

# SCHOOLS

## Huntington Medical Research Institutes STEM Program Benefits PUSD Students

Eight 11th- and 12th-grade students from two Pasadena Unified School District (PUSD) high schools and Huntington Medical Research Institutes recently celebrated the conclusion of HMRI's inaugural biomedical research high school STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) program with a closing symposium at which the students gave brief presentations recapping their respective learning experiences and received certificates of completion.

The PUSD high school participants — Skylar Adams and Anthony Romero of the CIS Academy and Haydee Angeles, Emily Martinez, Elizabeth Alvarez, Arleth Angeles, Isaiah Gilmore and Amina Malone of Marshall Fundamental Secondary School — all were selected for the program through an application process that included teacher recommendations.

The six-week summer program gave the students an invaluable opportunity to learn from and collaborate with HMRI research scientists and staff, a STEM instructor and undergraduate teaching assistant mentors from three colleges and universities.

While delving into various subjects — research, methods and instrumentation; anatomy (brain, heart, lungs); pathology and imaging; genetics; and mental health — students conducted interactive laboratory exercises, including extracting DNA from strawberries; learning about brain function by watching zombie film clips; conducting dissections; exploring the human anatomy using endoscopes with a laboratory “squishy human body” to simulate an endoscopy; and touring HMRI's labs.



Photo courtesy HMRI

Holding their certificates of completion, eight 11th- and 12th-grade students from two Pasadena Unified School District (PUSD) high schools and Huntington Medical Research Institutes' representatives celebrate the conclusion of HMRI's inaugural biomedical research high school STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) program. They are pictured here with HMRI President and CEO Julia Bradsher.

“Everyone at HMRI and our supporters are delighted this inaugural program was so well received by the students,” said HMRI President and CEO Julia E. Bradsher. “Our key mission for this program is to educate and encourage the next generation of outstanding physicians, scientists and researchers to follow their interests and continue to grow and develop toward science-related careers.”

“Judging from the students' enthusiastic responses, I believe time will prove we achieved that

goal. We can't wait to see what the future holds for them and what great things they will do because of the seeds we planted here.”

Bradsher said that HMRI's inaugural biomedical research high school STEM program was made possible by start-up funds from Pasadena residents Drs. Sonia and Neil Singla, a three-year grant from The Confidence Foundation, and funding from the Ann Peppers Foundation.

Over the past 40 years, HMRI has offered a Summer Research

Program to some 515 undergraduate college students, many of whom have gone on to become physicians, scientists, engineers and researchers — some now holding prestigious faculty appointments at academic institutions around the world, according to Bradsher.

“We are deeply grateful to Drs. Singla, The Confidence Foundation and the Ann Peppers Foundation for enabling HMRI to realize our goal of making a greater impact in the community by expanding our summer program-

ing to include underserved high school students,” Bradsher said. “We look forward to our high school STEM program's continued growth in coming years to give more and more students who might not otherwise have access to top-tier interactive educational programs in these fields opportunities to explore new and uncharted solutions to some of healthcare's biggest challenges, like heart disease, Alzheimer's and mental illness — and have fun in the process — just as these students did.”

More than 8.9 million U.S. kids have been vaccinated against COVID-19\*

MILD TO MODERATE REACTIONS WERE COMMON



Arm pain



Fever



Headache

Serious illness was rare

To keep kids healthy and in school, vaccinate 12-17-year-olds AS SOON AS POSSIBLE



\*December 14, 2020–July 16, 2021

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### ELIZABETH HOUSE contd. from page 1

of 100 attendees at their new Center for Mother and Child Wellbeing and a livestreamed virtual program that can be watched from home through various “Watch Parties” with more than 200 guests throughout the country. (“Watch Parties” consist of privately hosted gatherings in which guests can watch the livestreamed gala together, while enjoying drinks, food and festivities.)

The program is 40 minutes and will include updates from Debbie Unruh, the founder and executive director of Elizabeth House, an alumna testimonial and virtual silent and live auctions.

“This year's gala theme, ‘Thriving in Every Season,’ highlights the courageous women of Elizabeth House

who have overcome much and are shining examples of what it means to thrive in all circumstances,” a spokesperson said.

The Elizabeth House Gala Committee is being co-chaired by Jenny Stanley of Deasy Penner Podley and Mariela Spillari of the Pasadena Tournament of Roses.

Event sponsors (as of press time) include David and Mary Sue Scheidler, Mark and Janet Hotchkin Tinoco, Tom and Heidi Luginbuhl, Deasy Penner Podley, Osher Van De Voorde, Dave Knight Real Estate Team, Norris Realty Advisors, Gilmore Heating and Air Conditioning, Merrill Lynch Wealth Management, Montrose Church, PCV Murcor, Bridge Advisory, Net Ready, and Nobility Consulting.

Those interested in donating, sponsoring or registering for the virtual event can visit [ehgala2021.givesmart.com](http://ehgala2021.givesmart.com) by Sept. 8.