says Efua Bolouvi, SAS ‘16 and a member of the Douglass Residential College, who majored in biological sciences with the goal of becoming a physician. Support she received from the Educational Opportunity Fund and Office of Diversity and Academic Success in the Sciences (ODASIS), contributed greatly to her academic and professional development.

Bolouvi was also involved in research at the Rutgers University Center of Alcohol Studies. She studied trigeminal ganglion inflammatory response in relation to

osteocalcin.

Bolouvi’s academic accomplishments put her on the Dean’s List and made her a member of Chi Alpha Epsilon, Alpha Epsilon Delta National Honor Society, and Phi Beta Kappa, the nation’s most prestigious honor society. As part of her path to becoming a physician, she completed phase II of the Access Med program sponsored by ODASIS and Rutgers–Robert Wood Johnson Medical School (RWJMS).

Congratulations to Efua Bolouvi who is in the Rutgers–RWJMS Class of 2020!

# Summer Programs



**Abimbola Okulaja**

**Bridging the Gaps Research Summer Program, Keck School of Medicine at University of Southern California.**

The aim of my project in Dr. Robert Chow's lab was to assist in developing a set of fluorescent reporters to help evaluate whether stem-cell-derived beta-like cells secrete insulin appropriately in response to glucose stimulation. Many labs today are trying to differentiate stem cells into functional insulin-secreting beta-like cells, with the aim of using the differentiated cells for replacement tissue transplantation for patients with severe type 1 diabetes mellitus. The problems are that (1) the efficiency of differentiation into the desired cells is very low (typically less than 10% of the cells become beta-like cells); and (2) most protocols do not produce glucose-responsive cells.

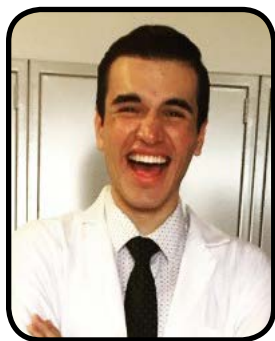
Apart from the research, I had the opportunity to shadow a pediatric surgeon at the Children's Hospital of Los Angeles where I got to witness live surgeries first hand in the operating room.



**Brittany Urena**

**Summer Medical and Dental Program, Rutgers University**

Participating in Rutgers Newark's Summer Medical and Dental Program has changed my perspective and opened my mind. The most memorable activity, in my opinion, was our orientation fair with a number of Medical and Dental schools. As a first generation student, networking and talking face to face to various representatives has been difficult. I left that trip with contact information and personal advice on the next steps I should take as a pre-dental student. The program gave me a chance to question admission deans, current students, and exposed me to medical and dental clinical units. Shadowing a number of physicians revealed different occupations' atmosphere, which helped bring closure to my dental path. As one of the few dental students within the program, I was delighted to see strong concern for a balance between dental and medical activities. Lectures from alumni provided even more inspiration. I look forward to keeping in touch with the very helpful advisors from this program as well as advising young students to consider its many opportunities.



**Frank Cedeño**

**Biomedical Careers Program Level II, Rutgers- Robert Wood Johnson Medical School**

This past summer, I participated in a challenging program called BCP II. This program taught us so much and was overall an amazing experience. It was comprised of one main course, an Intro to Biochemistry course, Along with 2 side courses that were MCAT Verbal and Science section. Every week we broke down the clinical aspect of diseases with the help of medical school students and understanding the biochemical pathway. We focused solely on Biology and covered almost all of the Biology section for the MCAT. In addition, we had clinical shadowing at RWJUH where you got to pick a unit to follow around and ask questions every Friday for about 6 hours. I was able to apply and see firsthand patients with the diseases we discussed in detail. And lastly we did research on a disease throughout the program along with a drug used in treating it. We applied our new knowledge of Biochemistry with the help from our professor to understand how the drug interacts with the body and why these drugs are useful.



**Kene Ezeigwe**

**Brigham and Women's Hospital and Harvard Medical School, Brigham and Women's Hospital Summer Training in Academic Research and Scholarship (BWH STARS) program**

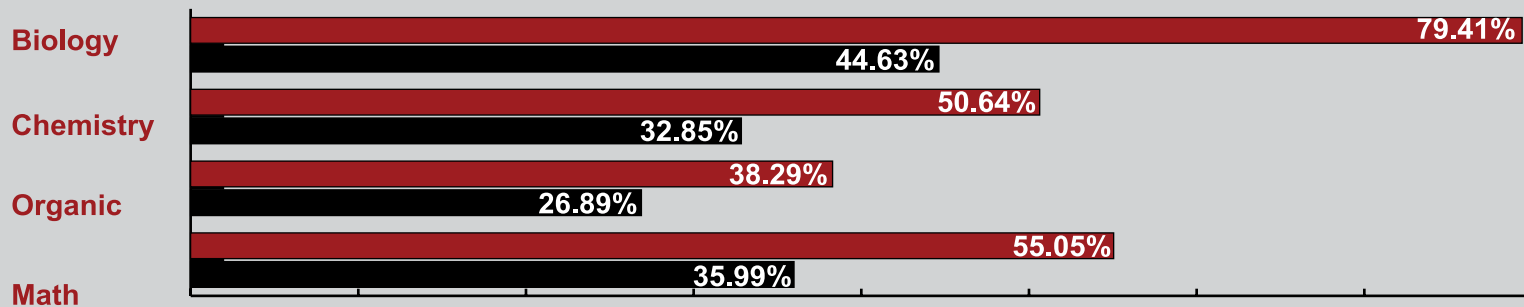
The Brigham and Women's Hospital Summer Training in Academic Research and Scholarship (BWH STARS) program is a summer program for underrepresented minority students interested in pursuing a career in medicine and research. The program provides students with the opportunity to participate in intensive hands-on training in research, shadow clinicians, and network with member of the Brigham and Women's Hospital and Harvard Medical School Faculty.

I work in the OB/GYN Lab of Genital Tracts Biology at BWH, where I am involved in basic science research. I am studying the pathogen, Trichomonas Vaginalis, which causes the most common non-viral sexually transmitted infection commonly infecting women of reproductive age. My research is, specifically, on the virus, T. Vaginalis virus (TVV) that infects the pathogen because it increases the inflammatory response and exposes patients to a higher susceptibility of contracting HIV, HPV, and cervical cancer in addition to increased complications in pregnant women and their babies. The purpose of my experiment was to find and test inhibitors to TVV that can prevent the increased inflammatory mechanisms form occurring when virus-infected T. Vaginalis infects human cervicovaginal epithelial cells.

## Fall 2015 & Spring 2016: Grades of B or Higher

■ ODASIS

■ Rutgers

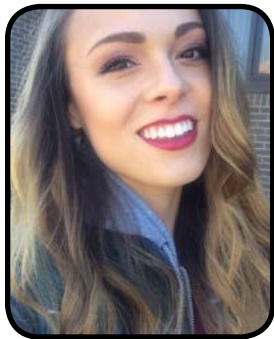






**Leslie Hoyos**  
PULSE Phase II

I participated in PULSE Phase II and did various activities surrounding the preparation of a healthcare career. I shadowed three sections of the hospital including the outpatient cancer center and clinic, the intermediate care unit, and the mother and infant unit. My most memorable experience was when an OB/GYN allowed me to see an entire C-section. It was amazing to finally see the baby born and how seamlessly every team member worked. I had many good experiences with the patients as well in my other rotations and was able to translate in several occasions. I also took an MCAT prep course through the program and learned how to tackle the CARS section. I learned several topics in biochemistry through team-based learning, and did a research project on the importance of bilingual physicians in healthcare. We were able to present our poster to Cooper Medical staff and medical school administration as well.



**Lindsey M. Williams**  
Massachusetts Institute of Technology Summer Research Program (MSRP)

Experience-dependent plasticity in the visual cortex is largely confined to early childhood and declines dramatically thereafter. Although this attenuation aids in the stabilization of visual circuitry in adulthood, it also limits recovery from visual deficits, such as amblyopia (“lazy eye”). My project at MIT focuses on understanding the molecular mechanisms that underlie synaptic plasticity in the visual cortex and on how different drugs might allow us to “re-open” a child-like plasticity in older brains. My work integrates techniques of biochemistry, electrophysiology, and behavioral testing. This coming year, I will be applying to PhD programs in systems and molecular neuroscience. For my own graduate work I hope to focus on understanding social and learning disorders, such as ADHD and autism. Outside of research, I am a fitness instructor at the Rutgers recreation centers and will be an ODASIS instructor for organic chemistry, starting in the fall.



**Michael Boateng**  
School of Arts and Sciences Continuing Umbrella for Research Experience (C.U.R.E Program), Rutgers University

The Continuing Umbrella for Research Experience program is geared towards underrepresented minority students in the New Brunswick area and provides research training and academic and professional enrichment activities for the participants who assist researchers at the Rutgers Cancer Institute of New Jersey. As a research assistant, my role was to follow my supervisors in the lab with their various projects and help with processes and techniques like PCR, western blotting, H&E staining, IH staining, cell culturing, and protein/DNA/RNA/bacterial plasmid extraction and purification. I have also helped edit/proofread two publications and train three new undergraduates who joined the lab after I started.

The project I worked on in my first year of the C.U.R.E program involved the role of leukemia inhibitory factor (LIF) in promoting Epithelial Mesenchymal Transition (EMT) in tumor cells. We found out that overexpression of LIF in tumor cells increases the expression of mesenchymal marker proteins. It has been a great opportunity working with Dr. Wenwei Hu and the rest lab members and the next year would be filled with more great experiences



**Sundau Ebo**  
Bridging The Gaps- Keck School of Medicine, University of Southern California

This summer I worked with Dr. Ramsingh whom is a hematologist to study the relationship between hematopoietic precursor cells (HPC) and cancer. In cancerous cells, the tumor suppressing gene p53 undergoes a mutation creating tumors. To study the effects of p53, I implemented genetic engineering technology to Crispr/Cas 9 to induce a mutation in the p53 gene within the hpc-7 cell line. The goal is to determine which genes are no longer being suppressed by p53 and their role in the formation of tumors. Also, the proliferation of stem cells is believed to have a positive correlation to the recovery of patients that have undergone chemotherapy. Our hypothesis presumes that young mice with chemotherapy are biologically more similar to older mice without chemotherapy. The idea is that chemotherapy increase the aging process within the cells. I worked on examining the similarities in metabolites between young mice that have undergone chemo therapy to determine any biological marker that establishes a correlation to aging.

## High School Programs Prepare Students for College



In an effort to expand the academic support and resources provided to underrepresented students interested in the STEM fields, ODASIS has had the privilege to partner with Johnson & Johnson and the New Brunswick public school district to implement the Saturday Scholars SAT Prep Academy, Bridge to Employment (BTE), Rutgers 12th Grade College English, and Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID) Supplemental Instruction high school programs. These programs are all designed to

provide students from the district with exposure to STEM professions, Rutgers University student mentors, faculty, and facilities.

This year, we are pleased to report that 100% of our high school senior participants have been accepted to one or more 4-year colleges and universities. These acceptances include Rutgers University, Princeton University, Cornell University, Amherst College, Rider University, Seton Hall, and many more.

# Congratulations to the Class of 2016



## Graduating Seniors accepted to Dental, Graduate Medical, Osteopathic, Physical Therapy, MD/PhD, or BA/MD Programs

### Rutgers–RWJMS

Raymond Amponsah  
Brittany Baptiste  
Efua Bolouvi\*  
Haianha Desamour  
Brittany Martinez  
Chike Okafor\*  
Nicole Tavernier  
Karen Torres Soto  
Victor Mensah

### Rutgers–NJMS

Abimbola Adegbola  
Cindy Ardila\*  
Ashley Dixon\*  
Jacklyn Johnson  
Jorge Naranjo  
Ikenna Obiakwata  
Grace Suttle\*  
Henry Uran Jr.  
Denese Brown\*  
Steffany Conyers  
Marc Estriplet\*  
Hans Hess  
Dara Jackson\*  
Thobekile Ndlovu\*

### Rowan University School of Osteopathic Medicine

Adenike Animasaun  
Katie Soler\*

### Cooper Medical School

Ziyodakhon Abdujabborova \*  
Elyse Candelaria\*  
Myriam Cruz\*  
Adeima Ibanga  
Shifan Li\*

### USC Keck School of Medicine

Nia Carty  
Zariah Chappell  
Emilio Feliz  
Diana Torres  
Marissa Trinidad

### EOF Students

Joanna Acevedo  
Quincy Akaba  
Edna Antwi  
Lubna Begum  
Elana Forgash  
Gowa Gomez  
Lamont Jackson  
Daniela Ortega  
Joseph Romero  
Claudia Rugama

### Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine

Chinwe Korie\*  
Andrew Marcano

### Physical Therapy Programs

Justin Anderson\* - USC Division of  
Biokinesiology and Physical Therapy

### Dental Programs

Matthew Boller - Rutgers School of Dental Medicine  
Jonathan Rodney - Howard College of Dentistry  
Elaf Saeed\* - University of Pennsylvania School of Dental Medicine  
Chiranjeev Sharma\* - NYU College of Dentistry

### Other Professional Programs

Sam Green EOF - Pharmaceutical Law  
Kanya McRae - University College London

### Physician Assistant Programs

Sandra Kirolos\* - Rutgers– School of Health Related  
Professions—Physician's Assistant Program

### Graduate Programs

Adesewa Adewusi - Graduate School– Master's in Public Health  
Tatiana Fech\* - Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences at  
West Virginia School of Medicine  
Kezi Williams\* - Penn State University– Food Science Graduate Program

### Rowan Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences

Jeffrey Addy*	Alana Franco*	Jenny Noel*
Jennifer Alegun*	Odena Hanna*	Eliana Palacios*
Massah Bassie*	Willienne Jules*	Pruthal Patel
Jennifer Chabla*	Courtney McPherson*	Tosin Quadri*
Mark Fakory	Musunga Mulenga*	Madelyn Rodriguez*

### Other Medical Programs

Demetrius Durham - Meharry Medical College  
Manny Sanchez - Sidney Kimmel Medical College at Thomas Jefferson  
University  
Samantha Casimir - University of Connecticut School of Medicine  
Ololade Sanusi - University of Maryland School of Medicine  
Sara Rostamizadeh\* - UC San Francisco School of Medicine  
Michael Valentim\* - Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine  
Ileana Arce - Rutgers Ernesto Mario School of Pharmacy  
Alphonse Cobbina - Temple School of Pharmacy

\* Indicates an EOF Student

# Alumni Graduating in 2016

Congratulations to our ODASIS Alumni Graduating in 2016 from Graduate, Doctoral, or Professional Programs

## 1171 ODASIS GRADUATES FROM 1990-2016

Profession	Number (%)	Profession	Number (%)
Medicine (MD)	466 (39.8%)	Medicine / Public Health (MD / MPH)	4 (0.3%)
Osteopathy (DO)	85 (7.3%)	Chiropractic (DC)	4 (0.3%)
Biomedical Sciences (MBS)	44 (3.8%)	Biomedical Engineering (MBE)	3 (0.2%)
Dentistry (DMD / DDS)	34 (2.9%)	Law (JD)	3 (0.2%)
Biomedical Research	13 (1.1%)	Optometry (OD)	4 (0.3%)
Physician Assistant (PA)	11 (1.0%)	Medicine / Biomedical Sciences (MD / MBS)	3 (0.2%)
Podiatry (DPM)	13 (1.1%)	Research (PhD)	3 (0.2%)
Nursing (RN / BSN / LPN / MSN)	10 (0.9%)	Medicine / Business (MD / MBA)	1 (0.1%)
Medicine / Research (MD / PhD)	8 (0.7%)	Osteopathy / Law (DO / JD)	1 (0.1%)
Pharmacy (Pharm D)	17 (1.5%)	Master of Science (MS)	1 (0.1%)
Osteopathy / Biomedical Sciences (DO / MBS)	7 (0.6%)	Veterinary (DVM)	2 (0.2%)
Public Health (MPH)	6 (0.5%)	Other (e.g., business, education)	412 (35.2%)
Physical Therapy (PT)	16 (1.4%)		

### Vanderbilt University School of Medicine

Geoffrey Casimir  
Magdalena Dorvil

### Rutgers–New Jersey Medical School

Chandler Christophe  
Ting Chen\*  
Felipe Guzman\*  
Adaugo Ike  
Larrisha Love  
Aneesah McClinton  
Denisse Reyes\*  
Alisha Valdez  
Sneh Xavier

### Rutgers School of Dental Medicine

Cheryl Li\*  
Paul Red-Path  
Paola Rodriguez  
Brittany Young

### Rowan School of Osteopathic Medicine

Adebayo Adunbarin  
Alyssa Cocchiara  
Javier Gomez\*  
Mariam Keita  
Shane Mahabir\*  
Joselito Numa  
Rachel Odeyemi  
Santhana Sriradchatha\*

### Rowan Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences

Marie Beauvais\*  
Ayana Moxey  
Cassandra Yeboah

### NYU School of Medicine

Osamudiamen Obanor  
Natasha Ramsey\*

### Other Graduate Programs

Temple School of Podiatric Medicine – William Murray  
Sidney Kimmel Medical College at Thomas Jefferson University – Ayobamidele Balogun  
Dartmouth University-Geisel School of Medicine – David Hernandez  
Weill Cornell Medical College at Cornell University – Hector Osoria  
Lewis Katz School of Medicine at Temple University – Tomi Sodeke  
Rutgers–Robert Wood Johnson Medical School – Paul Truche

### Rutgers–Robert Wood Johnson Medical School (Access-Med Phase II)

Elizabeth Beckford  
Claudia Herreros\*  
Wylie Lopez  
Amaka Onwuka  
Shantel Suncar  
Michelle Walker

\* Indicates an EOF Student





## Association of American Medical Colleges 2015 Bus Trip

On November 7, 2015, about 50 ODASIS students taking the MCAT Preparatory course took a bus to Baltimore, Maryland for the 2015 AAMC Minority Student Medical Career Fair. With representation from more than 75 medical schools across the country, the purpose of the event was to support and encourage underrepresented minority students and provide more insight to the medical school admissions process. MCAT Instructor, Manny Sanchez reports that the event was rewarding for his students because it allowed them to see what their next steps would be in applying to medical schools. He says, "It was definitely a morale boost." MCAT student and ODASIS scholar, Becky Adu agrees the event was not only motivational, but it was also a great networking opportunity. "Out of all of the ODASIS trips," Becky said, "this was probably the one I appreciated the most." Thanks to donations from ODASIS alumni Dr. Esi Rhett, Dr. Francisca Abanyie, Dr. Tiffany Terrelongue Martinez, Dr. Owano Pennycooke, Dr. James Pierre-Louis, and Dr. RaShonda Flowers, this trip was completely free for all ODASIS students.

# RUTGERS

School of Arts and Sciences

Office of Diversity and Academic Success in the Sciences  
Division of Life Sciences  
Rutgers University–New Brunswick  
604 Allison Road  
Nelson Labs Room A201  
Piscataway, NJ 08854-8000