



## 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 conducting summer research with faculty in the Department were invited to participate, and all Department faculty had the opportunity to participate as mentors. The Zoom platform was used for sessions.

### Program Summary Statistics

- Program dates: June 27 – August 5, 2022
- 22 students and 9 faculty mentors participated
- 11 students were awarded UIC Department of Pediatrics Summer Scholars Research Fellowships.
- 6 institutions were represented (Elon University, Michigan State University, Northwestern University, Columbia University, Yuba Community college, and UIC)
- Participants included 12 undergraduate students, 6 medical students, and 4 graduate students
- Students participated in an introductory session, 4 one-hour didactic lectures, and then students gave short presentations to the group about their projects. (3.5 hours total). Some students also participated in special sessions on health disparities seminar led by Dr. Feinstein.

### Research Projects

Community Outreach: Piloting Stock Albuterol in Illinois Public School Districts Mentor- Dr. Andrea A. Pappalardo	The Effects of Marijuana Use in Pregnant Women on Infants Mentor- De-Ann Pillers
Stock Albuterol: Preventing Asthma Emergencies in Schools Mentor- Dr. Andrea Pappalardo	Analysis of Engagement Factors for Internet Depression Prevention Mentor- Dr. Rebecca Feinstein
Reduce Cancer Disparities in Minority Populations Mentor- Dr. Jen Sanchez-Flack	Discovering Protein's Role in Pulmonary Arterial Hypertension Mentor- Dr. Tianji Chen
Determining predictors of access to clinic- and school-based services among families with preschool-age children with development delays and disabilities to inform multilevel intervention Mentor- Dr. Reshma Shah	EMPATH LAB- Effects of Telephone Patient Outreach on Pediatric Clinic Visits and Teen Mental Health during COVID-19 Mentor-Dr. Rebecca Feinstein
Efficacy of health education in the Pediatric Sickle Cell Population Mentor- Dr. Lewis Hsu	Sickle Multidisciplinary STEM In Collaboration (Sickle MUSIC) Mentor- Dr. Lewis Hsu

The Use of Graphics to Enhance the Distribution and Recollection of Sickle Cell Information Mentor- Dr. Lewis Hsu	Outreach Protocol Analysis of Organizations Affiliated to the Chicagoland COVID Collaborative Mentor- Molly Martin, MD
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## Evaluations

We received 13 student evaluations and 7 faculty mentor evaluations.

### Student Feedback:

- Majority agreed the program met or exceeded expectations.
- All felt the program enriched their summer research experience.
- All students said the program helped them gain deeper understanding about conducting research.
- All said they would recommend the program to a friend next year.
- Most 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 they would have liked a clearer understanding of the kind of research project was expected of them.
- Some students mentioned that they would have enjoyed in-person sessions and more networking events.
- A student also mentioned that the program could be clearer in expectation and lectures.
- Self-reported demographics: 10 female, 2 male. 5 White, 4 Asian, 3 Black/African American. 9 not Hispanic, 1 Hispanic.

### Faculty Mentor Feedback:

- All felt that the program enriches student's summer research experience, increases the student's interest in conducting research, majority 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 regard to the lecture series, most agreed the didactic "lecture" format and length was appropriate.
- A mentor mentioned that it would be better to publicize the program to more mentors.
- A mentor highlighted that students should have access to hybrid or in-person didactic lectures.
- A mentor mentioned that the students should be allowed to apply at a different time as they were in the middle of exams.
- A mentor mentioned that students should have longer presentations.

## Next Steps

The UIC Department of Pediatrics Research Committee will revise the program based on this feedback. Applications for the summer of 2023 will open in January of 2023.

## Questions or thoughts?

Please direct them to: Dr. Molly Martin (mollyma@uic.edu) or Dr. Jennifer Sanchez-Flack (jsanch38@uic.edu)