Idaho State University to host Third Annual BRIN Research Conference

Idaho State University will host the Third Annual Biomedical Research Infrastructure Network (BRIN) Research Conference on the campus of ISU on August 9-11.

BRIN, which consists of ISU, the University of Idaho and Boise State University, is a program designed to help Idaho build a better scientific research infrastructure at the three major public institutions of higher learning in order to attract a greater percentage of federal funds for research.

BRIN is funded by a $6 million grant awarded in 2001 from the National Institutes of Health’s Center of Research Resources (NIH). A supplement to the grant in 2003 allows all 10 higher education institutions in Idaho to be part of the BRIN Network.

This funding will allow Idaho researchers, including College of Pharmacy faculty, to increase their competitiveness for future NIH research dollars through development of a statewide research network and bioinformatics capability.

The award also supports cooperation among the three universities to enhance opportunities for Idaho’s faculty, undergraduate and graduate students to perform biomedical research. One such opportunity, the Idaho BRIN Undergraduate Summer Fellowship Program, is now in its third summer of activity.

BRIN awarded 31 fellowships this summer to undergraduate students enrolled in colleges and universities across Idaho.

Several of these students will present research during the conference. These students will be competing for research enhancement funds in order to build on their BRIN sponsored research.

“The BRIN program has allowed us to expand our graduate program through the support of five new graduate research assistantships, assisted faculty to generate preliminary data for grant submissions through a seed grant program, and establish a foundation for the development of new research collaborations in the area of bioinformatics with the ISU Department of Biological Sciences, said Dr. Chris Daniels, chair of the college’s Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences.

In addition to the graduate student competition, the conference agenda includes a undergraduate poster presentation competition, biotech vendor fair, faculty research presentations, thematic discussions between faculty, undergraduate and graduate students and an awards banquet. ISU President Dr. Richard Bowen, along with BSU President Dr. Robert Kustra and UI President Dr. Timothy White, will be the guest speakers. For more information, see www.sci.uidaho.edu/brin/Conference.htm.

ISU College of Pharmacy Associate Professor of Pharmaceutical Sciences, Dr. Alok Bhushan, above, works with graduate students in his lab.