

# McNair Memo

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## Meet Jessica Hernandez, Alumna

Jessica Hernandez, McNair Scholar received her MPH with an emphasis in Epidemiology and Biostatistics at George Washington University this May.

She received her B.S. in Cellular and Molecular Biology from SDSU in May, 2002. As an undergraduate, Jessica conducted research in Dr. Christopher Glembotski's laboratory on cardiovascular response to stress inducers. She was also a Minority Biomedical Research Support (MBRS) student for two years before graduating.

In addition, Jessica conducted research during the summer of 2001 with the University of California, San Diego's Department of Bioengineering. She was a Minority Access to Science, Engineering, & Mathematics (MASEM) summer research fellow under the mentorship of Dr. Andrew McCulloch.

Jessica is also a fellow of the Cancer Research Training Award for the National Cancer Institute (NCI). Initially she earned this position as an intern in the Introduction to Cancer Research Careers Program (ICRC). She is currently working in the Laboratory of Dr. Kathryn Zoon under the supervision of Joseph Bekisz, M.S. conducting research on Inteferon induced cell signaling in a human tumor cell line. Dr. Zoon is the Principal Deputy Director for the Center for Cancer Research. When asked of her experience

with the ICRC, Jessica responds, "The ICRC program allowed me the opportunity to work at the NCI and has helped me discover new opportunities for the future. It has opened the door for me and now it's up to me to take advantage of my being here."

Jessica is interested in applying to the Graduate Partnership Program (GPP), which allows graduate students the opportunity to conduct specialized research at the NIH, while earning a graduate degree at a university. "I'm not sure that I would have considered the GPP had it not been for the ICRC program. One of the main reasons is because I had no

knowledge of it prior to my participation in the ICRC program."

Jessica receives much support from her mentor at the NCI "Dr. Zoon has already offered me a position once the internship ends and is offering me advice and concrete assistance with the Graduate Partnership Program." Jessica plans to apply to a Ph.D. program in Molecular Biology this fall.

"If we value the pursuit of knowledge, we must be free to follow wherever that search may lead us." -Adlai Stevenson (1900-1965) Speech. University of Wisconsin, Madison, 8 October 1952

—a complete version of this article was published on the NCI website ICRC Profiles in October 2003



Jessica Hernandez at the Balloon Festival in Albuquerque, NM after the 2003 SACNAS National Conference

## GRE Words

**harangue:** A speech addressed to a large public assembly; a popular oration; a loud address a multitude; in a bad sense, a noisy or pompous speech; declamation; ranting.  
transitive verb: To deliver a harangue to; to address by a harangue. intransitive verb: To make a harangue; to declaim.

"His emissaries, had attended the Priest's convocation of the people, and, without delaying to hear more than the main point of the

**harangue,** hurried back with their intelligence to the rebel camp." --Wilkie Collins, *Iolani: Or, Tahiti as It Was*. A Romance

**evanescent:** Liable to vanish or pass away like vapor; vanishing; fleeting; as, evanescent joys.

**HARANGUE** \huh-RANG\, *noun*

**EVANESCENT** \ev-uh-NESS-uhnt\, *adjective*

**MENDACITY** \men-das'l-te\ *noun*

"The accidentally famous... may write books, appear on talk shows, and, in so doing, attract even greater public attention. This type of celebrity status, of course, is brittle and **evanescent**."  
--Lawrence M. Friedman, *The Horizontal Society*

**mendacity:** 1. quality of being mendacious; untruthfulness; tendency to lie. 2. an instance of lying; falsehood.

These GRE words of the month are some of Dictionary.com's word of the day.