

Summer Research Institute

Creighton
UNIVERSITY



CENTER FOR PROMOTING HEALTH AND HEALTH EQUALITY (CPHHE)

In a nation of changing demographics, it is important to maintain a representative balance of population and workforce. However, some minority groups are severely underrepresented in sciences and health care occupations, undermining the nation's strengths as a leader in science, health, and technological advances. It is becoming increasingly clear that, as the population demographics move towards increasing numbers of diverse individuals, the future health and prosperity of the United States will depend on equitable representation and participation in science, health, and technological occupations (*Kubila, 2012*).

UNDERGRADUATE SUMMER BIOMEDICAL RESEARCH

The purpose of the Summer Research Institute is to increase interest in biomedical and health sciences professions among underrepresented minority students. The program objectives are:

- Enable students to better understand the nature and applicability of scientific methods in research.
- Instill confidence in students pursuing careers in biomedical research and other health professions, and
- Provide minority students exposure to opportunities inherent in research careers.

Undergraduate students are paired with a Creighton University faculty member who involves the student in an ongoing research project or designs a project especially for the student. The students attend a one-hour weekly seminar series in which Creighton University scientists will present their research. The Seminar Series will stress the specific experimental approaches that are used to address fundamental problems in health and disease.

The program is an immersion into the life of a research scientist, including a closely mentored eight-week research project, regular lab meetings, seminar series, professional development, and research colloquium. The program aims to provide opportunities in research-career training to undergraduates from underrepresented groups, especially those with a disadvantage, who may not otherwise have such opportunities.

This year, the summer session runs from June 13 through August 5, Monday - Friday 9:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. The undergraduate students participating in the program are: Ola Akintelure (Creighton University), Fatiha Iqbal (Creighton University), Alek Rehan (Creighton University), Farial Samadi (University of Nebraska at Omaha), Bryce Timm (University of Nebraska at Omaha) Cesar Torres (Creighton University). The research faculty mentors are: Dr. Devendra Agrawal (CUSOM), Dr. Laura Bruce (CUSOM), Dr. Shashank Dravid (CUSOM), Dr. Catherine Opere (SPAHP), and Dr. Yaping Tu (CUSOM).

PROJECT SEED

Additionally this year, CPHHE is partnering with the American Chemical Society ACS and will host Project SEED. Project SEED allows two high school students to take part in lab research projects at Creighton University Health Science department. Project SEED is designed for economically disadvantaged high school students who have taken high school science courses and be recommended by a their teacher. Student must also have demonstrated ambition, motivation, and willingness to work hard (ACS, 2015). This opportunity allows students to understand better what involves performing lab research. The high-school students participating in the Project SEED are: Nancy Chung (Omaha North High) and Deysy Reyes (Benson High)

HIGH SCHOOL HEALTH DISPARITIES RESEARCH

Students participate in research at a community-based organization for six weeks. Students from the greater Omaha area are selected to participate in training and research projects in local Community Based Organizations (CBOs). The students receive training in health disparities and perform research projects in their community. Students work in collaborative groups to learn about health disparities in their neighborhood by developing surveys, examining data, doing community mapping, and conducting interviews resulting in policy recommendations. These activities enable the students to enhance their high-school education and build health disparities knowledge.

At the end of the program, the students present their research experiences at a colloquium in the form of a poster and oral session in August. The students design and arrange the research data and prepare a short paper presenting the introductory background, experimental design, results, and discussion of the research they performed during the summer.

The program is designed to:

- Provide enrichment to underserved, minority high-school students
- Provide hands-on community-based research
- Help CBOs participate in research.



This year, the summer session runs from June 13 through July 22, Monday - Friday 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. The high-school students participating in the program are: Amber Patterson (Burke High), Hawa Shatta (Central High). This year's participants will be participating in Community-Based research at the North Omaha Health Clinic and with our Center for Promoting Health and Health Equality CPHHE (Creighton University)

North Omaha Area Health Clinic
<http://www.noahclinic.org/>
 402.933.0737

HS-MACA
<https://healthsciences.creighton.edu/hsmaca>
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ACS (2015). *Project SEED Student, Mentor, and Coordinator Handbook*. American Chemical Society. January, 6