



Medal presented

Col. Kenneth Bertram, commander of the Walter Reed Army Institute of Research presented the Army Commendation Medal to Maj. Christophe N. Peyrefitte, French military liaison to the Department of Molecular Pathology, July 7. The major received the medal for his work on Chikungunya virus, staphylococcal enterotoxin B and dengue.

MRICD Intern attends prestigious conference

David Yeung, an Oak Ridge Institute of Science and Education Program intern at the U.S. Army Medical Research Institute of Chemical Defense and a University of Maryland graduate student, was among 60 top young researchers from U.S. academic and government laboratories selected to attend The Lindau Conference, in Lindau, Germany. The meeting was held June 25-30.

Since 1951, the conference has provided about 200 graduate students and young researchers, chosen from an international pool of more than 11,000 nominees, to meet both formally and informally with Nobel laureates in chemistry, physics and physiology/medicine. U.S. participants are selected by the U.S. Department of Energy, the National Science Foundation, the National Institutes of Health, the U.S. Army and Oak Ridge-associated universities. The students gathered in Washington, D.C., June 23 for an orientation meeting at DOE's headquarters before embarking on their travel to Lindau.

Yeung is conducting his dissertation research at the institute, investigating ways to engineer bioscavenger pretreatments against exposure to chemical warfare agents and has authored two peer-reviewed scientific journal articles on his work.

Yeung said the most noteworthy experience of the trip was to see that the laureates are real people who are truly passionate about the work that they do, and that they are in many ways no different from the students sitting in the audi-



Yeung

ence. The conference was an environment that enabled Yeung to interact with other American and foreign graduate students from a wide variety of scientific backgrounds.

"The trip as a whole really opened my eyes to what advantages we have in the U.S.—funding, opportunities and choices in research topics," he said. "The whole experience gave me a new perspective on American science, which I will hold onto as I continue my career. I truly feel lucky to have had this once-in-a-lifetime experience."

—Dr Douglas Cerasoli and Cindy Kronman, USAMRICD