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**For Immediate Release:**

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## **Summer Internship Program Immerses Minority Students in Prostate Cancer Research**

The Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences (USU) Center for Prostate Disease Research (CPDR) played host recently to seven students from the University of the District of Columbia for a rigorous twelve-week training internship focused on prostate cancer research.

The internship was established jointly by the CPDR, which is part of USU's Department of Surgery, and the University of the District of Columbia (UDC) in 2008 through a grant from the Department of Defense-Prostate Cancer Research Program (DoD-PCRP) and the United States Army Medical Research and Materiel Command (USAMRMC). The principal investigators of the grant are Shiv Srivastava, PhD, Co-Director of CPDR and Professor of Surgery and Deepak Kumar, PhD, Associate Professor, UDC. The program was coordinated by Taduru Sreenath, PhD, Assistant Director and the CPDR. Interns were selected based on academic achievements at UDC in prostate cancer research. CPDR provided a structured framework for the summer training program in a rich scientific environment that is credited for landmark discoveries in prostate cancer research.

The students presented the summary of their training and research accomplishments at USU to leaders from the participating organizations.

The presenters and the title of their concluding presentations were as follows:

- Emelia Daka, mentor: Albert Dobi, Ph.D.: *"Defining mir-1271 in benign epithelial cells of tumor bearing prostate glands"*
- Benjamin Ozokwere, mentor: Taduru Sreenath, Ph.D.: *"Functional analysis of ERG oncogene and it's role in transdifferentiation"*
- Heran Kalyie, mentor: Johnan Kaleeba, Ph.D.: *"Human Herpes virus 8 in prostate cancer initiation and progression"*
- Henoke Shibeshi, mentor: Meera Srivastava, Ph.D.: *"Distinct tumor suppressor effects of wild type versus dominant negative Annexin 7 involve Fibroblast Growth Factor 8"*
- Preeti Upadhyay, mentor: Albert Dobi, Ph.D.: *"ERG is a Transcriptional Repressor of Probasin Promoter (ARR2PB)"*
- Tseday Zewdu Tegegn, mentor: Gyorgy Petrovics, Ph.D.: *"Functional Analysis of ERG"*
- Zainab Afzal, mentor: Shyh-Han Tan, Ph.D.: *"Subcellular Localization and Transcriptional Activity of ERG Isoforms"*

Located on the grounds of Bethesda's National Naval Medical Center and across from the National Institutes of Health, USU is the nation's federal school of medicine and graduate school of nursing. The university educates health care professionals dedicated to career service in the Department of Defense and the U.S. Public Health Service. Students are active-duty uniformed officers in the Army, Navy, Air Force and Public Health Service who are being educated to deal with wartime casualties, natural disasters, emerging infectious diseases, and other public health emergencies. Of the university's nearly 4,400 physician alumni and more than 400 advanced practice nurses, the vast majority serve on active duty and are supporting operations in Iraq,

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Afghanistan, and elsewhere, offering their leadership and expertise. The University also has graduated more than 600 public health professionals.

For more information about USU and its programs, visit [www.usuhs.mil](http://www.usuhs.mil).