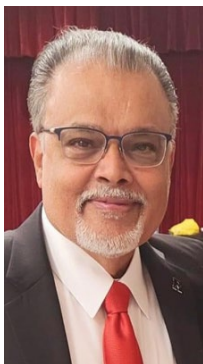


Rutgers Youth Enjoy Science Research Poster Symposium R. Messina (RUYES Program Coordinator)

In August 2022, the Rutgers Youth Enjoy Science (RUYES) Program concluded the summer research training with the first in-person Research Poster Symposium at Rutgers Cancer Institute of New Jersey. The symposium was held over two days, August 19



and 29. High school science teachers, high school, and undergraduate student participants prepared a scientific poster and presentation describing the hands-on mentored cancer research they conducted at the Rutgers Cancer Institute during summer. Research projects included genomic instability, the role of p53 protein awareness, therapeutics, and survivorship. At the conclusion of their talk, attendees engaged participants in further discussion on their research or questions about their learning experiences in the RUYES program.



RUYES participants and cancer research were the highlights of this symposium. In addition, guest keynote speakers attended and offered motivational advice and commentary on the importance of science communication, building networks, and community outreach.

On August 19 (Day 1), Dr. Kamal Khan of the Office for Diversity and Academic Success in the Sciences (ODASIS), presented a talk entitled, “*Don’t Give Up.*” His stories were of notable individuals from underrepresented backgrounds that overcame fear and adversity, academic struggles, and social obstacles to find success in the field of medicine. His

comments on finding a support system, taking initiative, and advocating for oneself were relevant and motivating.

Keynote speaker on August 31 (Day 2), Karen Burns White of the Dana Farber Cancer Center offered an uplifting message as she began with *“Congratulations. You have done what you were called to do.”* She reminded the RUYES participants to continue to communicate with the network they have created, surround themselves with positivity, and to understand their mission. She also encouraged advocacy for oneself and others, as well as finding opportunities for community outreach.



In all, the event was a culmination of the summer experiences and research for the RUYES program participants and took on a celebratory air. Tasha Hester, a cohort 2, first-year teacher in the RUYES program described her overall

experience. *“This program is a great support for teachers who want to increase the rigor and academic motivation in their classroom. It allows for a teacher to refresh or learn new skills and propel them into high level teaching.”*

