

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 Dr. Molly Martin and Dr. Sanchez-Flack. 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 2021 program had to be conducted remotely. The Zoom platform was used for Program sessions.

Program Summary Statistics

- Program dates: June 28 – August 5, 2021
- 20 students and 9 faculty mentors participated
- 8 institutions represented (Northwestern University, Loyola University, Barrington High School, DePaul University, Drexel University, University of Puerto Rico, UIUC, and UIC; 8 undergraduate students, 8 medical students, 2 graduate students, 2 - high school students)
- 9 students were awarded UIC Department of Pediatrics Summer Scholars Research Fellowships.
- Students participated in Meet and Greet, 4 one-hour didactic lectures, and then gave 15 minute presentations to the group about each of their projects. (3.5 hours total). Some also participated in special sessions on health disparities seminar led by Dr. Feinstein.

Research Projects

<p>PATH 2 Purpose: Primary Care and Community-Based Prevention of Mental Disorders in Adolescents <i>Mentor/Project Director: Rebecca Feinstein, PhD</i> <i>PI: Benjamin Van Voorhees, MD</i></p>	<p>Quality Improvement in Sickle Cell Disease Education; Innovative Health Education of SCD in Ghana; The Improvement of Health Literacy and Communication focused on the Understanding of the Long-Term Risks of Gene Therapy for Sickle Cell Anemia <i>Mentor: Lewis Hsu, MD, PhD</i></p>
<p>The Role of miR-212-5p in Pulmonary Hypertension <i>Mentor: Tianji Chen, PhD</i></p>	<p>COVID-19 and its Effects on the Well-Being of Pediatric Families <i>Mentor: Amanda Osta, MD ; Kristen Kenan, MD, MPH</i></p>
<p>Coordinated Oral health Promotion (CO-OP) Chicago <i>Mentor: Molly Martin, MD</i></p>	<p>Understanding the nutritional needs of premature and ill newborns cared for in the NICU <i>Mentor: De-Ann Pillers, MD, PhD</i></p>
<p>Chicagoland COVID Collaborative CEAL Program <i>Mentor: Molly Martin, MD</i></p>	<p>Preschool and me <i>Mentor: Reshma Shah, MD</i></p>

Evaluations

We received 14 student evaluations and 6 faculty mentor evaluations.

Student Feedback:

- Majority agreed the program met or exceeded expectations.
- All felt the program enriched their summer research experience.
- 85.7% said the program helped them gain deeper understanding about conducting research.
- All said they would recommend the program to a friend next year.
- They felt their individual research projects were both appropriate and relevant and that their mentors gave clear direction and guidance to help with their projects and presentations.
- The majority of the respondents felt the lecture series format and content were appropriate and easy to follow and would keep the lectures in next year's program.
- A student highlighted that presentations could be divided into 2 days in future with 20 minutes per presentation.
- Some students mentioned that they would have enjoyed in-person sessions and more networking events.
- A student also mentioned that the program could be more structured.

Faculty Mentor Feedback:

- All felt that the program enriches student's summer research experience, increases the student's interest in conducting research, would continue to recommend students to the program, and felt the expectations from the mentors were made clear in the program description.
- All also agreed that having a summer scholars student was helpful to them and their research team.
- In regards to the lecture series, all agreed the didactic "lecture" format and length was appropriate.
- A mentor mentioned that fellowship stipend processing is bureaucratic and could be managed better.
- A mentor highlighted that students could present some literature review as a part of their project presentations.
- A mentor mentioned that the students were professional and very well prepared for the presentations.

Next Steps

The UIC Department of Pediatrics Research Committee will revise the program based on this feedback. Applications for the summer of 2022 will open in January of 2022.

Questions or thoughts?

Please direct them to:

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