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**For Immediate Release**

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Fourteen Participate in the MMRL Summer Fellowship Program

Since 1960, the Cardiac Research Institute at Masonic Medical Research Laboratory (MMRL) has recognized the importance of encouraging talented young men and women to pursue a career in science or medicine. The individuals selected through the highly competitive application process for 2014 are Collette Bora (Worcester Polytechnic Institute), Elizabeth-Anne Carbone (Cornell University), Neesha Desai (University of Rochester), Carly Dziekan (St. Lawrence University), Erica Freund (Wake Forest University), Georg Gussak (Rutgers University), Brian LaGrant (Cornell University), Ruben Mathew (Cornell University), Heather McManus (Utica College), Jennifer Sexton (Union College), Ashley Spina (Cornell University), Steven Toffel (Albany College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences), Vaischnav Vigneswaran (University at Buffalo) and Tanya Zeina (Boston College). These talented Fellows will join a distinguished group of over 400 gifted students who have participated in the MMRL Summer Fellowship Program.

The 10 week program permits students direct involvement in research projects, under staff guidance, in the fields of experimental cardiology, molecular biology, molecular genetics, stem cell research and organ bioengineering. During their tenure, students gain an appreciation for how scientific problems pertaining to medical disease are approached and examined, and experience the day to day running of a cutting-edge research facility. After completing the program, they will have gained knowledge and practical experience in physiological, biochemical, molecular and pharmacological methodologies and be better prepared to make important career decisions.

The summer session closed with a scientific symposium presented by the students on Wednesday, July 30 from 9AM to 12PM followed by an awards luncheon honoring the Summer Fellows and local sponsors at the Laboratory. Funding for this year's program has been provided by The Boilermaker Charity Bib Program, Drs. Atul and Amita Butala, the Cortese Family Fund, Dr. Ihor and Hiie Gussak, International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local #43, M&T

Bank, Dr. Thomas Mathew, Dr. Theodore and Melva Max, Dr. Ashok and Shilpa Patel, Slocum-Dickson Foundation, Bredablick Lodge 880, F & AM and Utica Lodge 47, F & AM.

Please visit [www.mmrl.edu](http://www.mmrl.edu) to learn more about the Summer Fellowship Program. The application for the 2015 program will be available online in January.

***About The Masonic Medical Research Laboratory** - The Masonic Medical Research Laboratory is a not-for-profit institute founded by the Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons in the State of New York in 1958 and dedicated to improving the health and quality of life for all. The institute's primary mission is to conduct high quality basic and clinical research aimed at generating knowledge and information necessary for development of the medical cures and treatments of tomorrow. The Laboratory is also committed to providing education and training to basic scientists, clinical researchers and students who will perpetuate and extend the fight against disease. Please visit [www.mmrl.edu](http://www.mmrl.edu) to learn more about research at the MMRL or search for the MMRL on Facebook, Twitter, Google+, YouTube and LinkedIn.*

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