

Summer Research Institute

Creighton
UNIVERSITY



The Summer Research Institute (SRI) initially began in 1992 as a summer research program for pre-doctoral and collegiate undergraduate students. The high school component was introduced in 2000. After a successful run, in 2002 the Creighton University Health Sciences – Multicultural and Community Affairs Department (HS-MACA) received a three year funding award from the National Institute of Health to, “...increase the representation and participation of minority U.S. students (high school and college) in biomedical research through their choice of a career in the biomedical sciences.” In 2010, the summer program became co-managed by the newly-formed Center for Promoting Health and Health Equality (CPHHE) and HS-MACA. The Center for Promoting Health and Health Equity is a community-academia partnership to address health disparities and health equity for underserved communities. Since 2010, the Summer Research Institute has included biomedical research for undergraduates, biomedical research for high school students, and community-based participatory research with community partners and organizations for high school students.

The 2018 Summer Research Institute runs from **June 11, 2018 – August 3, 2018**.

The 2018 Summer Research Institute Colloquium will be Friday, August 3, 2018 from 9am – 3pm at the Creighton University Hixson-Lied Science Building, Room 404.

UNDERGRADUATE SUMMER BIOMEDICAL RESEARCH



The purpose of the Undergraduate Program is to increase interest in the 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 faculty, staff, students and former SRI participants lead a session on various topics related to the research field and eliminating health disparities in the nation.

The undergraduate students participating in the program are: **Jessica Cabusog** (University of Hawaii), **Nicholas Choi** (Creighton University), **Jessica Grimmond** (Drake University), **Anthony Baker** (Nebraska Wesleyan University), **Audrey Keim** (Missouri Western State University), **Haaris Shahid** (Drake University), and **Lucy Chung** (Creighton University).



The research faculty mentors are: Dr. Devendra Agrawal (CUSOM), Dr. Laura Bruce (CUSOM), **Dr. Shashank Dravid** (CUSOM), **Dr. Catherine Opere** (SPAHP), **Dr. Yaping Tu** (CUSOM), **Dr. Eric Haas** (Chemistry), and **Dr. Chris Destache** (SPAHP).

CUSOM = Creighton U. School of Medicine and SPAHP = School of Pharmacy and Health Professions

This is the second year CPHHE is partnering with the American Chemical Society (ACS) and will host Project SEED. This program 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 are recommended by their teacher. Students 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: **Marco Pena** (Omaha South High) and **Jude Kouassi** (Creighton Prep).



HIGH SCHOOL COMMUNITY HEALTH RESEARCH



Students participate in research at a community-based organization for six weeks. These students 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 participatory research
- Assist community-based organizations in research development and execution

The high school students participating in the program are: **Godwin Djossou** (Creighton Prep), **Elsa Ramirez** (Omaha South High), **Esmeralda Rodriguez** (Omaha South High), and **Zachary Klimowicz** (Millard North High). This year's participants will be participating in Community-based research at the North Omaha Health Clinic (**Mr. Ira Combs**), Latino Community Betterment Corporation (**Ms. Blanca Mejia**), Nebraska Urban Indian Health Coalition (**Dr. Donna Polk**), and Creighton University (**Dr. Eric Haas**).

Community Organizations

North Omaha Area Health Clinic
<http://www.noahclinic.org/>
402.933.0737
Nebraska Urban Indian Health Coalition
<http://nuihc.com/>
402.346.0902

Latino Community Betterment Corporation
<http://www.latinocommunitybettermentcorp.org>
402.813.7153
Health Sciences Multicultural Community Affairs
<https://healthsciences.creighton.edu/hsmaca>
402.280.2124

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