

Three SWOSU Biology Students Awarded Scholarships for Undergraduate Research

07.01.2014

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Three biology students at Southwestern Oklahoma State University in Weatherford are conducting research this summer thanks to scholarships received by the students.

The students are Matt Abbott, Anadarko; Nile McCullough, Edmond; and Timothy Stein, Enid.

Abbott is conducting research this summer through the SWOSU Department of Biological Sciences and Oklahoma IDeA Network of Biomedical Research Excellence (OK-INBRE) under the mentorship of Dr. Andrea Holgado. Abbot is working on a project titled Analysis of Autophagy in Neurons. His summer internship is awarded through a grant from the National Institute of Health. Students in the program have the opportunity of gaining first-hand experience working on innovative biomedical research projects with guidance from their faculty mentors.

McCullough is performing research on the effect of menthol on nicotine addiction as part of the 2014 Combined Summer Undergraduate Research Program Fellowship at the University of Massachusetts Medical School in Worcester. This program provides McCullough with in-depth exposure to actual biomedical research, career-building connections between researchers, post docs, graduate students, and peers and encouragement to consider biomedical research as a viable career choice.

Stein is conducting research in the area of Biological Warfare at the Naval Surface Warfare Research Center in Dahlgren (VA). Working in the Chemical, Biological, and Radiological Warfare Concepts and Experimentation Branch, he is modeling the effects of anthrax on human gastrointestinal cells to obtain a better understanding of how the body's immune system reacts in such a situation. The Naval Research Enterprise Internship Program provides an opportunity for students to participate in research at a Department of Navy laboratory during the summer and has positions ranging from math and physics to chemistry and biology.