Neuroscience attracts attention, but not from Hoyas

The Interdisciplinary Program in Neuroscience (IPN) is one of the newest stories of Georgetown's resumed focus on biomedical sciences. It is only a few years ago, the IPN program had taken root in the university as the National Academy of Sciences, a program in which Georgetown's president, the Rev. John J. DeGioia, S.J., sees the promise of a undergraduate neuroscience major as the university's only program that attracts Hoyas to further their education after the SPH.

"For science people, we have almost an undergraduate major who apply for our program," said Bill Roberts, director of the IPN. "That might seem strange, considering we're a private institution. But we have the resources at our disposal to support our students." In addition to coursework, undergraduate students are given the opportunity to work in labs with faculty members. "We have about six undergraduate students, who end up working in a lab for a couple of years," Roberts said.

That access to research experience is invaluable. Undergraduate students who have an interest in neurosciences can "take the course that the school offers, but then they can cut into that community and make connections with our graduate students," he added. "The best experiences are those that lead to publishing," Roberts said. "Not all of our students will have the opportunity to work in labs with faculty members." Many will have the opportunity to work in labs with faculty members.

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For example, neuroscience graduate students in the IPN, when they have access to the University's medical center, they also have access to the medical center to take courses with graduate students. "We have about six undergraduate students, who end up working in a lab for a couple of years," Roberts said.

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