



AFMR Eastern Regional News

JUNE 2010

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Eastern Region Annual Meeting Featured Awards, Insightful Presentations

The Eastern Region of the AFMR showcased its high caliber science and research when it convened at the Washington Marriott Wardman Park in Washington, DC April 5-6 for its 2010 Annual Meeting.

This year's program featured excellent abstract presentations across numerous disciplines by authors from many different institutions on the coast and provided great insight from invited lecturers including Charles W. Flexner, MD, of the Institute of Clinical and Translational Research at Johns Hopkins University, who provided the 1st Former AFMR/AFCR President's Address, and Karen Goraleski of Research!America who gave a fascinating interactive workshop on medical research advocacy (please visit www.researchamerica.org).

Along with abstract presentations covering current aspects and innovative approaches to medical research, the 2010 program addressed timely and important topics such as dealing with conflict and negotiation in the current economic climate - a presentation given by Randal S. Weber, MD of the University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center, and career building through publication, which was the focus of Dr. Allison Reiss of Winthrop University Hospital in New York.

In 2010, the Eastern Region also honored seven top scholars during a ceremony over dinner on April 5th. Please see page two for the list of scholars. In addition, two of the scholars provided a brief look inside their lives. Please see page 2 for a conversation with Angela Benton and Isaac Opoku-Asare.

This year's Eastern Regional Meeting program and abstracts are now archived on the AFMR website (<http://afmr.org>). Planning for the 2011 Annual Meeting, to be held in Washington, DC, is underway. Please check the Eastern Region website for regular programming updates.

AFMR EASTERN REGION CONTRIBUTES TO *Journal of Investigative Medicine*



The Eastern Region is proud to announce that regional members have recently been published in the Journal of Investigative Medicine (JIM).

Angela Benton and **Robert Freishtat, MD, MPH** are published in the June 2010 edition, page 725, for their work titled, "Cigarette Smoke Alters Tissue Inhibitor of Metalloproteinase 1 and Matrix Metalloproteinase 9 Levels in the Basolateral Secretions of Human Asthmatic Bronchial Epithelium In Vitro." Angela Benton also received an AFMR Eastern Region Scholar Award at the 2010 Eastern Regional Meeting in Washington, DC.

John Concato, MD, MS, MPH is published in the April 2010 edition on page 625 for his work titled, "Changes in Gleason Scores for Prostate Cancer: What Should We Expect From a Measurement?"

To access these articles and more, please visit <http://www.afmr.org/journal.cgi>.

A Conversation with Two AFMR Scholar Recipients

Angela Benton and Isaac Opoku-Asare are two of the seven individuals who were presented Scholar Awards at the AFMR 2010 Eastern Regional Meeting for their outstanding educational work to the 2010 program. Learn a bit more about the clinical and personal interests of these AFMR Scholars.

Please tell us about your current level of training and/or academic position.

Benton: I am currently a Master's student at George Washington University, studying Genomics and Bioinformatics. Additionally, I work as a study coordinator at Children's National Medical Center in the Research Center for Genetic Medicine.

Opoku-Asare: I am currently a cardiology fellow at Howard University Hospital.

Please describe your research interests.

Benton: I am interested in utilizing bioinformatic tools to better understand complex disease phenotypes, such as asthma.

Opoku-Asare: Cardiovascular imaging and heart failure

Please summarize the research project(s) that you presented at the recent American Federation of Medical Research for which you were recognized with the noted award.

Benton: I employed cluster analysis to identify homogeneous phenotypic subgroups within a heterogeneous pediatric asthma population. From there, I utilized regression analysis to determine previously undetectable associations between environmental tobacco smoke exposure and asthma characteristics within the identified subgroups.

Opoku-Asare: We demonstrated that a reduction in ejection fraction during stress within the normal range with gated SPECT imaging is not associated with increased mortality.

Briefly, what are your professional plans for the next five years?

Benton: Following completion of my Master's program, I plan to enter medical school.

Opoku-Asare: I would like to be a Cardiologist in an academic setting who spends 60% in clinical work and 40% in research.

When you are not working on your research, how do you like to spend your free time?

Benton: In my free time I enjoy running, cooking, yoga, and reading.

Opoku-Asare: In my free time I play with my daughter and watch soccer.

AFMR 2010 EASTERN REGIONAL SCHOLARS

Angela Benton

*Children's National Medical Center
Washington, DC*

Charu Gandotra

*Howard University Hospital
Washington, DC*

Ofek Hai

*Winthrop University Hospital
Mineola, New York*

Bora Kim

*Winthrop University Hospital
Mineola, New York*

Sirikarn Napan

*Howard University Hospital
Washington, DC*

Isaac Opoku-Asare

*Howard University Hospital
Washington DC VA Medical Center
Washington, DC*

Ravi Parikh

*Vanderbilt University School of Medicine
Nashville, Tennessee*

RESEARCH AMERICA

AN ALLIANCE FOR DISCOVERIES IN HEALTH

The AFMR is a member of Research!America, the nation's largest not-for-profit public education and advocacy alliance. Research!America focuses on advocacy, leadership, outreach, public opinion polls and public education as they relate to medical research.

To learn more about Research!America and how you, as a modern day medical researcher, may become involved with the organization, please visit <http://www.researchamerica.org/>. Read the May-June 2010 edition of their newsletter, *The Research Advocate*.

As a member of Research!America, AFMR was recently sent a [brief highlights video](#) from the 2010 Research!America Advocacy Awards event. This video highlights awardees' inspiring words about the importance of advocacy and health research. Click here to view or visit http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=72OWcZOSa7E&feature=player_embedded



RESEARCH ADVICE

The *Journal of Investigative Medicine* publishes various general research advice articles. A recent article published in the April edition of JIM is "Screening and Evaluation of Study Subjects in Patient-Oriented Research," by Robert Toto, MD of the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center in Dallas, TX.

Dr. Toto's work touches upon infrastructure needs, evaluation and documentation procedures and includes hypothetical situations as well. To view this article, visit <http://www.afmr.org/journal.cgi>. Here you will also find instructions to submit articles to JIM.

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2011 EASTERN REGIONAL MEETING



April, 2011 Washington DC



American Federation for Medical Research