

The Sixteenth Annual K-INBRE Student Research Symposium (2018)

The 16th Annual K-INBRE Symposium was held at the Overland Park Sheraton Hotel in Overland Park, Kansas. The meeting took place January 13-14, 2018. This year, a large number of undergraduate students and faculty attended the symposium. The meeting began with a state-of-the-art talk from **Dr. Alejandro Sanchez Alvarado** titled “Stem cell population dynamics, tissue homeostasis and regeneration.” Pitt State was well represented on the speaker’s platform by talks from **Dr. Santra** and **Sanket Bhojate**, a graduate student at the Polymer Research Center. **Dr. Santra**, a faculty member in Chemistry, gave an excellent talk titled “Personalized nanomedicine: A new era of targeted cancer therapy.” This was followed by an outstanding presentation from **Sanket Bhojate**, a graduate student working with **Dr. Gupta**. Sanket’s talk, titled “Bio-derived flame-retardant polyurethanes,” was skillfully presented and greatly appreciated by the audience. There were a total of 156 posters and Pitt State students garnered awards for their presentations. **Rebekah Elliot**, Star Trainee, received an award for her poster titled “Investigating potential anti-cancer drugs targeting MALAT1, lncRNA upregulated in late-stage cancers.” **Rebekah** is working in the laboratory of **Dr. Irene Zegar**. **Wes Brantley**, **Ren Bean** and **Tanuja Tummala** received an award for their poster titled “Magnetic nanosensor platform for the fast and accurate detection of bacterial contaminants in platelet concentrates.” These students are working in the laboratories of **Dr. Tuhina Banerjee** and **Dr. Santimukul Santra**. There were 42 attendees from Pitt State at the meeting. President **Steve Scott**, Provost **Lynette Olson**, and Deans **Mary Carol Pomatto** and **Pawan Kahol** were able to attend the symposium this year. **Dr. Kahol** set up a table that highlighted graduate programs at Pitt State in order to attract potential graduate students. Saturday evening, **Dr. Scott** thanked the K-INBRE for its support of research on the Pitt State campus. He then introduced **Dr. Virginia Rider**, recipient of the Joan S. Hunt distinguished mentoring Award. As always, the science at the meeting was robust, the food was delicious and the fellowship was outstanding. Thanks to all of the K-INBRE students for presenting their research and to the faculty mentors who supervised the research and attended the meeting. We all look forward to the 17th Annual Symposium, the location to be announced.