



# COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS & SURGEONS

## **SPURS** *A Biomedical Research Program*

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The Summer Program for Under-Represented Students (“SPURS”), a Biomedical Research Program, is designed to provide under-represented minority undergraduates with summer research fellowship experiences on the campus of, and under the mentorship of, faculty from the Columbia University College of Physicians & Surgeons.

The goal of this program is to provide meaningful training in biomedical research and to reinforce the SPURS Intern’s interest in pursuing a career in biomedical research which will lead to advanced degrees (Ph.D., M.D./Ph.D. or M.D.).

The SPURS Intern will be assigned to work closely with an advanced post-doctoral, senior member of a laboratory. Since the SPURS Intern will have already established a substantial interest in biomedical research and will have significant prior experience in laboratory investigation, it is anticipated that the emphasis will be on training in novel techniques specific to the proposed research program, hypothesis generation, designing experiments to test the hypothesis, data evaluation, preparation of results for presentation at laboratory meetings, and preparation of a poster for presentation at a poster session at the end of the summer research fellowship. Emphasis will be placed on training the SPURS Intern in the fundamental approaches to research and exploring the various options available for pursuing graduate degrees to further promote a career in medicine or biomedical research.

In addition to specific training in the chosen research area, the SPURS Intern will receive, as necessary, in-depth coaching in the methods of biomedical research including: design and analysis of experiments, critical reading of the scientific literature through journal clubs, preparation of abstracts and manuscripts describing the results of experiments, career counseling, and research ethics.

Participation as a SPURS Intern will include a stipend and, if funding is available, housing accommodations.

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### **Required application documents must be postmarked no later than February 6, 2015.**

Mail application to: Dr. Andrew R. Marks, Professor and Chair, Department of Physiology & Cellular Biophysics,  
Russ Berrie Pavilion | 5th floor | Room 520, Columbia University College of Physicians & Surgeons,  
1150 St. Nicholas Avenue, New York, NY 10032.

Application Form, Statement of Purpose, Resume and any inquiries may be E-mailed  
as a Word doc. or PDF format to: [tc2645@columbia.edu](mailto:tc2645@columbia.edu)

Applications Available - October 10, 2014

**Deadline - February 6, 2015**

Awardees - Announced Early March 2015

Summer 2015 Session - Late May 2015 through Early August 2015



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### **Application Requirements**

- Completed application form
- Official academic transcript
- Two evaluation letters
- Statement of purpose (3 pages maximum)
  - *Indicate reason for applying & prior related research experience*
  - *Outline the nature of your interest in summer research and proposed research topic*
  - *Describe future education and career goals*
- Resume (include honors, awards, & other recognitions)

### **Eligibility**

- US citizens or permanent residents
- Undergraduate
- GPA of 3.0 or above
- Underrepresented minority students (African American, Hispanic/Latino, Native American, or Pacific Islander) and/or students from economically or educationally disadvantaged backgrounds (such as first generation college attendee or low income)
- Interested in pursuing graduate education in a biomedical field (MD, MD/PhD, or PhD)

### **Program Description**

#### *Faculty*

Interns will be assigned a faculty mentor with whom the student will conduct directed research in an area of mutual interest.

#### *Weekly Seminars & Workshops*

In addition to research, interns will participate in weekly seminars and workshops. During the weekly seminars, students will have regular opportunities to discuss their research projects.

#### *Meetings*

Meetings with staff and mentors will provide an informal setting for discussions of varied topics, such as: opportunities in academia and the nature and rewards of an academic career.

#### *Accommodations*

Housing accommodations at Columbia's Morning-side Heights campus can be arranged for a fee payable by the program participant. Financial support for housing accommodations is subject to funding availability. No meal plan is provided.

#### *Stipend*

\$4,000.00 stipend for living expenses beyond the cost of housing.

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2015 Program Application

(Please type or print legibly in ink)

Last Name First Name Middle Name Social Security Number

College Cumulative GPA

Academic Major/Minor Expected Graduation Year

Intended field of graduate study

Area(s) of proposed summer research (be as specific or general as you'd like)

Permanent Address

Current Address (same as permanent address) or Valid Until / /

Telephone (home) Telephone (cell)

Date of Birth City & Country of Birth Email

Gender Male Female Current Status: Sophomore Junior Other please specify

Ethnicity: African American Hispanic American Native American Pacific Islander Other please specify

Are you in a MARC program? YES NO Are you in a MBRS program? YES NO

Will you be applying for SUMMER HOUSING at Columbia University? YES NO

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Letter of Evaluation

(Please give to faculty sponsor)

TO THE APPLICANT

Please give this form to a professor/faculty advisor, along with an envelope marked "Evaluation Letter." Ask the sponsor to seal this form and the letter of evaluation in an envelope, sign across the seal, and return it to you or forward it to Columbia at the address listed below. If the envelope is returned to you, do not open the envelope or break the seal. Make certain that the sealed envelope containing this form and your letter of evaluation, along with your completed application package, is delivered to the address below, or postmarked by, February 6, 2015. (No late submissions will be considered).

Last Name First Name Middle Name Social Security Number

Department or Program

Name of academic sponsor

Under the Family Education Rights & Privacy Act of 1974 (Buckley Amendment), which gives registered students the right to inspect and review their educational records, students may waive their right to see specific confidential statements and letters of evaluation, in the belief that applicants, and the persons from whom they request evaluations, may wish to preserve the confidentiality of those evaluations, we are giving you an opportunity to sign one of the following statements:\*

(1) I waive my right to examine this letter.\* Please check [ ]

(2) I do not waive my right to examine this letter.\* Please check [ ]

(Your Signature)

(Your Signature)

TO THE ACADEMIC ADVISOR

How long you have known the applicant and in what capacity?

How would you rate the applicant's overall preparation and aptitude for this program?

- Top 5% Top 10% Top 25% Top 50% Below 50%

This form is submitted to you for an opinion of the applicant's undergraduate work. In a separate letter on your institution's letterhead, we ask you to please discuss candidly the applicant's abilities, progress, and scholarly potential. Please seal and sign the back flap of the envelope; return the evaluation to the applicant or forward the letter by February 6, 2015 to:

Dr. Andrew R. Marks, Professor and Chair Department of Physiology & Cellular Biophysics and Pharmacology, Russ Berrie Pavilion| 5th floor | Room 520 | Columbia University College of Physicians & Surgeons, 1150 St. Nicholas Avenue, N.Y., N.Y. 10032.

\*Note: If the applicant requesting this evaluation has signed neither of the statements above this letter will be available for the applicant's examination.

Signature

Name (print)

Title

Department

Date



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