

Pharmacology

1st Place – Ryan Quinton



Ryan is an MD/PhD student working with Dr. Neil Ganem. His dissertation research project is entitled “Whole Genome Doubling Confers Unique Genetic Vulnerabilities On Tumor Cells”. A paper on this project has been submitted to *Nature* and is in review. Ryan has written a first-author review in *Molecular Biology of the Cell*, a first-author methods paper in *Methods in Cell Biology*, and co-authored research articles in *Nature Communications*, *Nature Cell Biology*, and *Molecular Biology of the Cell*. Due to these accomplishments, Ryan was awarded an extremely competitive Foreign Doctoral Study Award from the Canadian Institutes of Health (an F30 equivalent) to support this research. Ryan has been very actively involved in program activities including social and recruitment events. Prior to joining BU, Ryan graduated *magna cum laude* from Brigham Young University.

2nd Place – Qiu Ruan



Qiu’s research project is on “Genome-Wide Protein-RNA Interaction Analysis Of The RNA Binding Protein hnRNP H”. Her research advisor is Dr. Camron Bryant. Qiu is a remarkable bench scientist. Since joining Dr. Bryant’s lab, she has authored/co-authored several published studies, mentored countless undergrads (including UROP students) and graduate students, and has received numerous awards to present her research work, including the Outstanding Travel Award from IBANGS and the Oral Presentation Award in the annual Genome Science Symposium held in Boston University last year. Qiu’s second, co-first author paper was recently published in the *Journal of Neuroscience* (Ruan et al., 2020) describing the effect of *HnRNPH1* mutation in decreasing methamphetamine sensitivity and methamphetamine-induced dopamine release. Qiu received a BS in Biochemistry from Tufts University, before joining BU for her PhD studies.

3rd Place – Sema Quadir



Sema is working under the guidance of Dr. Valentina Sabino. Her research project is entitled “Involvement Of Fronto-Cortical Sigma-1 Receptors In Alcohol-Induced Hyperalgesia”. Sema came to BU with a strong background and research experience in addiction as an undergraduate student at the University of California Santa Barbara. Her work led to five publications, two of which are first authorships. She decided to stay in the addiction field for her graduate studies. Sema joined Dr. Sabino’s lab and has been key to the development of mouse models to aid in her research studies. Sema has been actively involved in programmatic activities. She served as a peer mentor for incoming first year students in the Biomolecular Pharmacology PhD program. Sema has also been working for the past two years as a teaching assistant in the Introduction to Medical Pharmacology course for students in the BU MAMS program. Since joining the Lab of Addictive Disorders in April 2017, I have presented my work at SfN three times and Research Society on Alcoholism (RSA) twice, the latter for which I received a merit- based travel award, both years. Additionally, in March 2020, I was selected to give a talk at the Alcohol Gordon Research Conference (with a travel award) in addition to presenting a poster at the conference.