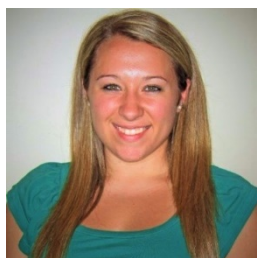


Co-First Place Winner: Whitney Manhart.



Ms. Manhart is a 5th year graduate student in the department of Microbiology who is co-mentored by Dr. Elke Muhlberger (NEIDL) and Dr. Gustavo Mostoslavsky (CReM). Her research is focused on developing novel induced pluripotent stem cell-derived cellular platforms to investigate the response of primary human cells to Ebola virus infection. She has excelled as a scientist, as demonstrated by numerous publications, including a first author publication in Cell Reports, presentations at national and international scientific meetings, and an F31 NIH NRSA fellowship in 2019. She's actively involved in various scientific outreach programs that promote STEM education in young girls. She will be defending her PhD dissertation in May 2020.

Co-First Place Winner: Kimberly Barker



Ms. Barker is a 5th year graduate student in the department of Microbiology, whose mentor is Dr. Jay Mizgerd (Pulmonary center). Her research is focused on the description of lung resident memory B cells and the sentinel roles of these cells in protective immunity against respiratory pathogens. Her research has been highly successful, leading directly to a F31 NIH/NRSA fellowship, multiple co-authored publications, two first-author publications in process, and oral presentations at national and international scientific conferences. She is actively involved in all aspects of the general BU PiBS graduate student community. She will be defending her PhD dissertation in Fall 2020.

Honorable Mention: Allison Thomas.



Ms. Thomas is a 4th year graduate student in the department of Microbiology whose mentor is Dr. Manish Sagar. Her dissertation work is focused on understanding the contribution of antibody-dependent cellular cytotoxicity (ADCC) in the prevention of mother-to-child HIV-1 transmission. She is testing the hypothesis that presence of ADCC responses in breastmilk influence HIV transmission and infant morbidity. She has a first-author publication describing part of this work, and is a co-author on multiple publications. She has presented her work at international scientific meetings, such as the Conference for Retroviruses and Opportunistic Infections for which she was awarded a New Investigator Award to present her work.