

Summer Undergraduate Research Program IN BIOMEDICAL SCIENCES

June 7 - August 13, 2010

**The University of Texas M. D. Anderson Cancer Center
Science Park - Research Division
Smithville, Texas**

The Summer Undergraduate Research Program (SURP) in Biomedical Sciences and the Public Health Student Internship (PHSI) programs are intensive internships that provide an opportunity for outstanding students to participate in cutting edge biomedical and public health research at one of the premier cancer research and treatment institutions in the United States. The program includes 10 weeks of in-depth research along with a weekly seminar series, field trips, social events, and a student symposium on the last day, which includes oral presentations by the interns. SURP/PHSI participants must complete the entire 10-week program.

Admission Details

Admission to the program will be granted on a competitive basis to academically talented undergraduates who are considering careers in basic biomedical research. Stipend for participation in the 10-week program will be approximately \$3,000. Where possible, academic credit can be arranged. Online Applications are due no later than Wednesday, February 26, 2010. Please do not submit a Paper Application for the 2010 program year.

For more information, please contact:

Mary Henderson
Coordinator of Special Programs
Telephone: (512) 237-9513
Fax: (512) 237-6440
e-Mail: mhenderson@mdanderson.org

Community Outreach and Education Program
The University of Texas M. D. Anderson Cancer Center
P.O. Box 389
Smithville, TX 78957

Program Details

Program Objective

To interest and challenge qualified college students in basic biomedical and public health research as it relates to cancer and environmental disease, by offering them an opportunity to spend the summer learning new skills and participating in independent research under the supervision of a member of the research faculty. To provide a research experience that will help participants make career choices which may ultimately benefit cancer patients and contribute to better treatment and prevention of this disease.

Setting

The University of Texas M. D. Anderson Cancer Center Science Park – Research Division is located near Smithville, Texas about 40 miles southeast of Austin. It was established in 1976 and is located in a pastoral setting in Buescher State Park in Bastrop County. The Center for Research on Environmental Disease (CRED) was established in 1996 by a grant from the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences. The Center promotes interdisciplinary and collaborative research on environmental causes of disease, especially cancer. The workforce at Science Park includes 245 employees and 30 faculty.

Eligibility

SURP/PHSI is open to undergraduate students pursuing a 4-year degree in science, public health, or mathematics and wishing to gain “hands-on” experience in research. Criteria used in selection of interns will include college grades, personal statement, relevant experience and letters of recommendation from faculty who can assess the applicant’s potential for advanced training and success in biomedical research.

Duration

The Program coincides with the summer vacation and lasts 10 weeks, June 7 - August 13, 2010. Requests for late entry or early departure cannot be approved.

Stipend

The stipend will be approximately \$3,000 (before taxes) for the ten-week program. It is not a salary; it is intended solely to subsidize the students so that they may participate in the SURP. The first payment will be approximately 2-4 weeks after start of the program.

Admission

Science Park faculty will evaluate completed applications and the top-ranked applicants will be accepted into the program and assigned to a laboratory on the basis of preferences expressed by both the interns and faculty advisors. Applicants will be notified by letter or e-mail on or about April 16, 2010. M. D. Anderson is an equal opportunity employer. Women and minorities are encouraged to apply.

International Students

International students currently residing in the U.S. that are either permanent residents or hold an appropriate visa are eligible for participation in SURP/PHSI. Students are solely responsible for

completing all necessary paperwork and for contacting the international office at their institution.

Foreign students with an F1 visa must provide:

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- A letter from their current school authorizing them to work at The University of Texas M. D. Anderson Cancer Center
- A copy of their passport page, showing passport number, expiration date, and personal information.

Foreign students who are permanent or alien residents will be required to present and show proof of their eligibility to work.

Academic Credit

If accepted by their home institution, students can make arrangements to obtain academic credit for participation in the SURP. Letters confirming participation will be provided after successful completion of the program.

Housing

Unfortunately, there is no student housing on the SPRD (Smithville) or the Keeling Center (Bastrop) campuses. There is a limited amount of local housing in private homes, guest houses and furnished apartments for students from out of town. In most cases, students will need to provide their own daily transportation to and from work. See below for links to and/or contact information for nearby furnished apartments and guest houses, please contact these directly for prices and availability. This list does not constitute any endorsement of these businesses. After acceptance into the program, students interested in housing offered in private homes (faculty/students/staff) can contact the program administrator, Mary Henderson (mhenderson@mdanderson.org) for further information.

Furnished Apartments:

Tahitian Village Apartments

126 Conference Dr.
Bastrop, TX 78602
(512) 321-4123 or (512) 321-1145

La Fayette Apartments

428 W La Fayette St # 9
La Grange, TX 78945
(979) 968-9436

Unfurnished Apartments:

The Lodge at Lost Pines

3950 Hwy 71 East
Bastrop, TX 78602
(512) 321-5320

SURP Seminar Series

In addition to research, students also participate in a lunch lecture series every Tuesday from 11:30am to 1:00pm. Faculty, staff and graduate students lecture on topics central to cancer research. Last year's schedule is detailed below.

Intro SURP 2009	Astrid Spannhoff, Ph.D
History of Cancer	Astrid Spannhoff, Ph.D
Basics in Carcinogenesis/ Carcinogens/ Environmental Health	Erika Abel, Ph.D.
Experimental Methods	Astrid Spannhoff, Ph.D
Cell Cycle	Ruhee Dere, Ph.D.
DNA Damage Repair	Junhua Zhao, Ph.D.
Mouse Genetics/ Mouse Models in Cancer	Fernando Benavides, D.V.M.,
Ph.D.	
Animal Models (Fish)	Mitchell Group
Signal Transduction	Angela Alexander
DNA Structure	Sabine Lange, Ph.D.
Cancer Therapeutics	Tiffany Bredfeld, Ph.D.
Cancer Prevention and Epidemiology	Leigh Greathouse, M.S.
Metastasis and Angiogenesis	Joyce Rundhaug, Ph.D.
Hormones and Cancer	Stephanie Shirley, Ph.D.
Stem Cells and Cancer	Collene Jeter, Ph.D.
Developmental Programming	Tiffany Bredfeld, Ph.D.
Experimental Methods	Astrid Spannhoff, Ph.D
Non-Coding RNA and Cancer	Mark Badeaux
Epigenetics	Aimee Iberg
Apoptosis and Autophagy	Angela Alexander