



Productivity of the Divers Alert Network Internship Program



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INTRODUCTION

- ❖ The Divers Alert Network (DAN) Internship Program began in 1999
- ❖ Funded by private donors
- ❖ Goals of the program are to provide:
 - An educational opportunity for students interested in diving research
 - An outreach program for DAN
 - A primary source of diving data for DAN Research

METHODS

- ❖ Interns selected from competitive pool of undergraduate/post-graduate student applicants (Fig. 1)
 - Preference given to candidates with evidence of educational background and professional goals that will benefit from research internship experience
- ❖ Initial training includes a one-week long orientation in North Carolina
 - Research and medical presentations
 - Research methodology
 - Introduction to DAN mission and activities
 - Introduction to the Duke hyperbaric center
 - Data collection practice in the field
- ❖ Interns spend 2 – 6 months at host locations
 - Recreational diving centers
 - Diving medicine/physiology research labs/facilities
 - Institutions with scientific diving programs
- ❖ Placement determination
 - Matching skill sets and interests of interns with needs of host centers
- ❖ Intern Responsibilities
 - Vary with placement and capabilities of intern
- ❖ DAN Partners
 - Our World Underwater Scholarship Society
 - American Academy of Underwater Sciences (AAUS)

RESULTS

- ❖ Fifty-nine interns have participated in the program
 - Collecting data/conducting research in:
 - 8 US states
 - 12 countries (Fig. 2)
- ❖ Interns have collected over 43,000 dive profiles for Project Dive Exploration (PDE)
 - Representing ~28% of all PDE profiles collected since 1999
- ❖ Ten interns have received co-authorship credit on publications ranging from lay press through refereed journals (Fig. 3)
- ❖ Eight received academic credit for participation
- ❖ 16 (27%) enrolled in graduate degree programs (clinical and research – based) after the completion of the internship program

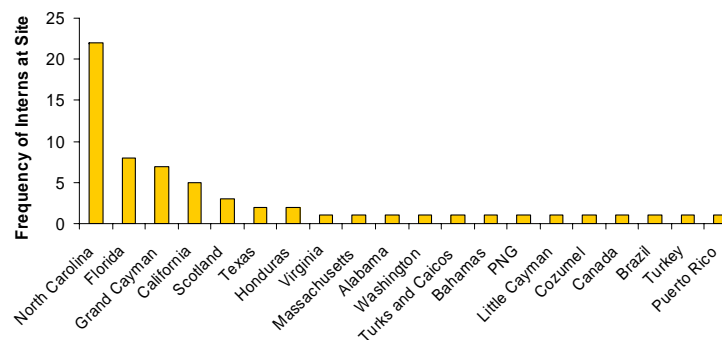


Figure 2. Host site locations

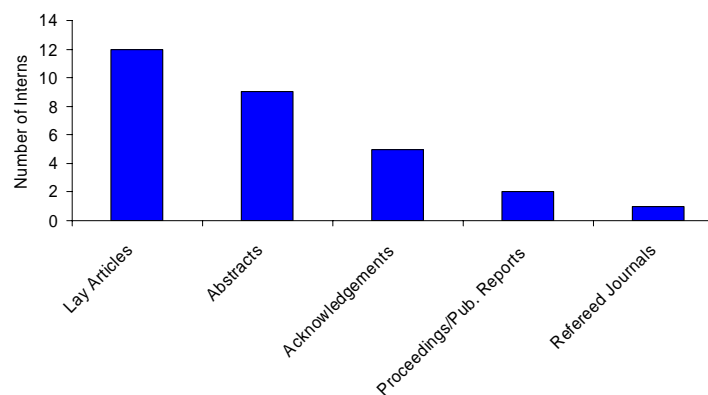


Figure 3. Intern publication credit

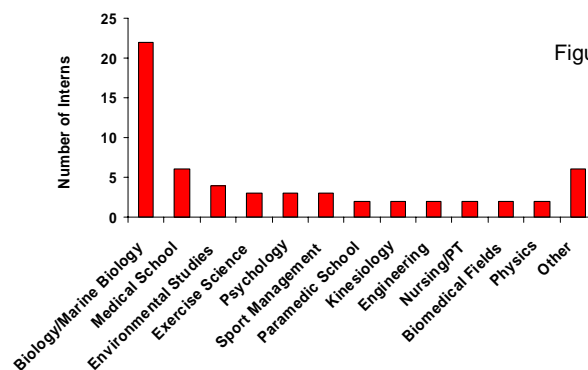


Figure 1. Educational background of interns

CONCLUSIONS

- ❖ The DAN Internship Program assists interns in continuing on with future educational goals
- ❖ The Internship Program provides
 - An important source of diving data for DAN Research
 - A great outreach program for DAN
 - For interns, partner groups and the diving public
- ❖ Interns represent the young, passionate side of diving

FUTURE INITIATIVES

- ❖ The educational and research experiences offered to the interns will continue to evolve to expand the range of opportunities
 - Developing additional host center partnerships
 - Focusing on placements with strong mentor presence
 - Increasing tangible professional and/or academic credit achieved by individual participants

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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