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PRESS RELEASE

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Hauptman- Woodward Medical Research Institute
Celebrates Conclusion of Successful 2006 Research Intern Summer Program
County Executive Joel Giambra, Erie County Legislature Chair Lynn Marinelli
Congratulated For Supporting Critical County Funding For the Scientists of the Future

The Hauptman-Woodward Medical Research Institute (HWI) is celebrating the success of the 2006 Research Intern Summer Program. Local students attending schools throughout the United States have participated in the summer program which was made possible largely by a \$50,000 county grant supported by Erie County Executive Joel Giambra and Erie County Legislature Chair Lynn Marinelli.

For the past 33 years, summer student apprentices have been selected from college student applicants who are permanent residents of Western New York. The summer program is designed to encourage young people to pursue careers in science and to make them aware of the high level of research going on in Buffalo. HWI's scientists offer hands-on state-of-the-art research experience which helps them make decisions about health-related careers.

"We have had a tremendously successful summer student program this year thanks to the funding from Erie County. The County money is critical to this research effort because our young faculty members are at a crucial point in their careers and the interns who are funded through the county grant assist those faculty members," Dr. Jane F. Griffin, principal research scientist and summer student program coordinator, said. "The interns help make possible the preliminary research results that are necessary to apply for peer-reviewed National Institutes of Health federal research grants – new money supporting the Western New York area. At the conclusion of the program, the interns formally present their work to the HWI scientists and each year we are gratified by the results of their efforts."

"The students are equally fulfilled by their intern experience here. One former intern said that he had learned more in a few days at HWI than in an entire college-level Biology course. Another former intern remarked on the cooperative nature of the Institute made apparent by everyone helping each other, sharing equipment and supplies," Griffin said. "The program was a great success and I believe it was a worthy and highly productive use of public support. It was an investment in the future for the students and for HWI."

"Funding internships for local students is a win-win for everyone. The money stays in Erie County to benefit its citizens and a fine institution like Hauptman-Woodward," Joel Giambra, Erie County Executive, said. "It also gives these students an opportunity to take an advantage of an excellent program and hopefully send them on their way to a career that will enhance the quality of life for Erie County."

"I am proud as a member of the Erie County Legislature to have supported the Hauptman-Woodward Medical Research Institute Research Institute Summer Program," County Legislature Chairperson Lynn M. Marinelli (D-Buffalo, Tonawanda) said. "The support we gave the summer intern research program will return dividends above and beyond the amount of funding we provided, not only to the student interns taking part, but to cutting-edge scientific research companies such as Hauptman-Woodward and to Buffalo's Medical Corridor."

Dr. Herbert Hauptman, Buffalo's only Nobel Laureate, also is available to meet with and share his knowledge of the sciences and career opportunities in biomedical research. Each apprentice is involved in a scientific project using state-of-the-art equipment in the fields of molecular biology, methods of development, crystal growth, and x-ray diffraction in studies aimed at ways to prevent and treat diseases such as cancer, breast cancer, diabetes, AIDS,

thyroid disorders, SARS and Alzheimer's disease. Students must present their work in front of their mentors, members of the scientific staff, and other peer participants at the end of the program.

- **Sheena Degan** is working in Dr. Wayne Schultz's lab. She is currently a student at SUNY Fredonia and is studying molecular genetics.
- **Jacqueline Gaddy** works in Dr. William L. Duax's lab and is studying biology at Spelman College.
- **Laura Grell** is working in Dr. Michael G. Malkowski's Lab. Grell is studying bioinformatics at the Rochester Institute of Technology.
- **Maureen Hanley** is working in Joseph R. Luft's lab. She is working to complete a degree in biomedical engineering with a minor in economics at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute.
- **Suet Kam Lam** is working in Dr. Edward H. Snell's lab. Lam is working to complete a triple degree in biochemistry, Spanish and history at Washington & Jefferson College.
- **Adam Kroll** is working in Malkowski's lab. Kroll is studying medicinal chemistry at SUNY Buffalo.
- **Andrew Laly** is working in Dr. George DeTitta's lab. He is beginning a master's program in Information Technology at the Rochester Institute of Technology.
- **Deborah Makin** is working in Duax's lab. She is currently a student at Canisius College and is studying bioinformatics and computer science.
- **Jennifer Makin** is working in Dr. Vivian Cody's lab. She is studying biology at Canisius College.
- **Namrita Mozumdar** is working in Dr. Mary Rosenblum's lab. She currently is attending Boston College and is studying English, pre-medicine and chemistry.
- **Steven Palmer** is working in Dr. Andrew M. Gulick's lab. Palmer is a student at Wheaton College and is studying English and pre-medicine.
- **Rebecca Robilotto** works in Dr. Barnali Chaudhuri's lab and studies bioinformatics at Canisius College.
- **Benjamin Rodwin** is working in Gulick's lab. Rodwin is a student at Brandeis University and is studying neuroscience and biology.
- **Claire Smith** is working in Duax's lab. She is currently studying computers and bioengineering at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.
- **Elizabeth Stofko** is working in Snell's lab. Stofko is studying biology at Case Western University.
- **Alex Vecchio** is working in Schultz's lab. Vecchio is currently attending SUNY at Buffalo and is studying pre-medicine and biochemistry.
- **Glenn Wallace** is working in Duax's lab. He is currently a student at East High School.
- **Kristen Wunsch** is working in Rosenblum's lab. She has recently graduated from Syracuse University with a degree in bioengineering. She will be starting at SUNY Buffalo in the fall where she will be working toward a Ph.D. in biomedical sciences.