



**UMBI**  
UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND  
BIOTECHNOLOGY INSTITUTE

Contact:  
Gene Levinson  
(443) 250-9654  
[levinson@umbi.umd.edu](mailto:levinson@umbi.umd.edu)

December 12, 2006

### **UMBI Intern Sylvia Dasi Wins Award for Research Poster**

Anaheim, CA— Sylvia Dasi, a junior at the University of Maryland Eastern Shore, has been honored with an award for research she presented at the Annual Biomedical Research Conference for Minority Students (ABRCMS) in Anaheim, California in November 2006.

The work was conducted during a summer internship with Dr. Yossi Tal and Dr. Hal Schreier, of UMBI's Center of Marine Biotechnology (COMB). The work was sponsored by the NOAA-EPP funded Living Marine Systems Cooperative Science Center.

Ms. Dasi was recognized for her research on the effects of water salinity levels on the ability of Anammox bacteria to decrease nitrate and salt concentrations in discharge water from marine aquaculture systems. Earlier, Ms. Dasi had received 2nd prize for this work at the 9th Undergraduate Research Symposium at UMBC.

ABRCMS is an annual conference organized by the American Society for Microbiology (ASM) and supported by a grant from the National Institute of General Medical Sciences. Now in its sixth year, ABRCMS is the largest, professional conference for biomedical students. Over 2,500 people attended this year's conference including 1,633 students, 421 faculty and program directors and 418 exhibitors. The conference is designed to encourage underrepresented minority students to pursue advanced training in the biomedical and behavioral sciences and provide faculty mentors and advisors with resources for facilitating students' success.

"This conference addresses a critical need in this country to cultivate the scientific potential and talent in groups (women and under-represented minorities) that were historically and are currently under-utilized in careers within the biomedical sciences," says ASM President-Elect Clifford Houston, the chair of the conference.

During the four-day conference over 1,100 students participated in poster and oral presentations in nine sub-disciplines in the biomedical and behavioral sciences. All undergraduate student presentations were judged and those receiving the highest scores in each scientific discipline and in

each educational level were given awards during the final banquet. A total of 120 undergraduates received monetary awards of \$250 for their outstanding research.

The 2007 ABRCMS has been scheduled November 7-10 in Austin, Texas. For more information visit the conference website at [www.abrcms.org](http://www.abrcms.org).

With research centers in Baltimore, Rockville, and College Park, the University of Maryland Biotechnology Institute is the newest of 13 institutions forming the University System of Maryland. UMBI has 85 ladder-rank faculty and a 2006 budget of \$60 million. Celebrating the institution's 20th year of service to Maryland and the world, UMBI is led by microbiologist and former biotechnology executive Dr. Jennie C. Hunter-Cevera. For more information visit [www.umbi.umd.edu/](http://www.umbi.umd.edu/).

###