Chioma Woko (Biopsychology, Community Health, 2015)  
Animal Welfare Compliance Intern  
Full-time, 40 hours per week  
Paid

What do you do as an intern at this organization?
Working in the Animal Welfare Compliance group, our goal was to ensure that all in vivo lab practices taking place at NIBR were being carried out ethically, safely and humanely. As an intern my project was to re-evaluate one of our monitoring programs, where we ensured that facilities and protocols were in compliance with the regulations we are bound to in our animal research. I collected primary data from the in vivo community and used their feedback to improve our methods in the program. My data and results from this project was presented in a poster session at the end of the summer along with the other summer interns in their respective departments.

How did you find your internship?
I found it through a referral from a friend.

What do you enjoy most about your internship?
The organizers of the program were very supportive as were our mentors. We had a lot of opportunities to network and meet influential people who could be very helpful to us in the future. The work environment was very friendly and inviting. I was excited about my project even though it was something I had no background in before. I looked forward to coming into work every day.

What do you find challenging?
The one challenging thing I had to do was to figure out how I could integrate my interests in public health into my project. After a lot of brainstorming and research I was able to do so successfully.

What advice would you offer to someone who wants to make the most of an internship like yours?
Take advantage of the entirety of this opportunity. Contact and speak with people, especially those who you may see yourself as in the future.

About the Organization
Novartis
Cambridge, MA

NIBR takes a unique approach to pharmaceutical research. At the earliest stages, research priorities are determined by patient need and disease understanding.