Medical Student Summer Research Program
Program Description and Requirements 2016

**Mentor intent deadline: March 7, 2016**  **Application deadline: March 21, 2016**

**Description of the Program**

The Medical Student Summer Research Program (MSSRP) provides a limited number of scholarships for first-year B.U. medical students with a strong interest in biomedical research to undertake 7 or 8 weeks (minimum) of full-time (40 hours/week) research at Boston University Medical Center (BUMC) during the summer between first- and second-year (May 18 – July 17, 2016). Research scholars in the program work with BUMC faculty within the context of ongoing clinical and basic science research. Scholars receive training in laboratory safety and animal and human studies as needed for their particular projects. Research scholars attend summer research seminars that cover fundamentals of clinical research methodology and research career development.

Students in the program submit a mid-point progress report June 12, 2016 and a summary report by August 1, 2016. In January/February, students display their research at the annual medical student summer research symposium, and they are considered for the Serchuck Awards given to outstanding poster presentations in several categories. The MSSRP scholarship is $2400 for 7 weeks of research or $2750 for 8 weeks of research (whichever the student choses) and is paid to each student at the end June upon confirmation that the student is meeting project goals; this is based on the content of the progress report and a meeting with one of the program directors.

**Support from Other Sources**

A student who is granted a scholarship through the MSSRP may not accept funds from another public or private source to support his/her project (aka “double dipping”) unless the outside funds supplement a reduced scholarship. Students supported by outside funding are encouraged to participate in the summer research seminar series and the annual symposium.

**The Selection Process**

The selection process takes place on a competitive basis via an advisory committee composed of BUSM faculty members. Scholarship applications must meet the following criteria to be funded:

- Goals and hypothesis are clearly defined
- Methods of data acquisition and analysis are satisfactory
- Project is relevant and creatively designed
- Project is feasible within 7 or 8 weeks
- Mentor has positive track record with mentoring students
- Proposal is well-written
- Appropriate approvals have been granted (see next section)
- All application components must be submitted including forms required of mentor

In addition, each student must meet all requirements listed below. Awarded scholars will be notified by April 30, 2016 of their acceptance to the program.

**Safety, IACUC, and IRB Approval**

All projects funded by the MSSRP must have 100% IBC, IACUC and IRB approval (approval pending minor changes is fine) at the time of MSSRP application submission. Mentors will have this information, but students must understand this requirement and must be aware that they need to be included in the IBC, IACUC and IRB approved protocols before May 15, 2016.
Requirements of the Student

Students are encouraged to save the following requirements for future reference. Any submissions mentioned in the list below may be submitted to Ana Bediako (abediako@bu.edu) in the Office of Enrichment.

If you receive a scholarship, you must:

1. Be in good academic standing and eligible for promotion to the second year; this means no Fail or Incomplete grades, and a maximum of two Marginal Pass grades.
2. If you are an international student, the B.U. Office of International Students and Scholars must e-mail Ana Bediako stating that you may work.
3. Complete 7 or 8 weeks (minimum) of full-time (40 hours/week) work on your research project from May 18 to July 17, 2016. If you are unable to complete the experience, you are required to return the funds received or a corresponding percentage of these funds.
4. Not be enrolled in coursework during the weeks spent on your research project. If you plan to hold a part-time job during your research experience, you must have your mentor’s approval.
5. Attend the summer research seminars that cover fundamentals of clinical research methodology and research career development. Seminars will be held once to twice per week during the month of June. Attendance is tracked. You may miss one session only.
6. Attend all programs designated by your mentor (trainings, group meetings, data clubs, seminars, etc.).
7. Meet with one of the program directors - Suzanne Sarfaty, M.D., Ariel Hirsch, M.D., Anand Devaiah, M.D., or Isabel Dominguez, Ph.D. - during the summer (of your research project) for a check-in meeting regarding your experience.
8. Submit a progress report by June 12, 2016.
9. Submit the following final documents to Ana Bediako by August 1, 2016.
   a. 1-2 page summary report of your experience;
   b. Thank you note addressed to your donor (if applicable);
   c. Comments regarding your mentor;
   d. Completed evaluation of your experience.
10. Present a poster of your research at the symposium scheduled yearly in January/February.
11. Submit a PDF file of your poster to Ana Bediako in early January. The presentation will be used to choose the Serchuck Awards at the symposium, and it will be displayed on the Office of Enrichment web site.
12. Complete a survey during your fourth year of medical school that will evaluate the impact of your research experience on your career trajectory.
13. Notify the Office of Enrichment (Dr. Sarfaty and Ana Bediako) of all abstracts and publications produced as a result of your research.
14. Indicate on any publications or posters that funding for your research was supported by the MSSRP.
Requirements of the Mentor

One of the primary goals of the MSSRP is to connect medical students with mentors who are willing to guide and instruct students in the context of a short-term summer research project (minimum of 7 or 8 weeks of full-time work). The selfless dedication of mentors is a key element in the success of our program. We appreciate your time and dedication!

As a mentor to a student in the MSSRP, the following responsibilities are expected of you. You will:

1. Assist the student in formulating a project with clearly defined goals achievable within 7 or 8 weeks. Students are required to complete 7 or 8 weeks (minimum) of full-time (40 hours/week) work from May 18 to July 17, 2016, thus the project must involve at least this amount of work.

2. Familiarize the student with your field of research and your laboratory’s research goals and techniques and with the resources available to him/her.

3. Clearly communicate the expectations of the project to the student including the responsibilities and tasks that the student will perform on a weekly basis and the overall goal to be accomplished.

4. Assist the student with establishing a start date and timeline for completion of the project.

5. Ensure the student receives any necessary training and guidance in research techniques and other project tasks prior to starting the project.

6. Ensure that the student meets IRB, IACUC and IBC requirements and will be included in your protocols prior to the start of the project.

7. Set the shared laboratory responsibilities and discuss laboratory policies.

8. Clearly communicate the style of interaction.

9. Meet (or connect) at least once/week with the student to answer questions and confirm that agreed-upon goals are being reached.

10. Give honest feedback about the student’s progress.

11. Clarify any issues that arise directly with the student as soon as possible. At any sign of continued problems, contact Dr. Suzanne Sarfaty to help mediate the issues.

12. Assist the student with developing an abstract and poster presentation for MSSRP Symposium (yearly in January/February).

13. Attend your student’s oral presentation as part of the summer research seminar series.

14. Attend the annual MSSRP Symposium to be held January/February where your student will display his/her research results.

15. Provide clear expectations of whether you will provide mentoring or advising to the student beyond what is required during the summer research period.

Direct questions to Ana Bediako, Office of Enrichment, BUSM, abediako@bu.edu; 638-4167