

AMERICAN CANCER SOCIETY DIVERSITY IN CANCER RESEARCH (DICR) UNDERGRADUATE COLLEGE STUDENT INTERNSHIP PROGRAM GRANT APPLICATION GUIDELINES – 2023

The American Cancer Society (ACS) Diversity in Cancer Research (DICR) Undergraduate College Student Internship Program aims to increase diversity in the cancer research workforce by exposing under-represented minority undergraduate students to cancer research and provide career development activities that will help them prepare for a career in cancer research. The USC Norris Comprehensive Cancer Center has available funds from the ACS DICR grant to provide \$5,000 stipends for eight (8) undergraduate interns for the 10-week summer internship program. Please note additional funding to cover cost of living such housing, food, transportation, etc. is not available.

Review of proposals takes approximately three (3) to four (4) weeks. The USC Norris Comprehensive Cancer Center's Review Committee will review, and score all submitted proposals. The program will start in May 2023 and end in August 2023. Interested undergraduate students are to submit their research proposal as one (1) PDF file to Raquel Carla Martinez at raquel.martinez@med.usc.edu, **no later than 12:00 noon (PST) on Friday, April 14, 2023.**

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

1. Eligibility of interns is based on the NIH definition of "Populations Underrepresented in the Extramural Scientific Workforce" by race and ethnicity (<https://diversity.nih.gov/about-us/population-underrepresented>): "The following racial and ethnic groups have been shown to be underrepresented in biomedical research: Blacks or African Americans, Hispanics or Latinos, American Indians or Alaska Native, Native Hawaiians, and other Pacific Islanders (Samoan, Guamanian or Chamorro, Fijian, Tongan, or Marshallese peoples)."
2. Review Committee will accept applications from rising sophomores, rising juniors, and rising seniors with an interest in any Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) discipline.
3. Must have at least a minimum three (3.0) overall Grade Point Average (GPA).
4. Must be a full-time enrollment (12 units per semester).
5. Undergraduate students cannot be enrolled in summer courses concurrent with internship.
6. Must not be awarded a bachelor's degree before the program ends.

HOW TO APPLY

Step 1: Review list of approved faculty mentors. If you are interested in a mentor's research work, reach out to two (2) mentors via e-mail and determine if they have openings in their lab over the summer.

Step 2: Establish a research project and draft a proposal with your approved mentor.

Step 3: Submit your ACS DICR Research Proposal and eligibility form by the application deadline. Please use templates attached.

AFTER ACCEPTANCE

1. Undergraduate students will work with their mentor to complete all regulatory compliances before beginning research, if applicable (i.e., Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPPA) certification, Lab training, etc.).
2. ACS DICR funding will not be released until mentors receive Institutional Review Board (IRB) and/or Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) approval(s), if applicable.
3. At time of award, the Awardee and Mentor will be asked to sign an agreement outlining the milestones and deliverables of the Internship.

ACS DICR SUMMER RESEARCH PROGRAM FAQ

HOW DO I FIND A FACULTY MENTOR AND APPLY FOR THE SUMMER INTERNSHIP?

The first step – Review the list of approved faculty mentors. Conduct a Google search and read about the faculty mentor’s research work. Email two (2) potential mentors to determine if they have openings in their laboratory. Include four (4) to five (5) questions in the e-mail expressing your interest:

- What skills will I learn?
- What kind of training will I need?
- What are your current research projects?
- What would my role be in your laboratory?
- I read about your research work in [] and I am really interested in learning more. Could you provide a few research papers where I could read more about this topic?

The second step – Once there is a mutual understanding between you and your mentor about your participation in their laboratory, establish a research project and draft a proposal with your approved mentor.

The third step – Submit your ACS DICR Research Proposal and Eligibility form by the application deadline.

WHEN IS THE APPLICATION DEADLINE AND WHO DO I SUBMIT MY PROPOSAL TO?

The application deadline is Friday, April 14, 2023, at 12:00 noon (PST). Please submit your proposal to Raquel Carla Martinez via e-mail at raquel.martinez@med.usc.edu.

WHAT ARE THE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE ACS DICR SUMMER RESEARCH PROGRAM?

Refer to the six (6) eligibility criteria listed on the application guidelines.

HOW LONG IS THE PROGRAM?

This is a 10-week summer internship program that will start in May 2023 and end in August 2023. Undergraduate students cannot be enrolled in summer courses concurrent with the internship.

HOW MUCH IS THE UNDERGRADUATE INTERN STIPEND?

Undergraduate interns selected for the ACS DICR Summer Research Program will be provided a \$5,000 stipend. Additional funding to cover cost of living such as housing, food, transportation, etc. is not available.

WHAT IF I AM NOT AN UNDER-REPRESENTED MINORITY (URM) UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT?

The aim of the ACS DICR Program is to increase diversity in the cancer research workforce by increasing the number of under-represented minorities in the biomedical field. Unfortunately, if you are not an under-represented minority undergraduate student, you are not eligible to apply for this internship.

ACS DICR SUMMER RESEARCH PROGRAM – LIST OF APPROVED FACULTY MENTORS

Name, Degree, Title	Department, Institution	Research Focus	E-mail Address and Link to Bio
Yali Dou, PhD, Professor	Medicine – Hematology, Keck School of Medicine at USC	Genomic and Epigenomic Regulation, Biochemistry and Molecular Medicine, Chromatin Biology	validou@usc.edu https://keck.usc.edu/faculty-search/yali-dou/
Anat Erdreich-Epstein, MD, PhD, Associate Professor	Pediatrics, Children’s Hospital of Los Angeles, Keck School of Medicine at USC	Genomic and Epigenomic Regulation, Pediatric Hematology-Oncology, Cancer Biology, Cell Biology	epstein@usc.edu https://www.chla.org/profile/anat-erdreich-epstein-md-phd
Peggy Farnham, PhD, Professor	Biochemistry and Molecular Medicine, Keck School of Medicine at USC	Genomic and Epigenomic Regulation, Biochemical and Molecular Biology	Peggy.farnham@med.usc.edu https://keck.usc.edu/faculty-search/peggy-farnham/
Amir Goldkorn, MD, Associate Professor	Medicine – Oncology, Keck School of Medicine at USC	Translational and Clinical Sciences, Genitourinary Oncology, Liquid Biopsy, Cancer Plasticity, Telomerase in Cancer	agoldkor@usc.edu https://keck.usc.edu/faculty-search/amir-goldkorn/
Christopher Haiman, ScD, Professor	Population and Public Health Sciences, Center for Genetic Epidemiology, Keck School of Medicine at USC	Cancer Epidemiology, Genetics, Health Disparities	haiman@usc.edu https://keck.usc.edu/faculty-search/christopher-haiman/
W. Martin Kast, PhD, Professor	Molecular Microbiology and Immunology, Keck School of Medicine at USC	Tumor Microenvironment, HPV Biology	Martin.Kast@med.usc.edu http://uscmmi.com/martinkastlab/aboutmartin/
Jorge Nieva, MD, Associate Professor	Medicine – Oncology, Keck School of Medicine at USC	Translational and Clinical Sciences, Hematology-Oncology, Fluid Biopsy Technology, Circulating Tumor Cells	jorge.nieva@med.usc.edu https://keck.usc.edu/faculty-search/jorge-nieva/
Bodour Salhia, PhD, Associate Professor	Translational Genomics, Keck School of Medicine at USC	Genomics and Epigenomic Regulation, Tumorigenesis, Tumor Biology, CNS Metastasis	salhia@usc.edu https://keck.usc.edu/faculty-search/bodour-salhia/