

SWOSU's Hubin Receives \$15,600 LSAMP Grant

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Dr. Timothy Hubin, associate professor in the Department of Chemistry and Physics at Southwestern Oklahoma State University in Weatherford, recently received a \$15,600 grant from the National Science Foundation, through Oklahoma State University, as part of the Oklahoma Louis Stokes Alliance for Minority Participation (LSAMP) in Science, Mathematics, Engineering, and Technology.

This is the fifth year Hubin has received funding through this OK-LSAMP grant, which brings the total amount awarded to \$69,541.

Hubin took over as campus coordinator of the SWOSU LSAMP program in late 2009. Dr. Brian Campbell, professor in the Department of Chemistry and Physics, served as the campus coordinator for several years before that time.

The OK-LSAMP Program began in 1994 and is a consortium of Oklahoma colleges and universities working together to develop programs aimed at increasing the number of students from under-represented populations who receive degrees in science, mathematics, engineering and Technology (STEM). It is named after the retired Ohio Congressman Louis Stokes, who has helped bring about many minority-focused programs.

Students who earn stipend support through OK-LSAMP first participate in a Scholar Seminar series designed to prepare them for success in graduate school. Advanced students are then placed with a faculty mentor to help carry out their research. Offering a mentorship program at SWOSU helps students to acquire their first taste of research at a familiar location. Hubin said this could be especially beneficial for those unable to commit to out-of-state programs.

Students mentored by Dr. Hubin assist him with the research of dual CXCR4/CCR5 antagonists. CXCR4 and CCR5 are the most studied chemokine receptors due to their roles in a broad range of diseases, including cancer, arthritis and HIV. Chemokines are small, soluble, signaling proteins that many cell types are attracted to, and chemokine receptors are cell surface proteins that bind chemokines and initiate cell movement.

Hubin said any discoveries made during this study could be potentially transformative, since the area of dual chemokine receptor antagonism is in its infancy.