

Touro College Of Pharmacy 'Capstone Project' Winners

Sixty-three graduating students of the first class of the Touro College of Pharmacy presented the results of their year-long research projects at an event at the college in Harlem last week, culminating in presentations from the three top winners of "Capstone Project."

The winners were Chukwuma Pius-Nwagwu, from Rahway, N.J., who designed a study to test the efficacy of the drug riociguat as an alternative to hydroxyurea in treatment of sickle cell disease; Ramya Devineni, who wrote a proposal to study how paclitaxel, a drug used in chemotherapy to treat cancer, could be administered orally rather than intravenously; and Susanna Carou, a Queens native who, while working at the N.J. office of Swiss-based Novartis, examined drug safety signal detection systems and the use of data mining as a tool for detecting safety issues.

The wide-ranging projects were conducted at school, in laboratories, and in corporate settings. One student, Yakov Fattakhov, an Orthodox Jew who immigrated with his family at age 13 from Tajikistan, did his research at the prestigious Weizmann Institute of Science in Israel, where he investigated better antidotes for nerve gas poisoning than currently exist.

Touro College of Pharmacy, which opened in Harlem in September 2008, is committed to of-

fering increased educational opportunities – especially in Harlem – through programs in pharmacy education, research and scholarship, and through service to the community and the profession. The college will hold its inaugural commencement on May 17th at the New York Academy of Medicine.