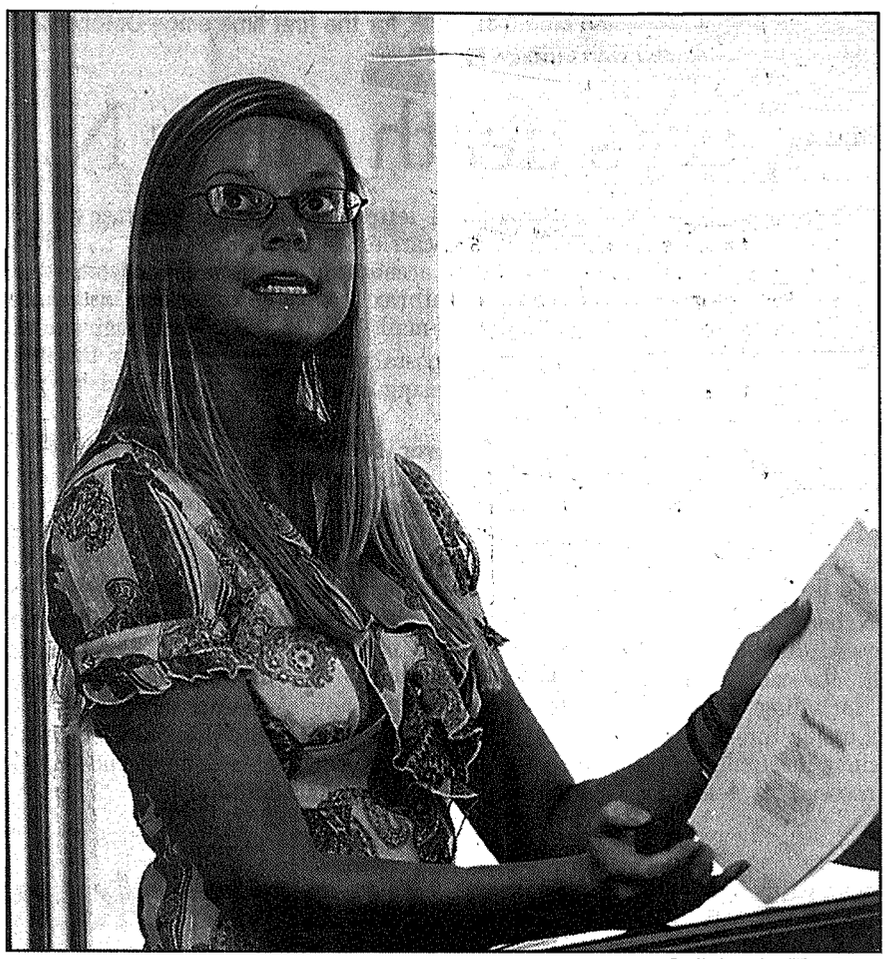

Staff photo by Jillian Bauer

Sage Begolly, of Sewell, 20, gives a presentation on Familial Intracranial Aneurysms Friday at Coriell in Camden.

County students work with Coriell scientists

By Lucas K. Murray

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CAMDEN — They spent the past few weeks studying advanced medical topics.

Topics like mitochondrial nucleic acid abnormalities, lymphoblastic cell lines, and the effects of exogenous growth factors on the viability of human umbilical cord blood mesenchymal stem cells in serum-free media.

If all of that sounds complicated, don't worry — it is.

But these 15 young students taking part in the Coriell Institute for Medical Research's summer internship program are some of the brightest of the bright from all over the Delaware Valley.

"You have the full spectrum of students here," said Coriell President and CEO Michael F. Christman. "Those who are dipping their toes in the water for the first time to find out how science works, to some presentations that made me feel like I was at a scientific meeting."

Christman said the interns bring a different energy to the Institute's halls.

"We have people who are really getting involved in science," Christman said. "This is the next generation,"

That "next generation" includes three locals chosen from 100 applicants.

This is the 48th year that Coriell has sponsored internships. In addition to the medical side of what Coriell does, the Institute has hosted internships in communications and information technology as well.

Ryan Saul, 21, of Sicklerville studied immunofluorescence. He used different antibodies to determine the nature of neonatal foreskin cells. The St. Joseph's University senior said the cells can be used in cancer research and skin graphs.

Cynthia Sulzbach, 20, and a 2005 graduate of Washington Township High School, researched the characterization of T-lymphocytes transformed by Herpesvirus Saimiri during her internship.

Currently attending the University of Notre Dame, Sulzbach looked into increasing the retention rate of DNA cells that are produced by the Epstein-Barr virus and sozld to researchers and laboratories.

Her research investigated similar viruses to see if the retention rate could be increased. Though she's a science business major, Sulzbach said she wouldn't mind pursuing a career in oncology.

"I got to see a lot of the science side of things, and how the business side interacts," Sulzbach said of her internship. "Coriell does a lot with that, selling their cells and getting funding and things like that."