

Department of Pediatrics Summer Scholars Program Evaluation

The University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC) Department of Pediatrics started the Summer Scholars Student Program in 2018 in order to enrich the experience of students conducting research in the Department. The program is sponsored by the UIC Department of Pediatrics Research Committee, under the director of Molly Martin, MD. All students working for faculty in the Department were invited to participate, and all faculty in the Department had the opportunity to participate as mentors. Due to COVID-19, the 2020 program had to be conducted remotely. The Zoom platform was used for Program sessions. Students met with mentors remotely as well.

Program Summary Statistics

- Program dates: June 22 – August 4, 2020
- 16 students and 9 faculty mentors participated
- 5 universities represented (University of Iowa, St Louis University, U of Limrick, and UIC; 4 undergraduate students, 10 medical students, 1 post-doc, 1 post-masters)
- Six students were awarded UIC Department of Pediatrics Summer Scholar Research Fellowships. Two students were awarded College of Medicine Craig Fellowships.
- Students participated in six one-hour didactic lectures and then gave 20 minute presentations to the group about each of their projects. (3 hours total) They also participated in special six session health disparities seminar led by Dr. Feinstein.

Research Projects

Path to Purpose

Mentor/Project Director: Rebecca Feinstein, PhD

PI: Benjamin Van Voorhees, MD

Infographic Based Education of Sickle Cell Disease in Nigerian

PI: Lewis Hsu, MD, PhD

Molecular and Cellular Profiles regulated by Nrf2 and Fra-1 during Lung repair

PI: Sekhar Reddy, PhD

CATCH-IT

PI: Benjamin Van Voorhees, MD

Pediatrics Milestones Assessment Collaborative (PMAC) Phase 3

PI: Alan Schwartz, PhD

Identifying risk factors for retinopathy of prematurity (ROP)

PI: De-Ann Pillers, MD, PhD

Understanding the nutritional needs of premature and ill newborns cared for in the NICU

PI: De-Ann Pillers, MD, PhD

Effectiveness of Mixed-Reality Based Training Tool for Parents to Learn Infant Cardio-Pulmonary Resuscitation (CPR)

PI: Nishant Srinivasan, MD

Evaluations

We received 10 student evaluations and 2 faculty mentor evaluations.

Student Feedback:

- All agreed the program met or exceeded expectations.
- All were definitely or sort of more interested in research after completing the program than before they started
- The majority of the respondents felt the format and content were appropriate and easy to follow.

Faculty Mentor Feedback:

- Mentors felt that the format worked well and that the program continues to improve.

Next Steps

The UIC Department of Pediatrics Research Committee will revise the program based on this feedback.

Applications for the summer of 2021 will open in January of 2021.

Questions or thoughts?

Please direct them to:

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