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For Immediate Release:

2010 Internship Program Immerses Minority Students in Prostate Cancer Research

The Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences (USU) Center for Prostate Disease Research (CPDR) recently completed its third consecutive summer internship program for outstanding students from the University of the District of Columbia (UDC). The program was established jointly in 2008 by the CPDR – part of USU's Department of Surgery – and the UDC, through a grant from the Department of Defense-Prostate Cancer Research Program (DoD-PCRP) award to Dr. Shiv Srivastava (PI), CPDR co-director and USU professor, and Dr. Deepak Kumar (Co-PI), Chair of the Department of Biology at UDC.

Five interns were selected for the 2010 program based on academic achievements at UDC in prostate cancer research. CPDR provided a structured framework for the program, offering a rich multi-disciplinary prostate cancer translational research environment that is credited for landmark discoveries. The students completed their program by presenting their training and research accomplishments at USU to leaders from the participating organizations. Dr. Taduru Sreenath, CPDR assistant director, served as the primary coordinator for the program.

The 2010 interns were:

- Nicola Abdul, mentor: Taduru Sreenath, Ph.D.: *"TMPRSS2-Ets Related Gene Fusions in Mouse Model for Prostate Cancer"*
- Zainab Afzal, mentor: Jane Hudak, RN, Ph.D.: *"Shadowing Patients with Prostate Cancer"*
- Juliet Chijioke, mentor: Hua Li, M.D., Ph.D.: *"Regulation of Androgen Receptor Levels Through the PMEP1-NEDD4-1 Feedback Loop"*
- Christelle Donfack, mentor: Ahmed Mohamed, M.D., Ph.D.: *"Characterization of ERG Protein in Prostate Cancer and Other Tumor Cell Lines"*
- Habib Kedir, mentor: Gyorgy Petrovics, Ph.D.: *"Urine Based Prostate Cancer Diagnostic Assay Development"*

The Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences (www.usuhs.mil) is the nation's federal health sciences university. USU students are primarily active duty uniformed officers in the Army, Navy, Air Force and Public Health Service who are being educated to deal with wartime casualties, emerging infectious diseases and other public health emergencies. Of the university's more than 4,500 physician alumni, the vast majority are supporting operations in Iraq, Afghanistan and elsewhere, offering their leadership and expertise.

For more information about USU and its programs, visit www.usuhs.mil.