**MHIRT STUDENTS RETURN SAFELY TO HAWAII**

**THANK YOU EVERYONE!**

Message to MHIRT students from Drs. Nerurkar, Taylor and Laarni:

"Welcome Home. We are proud of you. You were great ambassadors for America, Hawaii, the UH, and the MHIRT Program."

Each student was asked to send ONE photo with their final reports that best represented their summer experience. Here are their photos and comments.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Jovikka in Cameroon</th>
<th>Lean in Chiang Mai</th>
<th>Sasha in Bangkok</th>
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<tr>
<td>&quot;We wore our traditional dresses and attended several luncheons hosted by Prof. Leke (photo) It was bittersweet to bid goodbye to our new friends that became family. The MHIRT program gave me the chance to see life's wider horizons, to grow as a person and a scientist. I will be leaving Cameroon with a full heart, broader perspective, and I will always cherish my memories of this time.&quot;</td>
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<td>&quot;My last night in Chiang Mai, all the friends I made, both in my lab and also the ones in the tree planting event, took me out to an amazing dinner. It made me realize the beauty of traveling and temporariness. It's sad how things in life are temporary, the people you meet along the way, the sights you see, and those amazing moments shared, but at the same time, it's also beautiful because you know that these special moments can't be relived again, you know that maybe you won't ever see them again, so you really live the moment to the fullest.'</td>
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<td>&quot;I am excited to come back home to Hawaii but also sad to leave all of my new friends. Over the next few weeks I will be keeping in touch with Dr. Narisara as we finish the manuscript she is publishing. Overall, I had a great time getting closer to my fellow MHIRT students on this trip. I hope we can keep in touch and stay friends.&quot;</td>
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<tr>
<th>Jessica in Palau</th>
<th>Ashley in Rangsit</th>
<th>Cindy in Bangkok</th>
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<td>&quot;I am thankful for this trip, the experience and the relationships I've made along the way including the relationship between myself and the other intern.&quot; &quot;This is the Survey team and we are eating at a local spot that sells different fried foods, and sugary drinks that I wouldn't normally eat. Moreover, me being a good sport and trying everything ...to an extent.&quot;</td>
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<td>&quot;The picture is a sandalwood flower I made for the beloved late King Rama IX. It marks a significant point of time in Thailand where I was able to contribute to the national project of creating flowers for His Majesty's funeral and cremation. I admire the Thai people for their sense of unity, respect, and collectivism.&quot;</td>
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<td>&quot;The image where I am pictured with an elephant, is the photo I would like to share as reflective of my feelings about my summer abroad. Ever since arrived in Bangkok, Thailand has embraced me, and I have greatly welcomed the affection. When I leave, I will most importantly carry with me the memories and experiences I have made here.&quot;</td>
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<tr>
<td>Location</td>
<td>Student</td>
<td>Reflection</td>
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<td>Bangkok</td>
<td>Brithney-Nicole</td>
<td>“It’s unreal to know that my trip is coming to a close. I could not be more grateful for this extraordinary opportunity where I’ve learned such valuable lessons (both outside and inside of lab). I’ve made such amazing new friends that I hope to see once again and where I’ve had many unique, eye-opening experiences that I will never forget. It feels as if it was just yesterday that I just arrived in Bangkok with the mindset of “I can’t wait to go home” but now, I don’t want to leave.”</td>
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<td>Palau</td>
<td>Brianna</td>
<td>“I am very thankful for my experience in Palau. It has taught me how to be innovative and diligent when challenges arise. The beta cells were the first cell lines cultured in Palau. It’s amazing seeing how far the lab and the students have come in working with this project.” The photo was taken at conference for Step-Up students: Amie, Leah, Bubbles, Justin, myself, and Keisha.</td>
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<td>Bangkok</td>
<td>Dwayne</td>
<td>“I arrived in Thailand with a little understanding about the HIV epidemic happening in the global world, but as time progressed, I managed to absorb the life-lessons, skills, and lifestyle of the Thai people.” “Ultimately, my exposure to research this summer gave me another option in my professional career. Before, I only wanted to become a physician but now I am hoping to pursue a dual degree in MD/MPH.”</td>
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<td>India</td>
<td>Michael</td>
<td>“The photo captures the entire lab in one place and was taken on my last day. You can really frame a lot of my experiences and feelings about this summer in this photo.” “While my complexion is similar to that of everybody else’s, my pose on the floor singles me out, like how I am sometimes singled out when I’m out and about by myself.” “Lastly, it’s fitting that we’re all by the Jawaharlal Nehru’s statue because it’s what has bound us all together in the first place — academics and a desire for higher learning and purpose.”</td>
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<td>Cameroon</td>
<td>Brad</td>
<td>“The end of our time in Cameroon is bittersweet. To me, after two months here, what stands out the most about Cameroonian culture is the importance of personal relationships. Everything, from research in the lab to eating dinner, is an opportunity to bond, and we return home with our lives enriched by the many new friends we have made.”</td>
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<td>Chiang Mai</td>
<td>Mark</td>
<td>“I am very thankful to have had the opportunity to partake in this program. I have gained a better understanding as well as an appreciation for the process of scientific research, as well as a new ‘Ohana in Chiang Mai. Just like hermit crabs, as we grow as individuals we need to get out of our shells and explore the environment risk stunting our growth and I feel I was able to do that through this program. I have learned so much, experienced so many things, and made close friends through the process, if I could, I would do it all over again.”</td>
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Although they are back in Hawai‘i, MHIRT 2017 is not over. The Post-Travel Workshop begins Monday, July 31 at 9:00 a.m. During the Workshop, students will have time to share our experiences, analyze and graph results, learn to write a scientific manuscript, compare health disparities here and aboard, think about “life after MHIRT”, prepare video presentations, and finalize plans for the E Ho‘oulu Haumana presentation. See you then.

**All family, faculty and friends are invited to attend E Ho‘oulu Haumana on Friday, August 11th, 5:30 to 8:30pm, Sullivan Conference Center, UH Cancer Center. MHIRT students will talk about their research and culture experiences. Please send RSVP by August 5, 2017 to Laarni (sumibcay@hawaii.edu).**

We are very thankful to everyone who participated in the MHIRT Program this year. Without the help of everyone listed on the next page, MHIRT 2017 wouldn’t have been a success.
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<th>Project title</th>
<th>Foreign Mentor</th>
<th>Hawaii Mentor</th>
<th>Student</th>
<th>UH Academic Program*</th>
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<td>Improving the detection of Plasmodium falciparum in saliva using multi-copy subtelomeric targets</td>
<td>Esenu, Livo</td>
<td>Berestecky, John</td>
<td>Antallan, Jovikka</td>
<td>Natural Sciences/STEM Program/KCC</td>
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<tr>
<td>Improving the detection of Plasmodium falciparum in peripheral blood using multi-copy subtelomeric targets</td>
<td>Leke, Rose</td>
<td>Salt, Yukie Lloyd</td>
<td>Thomas, Brad</td>
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<td>Thai water box jellyfish: species identification, venom biochemistry and toxicological responses</td>
<td>Sathira, Nuankanya</td>
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<td>Canovaili, Sasha</td>
<td>Molecular and Cell Biology/CNS/UHM</td>
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<td>Development and Validation of Immunodiagnostic Assay for Zika Virus Infection</td>
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<td>Vuong, Cindy</td>
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<td>Characterizing HIV-infected individuals in a community-based cohort in Thailand: implications for applying differentiated service delivery</td>
<td>Ramautarsing, Reshmie</td>
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<td>Development of a dual immunochromatographic (ICT) assay for rapid diagnosis in human penicilliosis marneffi and cryptoco-cosis</td>
<td>Youngchim, Sirida</td>
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<td>Razalan, Mark</td>
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<td>Testing Biological Theories of Same-Sex Sexual Attraction and Transgender Identity: Somatic, Cognitive, Behavioral, and Demographic Markers</td>
<td>Saekho, Suwit</td>
<td>Sailsuda, Pom</td>
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<td>Evaluation of the cytotoxicity, cell cycle arrest, and apoptotic induction of hirsutinolides in MCF-7 breast cancer cells and Colo205 colon cancer cells</td>
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<td>Fukuchi, Ashley</td>
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<td>Causes of Diabetes Type II Mellitus in the Republic of Palau: Genetics and Food Habits</td>
<td>Kitalong, Christopher</td>
<td>Nerurkar, Pratibha</td>
<td>Ramirez, Jessica</td>
<td>Food Science and Human Nutrition/HNFAS/UHM</td>
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<td>Natural Products from Palauan Traditional Medicine increase Insulin Levels and Reduce Blood Sugar</td>
<td>Kitalong, Christopher</td>
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<td>Taylor, Brianna</td>
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<td>Expression profiles of circulating cytokines, chemokines and growth factors in patients with acute Chikungunya infection</td>
<td>Tandon, Ravi</td>
<td>Kumar, Mukesh</td>
<td>Faundo, Michael</td>
<td>Molecular and Cell Biology/CNS/UHM</td>
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*STEM - Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics; CNS - College of Natural Sciences; CAS - College of Arts and Sciences; SOEST - School of Ocean, and Earth Science and Technology; HNFAS - Human Nutrition, Food and Animal Sciences; KCC - Kapiolani Community College; UHM - University of Hawaii at Manoa; UHH - University of Hawaii at Hilo
MHIRT 2017 Students

Jovikka Antallan    Michael Faundo    Jessica Ramirez    Lean Teodoro
Sasha Canovali     Ashley Fukuchi    Mark Razalan    Bradley Thomas
Brithney-Nicole dela Cruz Dwayne Manzanillo Brianna Taylor Cindy Vuong

University of Hawaii Mentors
- John Berestecky, PhD
- Leng Chang, PhD
- William Gosnell, PhD
- Mukesh Kumar, PhD
- Axel Lehrer, PhD
- Pratibha Nerurkar, PhD
- Vivek Nerurkar, PhD
- Napapon Sailasuta, PhD
- Yukie Lloyd Sato, MS
- Diane Taylor, PhD
- Angel Yanagihara, PhD
- Sam Tassi Yunga, MD

Cameroon Mentors
University of Yaounde I, Biotechnology Center
- Gabriel Loni Ekali, MD, MPH
- Rose Leke, PhD
- Livo Esemu

Thailand Mentors
Mahidol University
- Narisara Chantarita, PhD
- Pornsawan Leaungwutiwong, PhD
- Nuankanya Sathirapongsasuti, MD, PhD
- Argon Steel, PhD

India Mentor
Jawaharlal Nehru University
- Ravi Tandon, PhD

South East Asia Research Collaboration with Hawaii (SEARCH)/Thai AIDS Research Center
- Reshmie Ramautarsing, PhD

Chiang Mai University
- Suwit Saekho, PhD
- Sirida Youngchim, PhD

Rangsit University
- Suchada Jongrungruangchok, PhD

Palau Mentor
Palau Community College
- Christopher Kitalong, PhD

MHIRT Advisory Board Committee
- Rachel Boulay, PhD
- Sandra Chang, PhD
- Vernadette Gonzalez, PhD
- Maile Goo, PsyD
- Tammy Ho
- George Hui, PhD
- Keawe’aimoku Kaholokula, PhD
- Pakieli Kaufusi, PhD
- Lishomwa Ndhlovu, MD, PhD
- Helen Turner, PhD
- Richard Yanagihara, MD, MPH

MHIRT Program Course Instructors and Invited Speakers
- Ngu Njei Abanda, PhD
- Vernon Ansdell, MD
- James Campbell, PhD
- Sandra Chang, PhD
- John Chen, PhD
- David Clements, PhD
- Vina Cristobal
- May Rose dela Cruz, PhD
- Joe Elm
- William Gosnell, PhD
- Satoru Izutsu, PhD
- Melissa Kahili-Heede
- Keawe’aimoku Kaholokula, PhD
- Pakieli Kaufusi, PhD
- Very Reverend Fr. Drew Kovach, MD
- Mukesh Kumar, BVSc & AH, MS, PhD
- Nelson Masang
- Lishomwa Ndhlovu, MD, PhD
- Kenji Obadia Mfuh, MPH
- Catherine Pirkle, PhD
- Napapon Sailasuta, PhD
- Cynthia Scheopner, JD, MA
- Amanda Shell
- Tina Shelton
- Laarni Sumibcay, MPH
- Angela Sy, DrPH
- Richard Yanagihara, MD, MPH
- Sam Tassi Yunga, MD, PhD

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