

# Under-represented Students in Health Care

Health professional schools seek students from racial/ethnic groups that are currently under-represented in the profession. Minority groups considered to have inadequate representation in the health care profession include: African Americans, American Indians, Mexican Americans, Mainland Puerto Ricans, individuals from low-income families, and first generation college students. Many professional schools offer programs to encourage and prepare minority students for study in health care. To be considered for special admissions and enrichment programs, a student should indicate minority status on their application.

Socioeconomically or financially disadvantaged advisees may receive tuition assistance for exam preparation courses. Advisees must also request fee reduction or assistance from application service administrators.

## SUMMER PROGRAMS

### SELECT PRE-MEDICAL/HEALTH PROGRAMS

#### Summer Health Professions Education Program (SHPEP)

<http://www.shpep.org/>

Columbia University Medical Center

Howard University

Louisiana State University Health Science Center – New Orleans

Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey

University of Alabama at Birmingham

University of California Los Angeles and Charles R. Drew University

University of Florida

University of Iowa

University of Louisville

University of Nebraska

University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston

Western University of Health Sciences

#### Caltech Pasadena - WAVE Fellowships

<http://sfp.caltech.edu/programs/wavefellows>

Caltech's WAVE Fellows program provides support for talented undergraduates to spend a summer working in a research laboratory on the Caltech campus. The WAVE Fellows program aims to increase the representation of underrepresented students (such as African American, Hispanic, and Native American, females who are underrepresented in their discipline, and first-generation college students) in science and engineering Ph.D. or M.D./Ph.D. programs and to make Caltech's programs more visible to students not traditionally exposed to Caltech.

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**Cornell - Travelers Summer Research Fellowship (Premedical Summer Research Program)**

[www.med.cornell.edu/education/programs/tra\\_sum\\_res.html?name1=Travelers+Summer+Research+Fellowship+Program&type1=2Active](http://www.med.cornell.edu/education/programs/tra_sum_res.html?name1=Travelers+Summer+Research+Fellowship+Program&type1=2Active)

The Travelers Summer Research Fellowship Program is designed to give 25 premedical students deeper insights into the field of medicine, including issues that greatly affect the health of traditionally underserved groups. Through the experiences of laboratory or clinical research, the student learns how one pursues a specific research problem under the supervision of a faculty member, thus providing an early education into basic research techniques that could be applicable to any area of medicine. A lecture series explores topics in cardiovascular physiology, exposing the students to basic science concepts that are relevant to a more specific understanding of hypertension and cardiovascular disease, both of which are major problems in minority communities. The summer fellows attend a series of talks by minority physicians about various medical specialties, addressing issues of concern in these physician's daily work plus views of the bigger picture in health care to minority communities. Rounds in the hospital with advanced year students provide further exposure to the clinical facets of medicine. Students in the summer program receive counseling on financial planning for medical school and how to examine a financial aid package.

**Medical College of Wisconsin – Diversity Summer Health-Related Research Education Program (DSHREP)**

<http://www.mcw.edu/Diversity-Programs.htm>

This 10-week summer fellowship is available to undergraduate, graduate and medical students from diverse backgrounds. The program offers a monthly stipend to participants.

**Rutgers University - Project L/earn**

[www.ihhpar.rutgers.edu/projectlearn/](http://www.ihhpar.rutgers.edu/projectlearn/)

The goal of Project L/EARN is to increase the number of students from underrepresented groups or disadvantaged communities in the fields of health, mental health, and health policy research, thereby expanding the breadth of health research to include a broader range of ethnic, cultural, and socioeconomic issues, concerns and perspectives.

**UCLA – Premedical/pre-dental Enrichment Program (UCLA PREP)**

<http://medschool.ucla.edu/current-ucla-prep>

UCLA PREP is a five-week, no-tuition, non-residential program designed to provide premedical and pre-dental students from disadvantaged backgrounds with a means of strengthening their ability and readiness to study medicine or dentistry. As a result of full participation in UCLA PREP, participants should have enhanced their chances of being accepted to medical or dental school and succeeding once there.

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### **University of Kansas Medical Center - Health Sciences Enrichment Institute, levels 1 and 2**

<http://www.kumc.edu/school-of-medicine/office-of-diversity-and-inclusion/student-programs-/health-sciences-enrichment-institute-level-1.html>

The Kansas University, School of Medicine encourages underrepresented students to participate in the Health Sciences Enrichment Institute, a six-week program designed to provide preliminary undergraduate (non-credit) education. Such education is structured to enhance the participant's preparation for, admission to, and the probability of the participant's completion of the regular course of study in a health professions school, and to reinforce the participant's potential for success in a career as a health professional. Careers Pathways Program (HCPP). This program is open to students from disadvantaged background and/or who are members of a population that is underrepresented or underserved in the health field.

### **University of Pittsburgh - Summer Premedical Academic Enrichment Program (SPAEP)**

[http://www.medschool.pitt.edu/spaep/future\\_03\\_spaep.asp](http://www.medschool.pitt.edu/spaep/future_03_spaep.asp)

The Summer Premedical Academic Enrichment Program (SPAEP) Level I helps underrepresented college freshmen strengthen academic skills and focus their interest in a medical career. SPAEP Level II gives juniors and seniors a mentored research experience and exposure to the hospital environment. Level II also helps prepare you for the medical school admissions process by offering training for the MCAT and interview situations.

## **SELECTED RESEARCH PROGRAMS**

### **Harvard Medical School - Summer Honors Undergraduate Research Program (SHURP)**

<http://www.hms.harvard.edu/dms/diversity/shurp/>

SHURP is a ten-week summer program primarily for college students belonging to groups that are underrepresented in the sciences. In addition to conducting research under a research mentor, participants take part in career discussions and other enrichment activities. To apply, students must be considering careers in the biological or biomedical research sciences. Housing, travel expenses, and a stipend are provided.

### **Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine - Summer Internship Program**

<http://www.hopkinsmedicine.org/graduateprograms/sip.cfm>

The Summer Internship Program (SIP) provides experience in research laboratories to students of diverse backgrounds, including underrepresented minority students and students from economically disadvantaged and underserved backgrounds that have completed one - two or more years of college. The purpose of this exposure to biomedical and/or public health research is to encourage students to consider careers in science, medicine and public health. The program runs nine to ten weeks and a stipend of \$3,000 is provided. Housing is provided near our undergraduate campus; the University has a shuttle service that provides convenient transportation between the Johns Hopkins Medicine Institutions (JHMI) and the undergraduate campus.

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### **National Institutes of Health**

<https://www.training.nih.gov/programs/ugsp>

The National Institutes of Health (NIH) Undergraduate Scholarship Program (UGSP) offers competitive scholarships to students from disadvantaged backgrounds who are committed to careers in biomedical, behavioral, and social science health-related research. The program offers scholarship support, paid research training at NIH during the summer, and paid employment and training at the HIH after graduation.

### **The Leadership Alliance's Summer Research Early Identification Program (SR-EIP)**

<http://www.theleadershipalliance.org/programs>

The Leadership Alliance is a national consortium of over 30 leading teaching and research colleges, universities, and private industry, united by a shared vision – to train, mentor, and inspire a diverse group of students into competitive graduate training programs and professional research-based careers. Their flagship program is the Summer Research Early Identification Program, which introduces students to the world of research-based careers by providing hands-on research experiences in all academic disciplines. Participants spend 8-10 weeks at a Leadership Alliance institution, receive a stipend, travel and housing expenses, and work under the guidance of a research mentor. They gain access to resources, mentoring, and professional networks to support their chosen career path. The SR-EIP is NOT designed for students pursuing professional training in clinical medicine or the allied health professions.

### **Tufts University Sackler School of Graduate Biomedical Sciences - Building Diversity in Biomedical Sciences (BDBS)**

<http://sackler.tufts.edu/Admissions/Apply-to-Non-Degree-Programs/Building-Diversity-in-Biomedical-Sciences.aspx>

The Building Diversity in Biomedical Sciences (BDBS) Program offers a mentored, 10-week research experience for students interested in pursuing future PhD or MD/PhD studies. Trainees also receive a \$4,000 stipend, attend scientific seminars and workshops, and participate in organized social activities. Applicants must have completed at least one year of college. Applicants from groups underrepresented in the biomedical sciences are encouraged to apply.

### **Yale University School of Medicine – BioMed SURF**

<http://medicine.yale.edu/biomedsurf/>

Yale BioMed SURF is a research-intensive summer training program in biomedical research for undergraduate students who are members of underrepresented minorities and plan to obtain a Ph.D. in the biomedical sciences. Trainees conduct research for 9 weeks at Yale School of Medicine. Each student works in the laboratory of a Yale faculty member who serves as a mentor. Applicants must be college freshmen and sophomores.

## SELECTED POSTBACCALAUREATE PROGRAMS

### National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute - Biomedical Research Training Program for Individuals from Underrepresented Groups (B RTPUG)

<http://www.nhlbi.nih.gov/funding/training/redbook/brtpug.htm>

The National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute (NHLBI) has established a Biomedical Research Training Program for Individuals from Underrepresented Groups (B RTPUG) that offers opportunities for underrepresented post baccalaureate individuals from health disparity groups to receive training in basic, translational, and clinical research. Nationally, these groups include but are not limited to, African Americans, Hispanic Americans, Native Americans, Alaskan Natives, Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders. Individuals with disabilities and from disadvantaged backgrounds are also underrepresented in health-related research. The program supports students that will pursue basic science, clinical, biomedical or behavioral health research careers including clinical and laboratory medicine, epidemiology, and biostatistics as applied to the etiology and treatment of heart, blood vessel, lung, and blood diseases.

## APPLICATION RESOURCES

### Medical Minority Applicant Registry (Med-MAR)

<https://students-residents.aamc.org/choosing-medical-career/article/medical-minority-applicant-registry-med-mar/>

Med-MAR provides an opportunity for minority medical school applicants to have their basic biographical information circulated, at no cost, to the admissions offices of all U.S. medical schools and other health service organizations that request the Med-MAR lists. Desire to participate in this service is indicated at the time students sit for the MCAT. Interested schools will contact students directly for more information. Write to:

## ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- <http://www.snma.org/> Student National Medical Association
- <http://www.amsa.org/> American Medical Student Association
- <https://lmsa.site-ym.com/> Latino Medical Student Association
- <http://www.aaip.org/> Association of American Indian Physicians
- <http://www.ama-assn.org/> American Medical Association
- <http://www.amwa-doc.org/> American Medical Women's Association
- <http://www.apamsa.org/> Asian Pacific American Medical Student Association
- <http://www.anamstudents.org/> Assoc. of Native American Medical Students
- <http://www.amsa.org/lgbt/> LGBT committee in AMSA
- <https://www.amsa.org/advocacy/action-committees/reach/> Race, Ethnicity and Culture in Health Action Committee in AMSA
- <http://www.apiahf.org/> Asian & Pacific Islander American Health Forum
- <http://www.psr.org/chapters/student-chapters/> Student Physicians for Social Responsibility
- <https://minorityhealth.hhs.gov/> Office of Minority Health (Federal site)
- <http://www.hhs.gov/> Health and Human Services (Federal site)

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- <http://health-equity.pitt.edu/40/> **Sullivan Commission Report on Minorities in Health Professions**
- <http://minorityhealth.org/> **Association of Minority Health Professions Schools**