2021 Program Announcement

Medical Student Summer Research Program in Infection and Immunity

Center for Immunology and the University of Minnesota Medical School

Director: Daniel L. Mueller

Administrator: Sue Prause

Our comprehension of the immune system and its roles in both host protection and disease pathogenesis is currently undergoing a revolution. It is now clear that the immune system not only protects against dangerous pathogens, suppresses malignant tumors, regulates wound healing, and contributes to chronic allograft failures, but also plays causal roles in seemingly non-immunological diseases such as atherosclerosis/thrombosis, Alzheimer's disease, macular degeneration, and metabolic syndrome. In parallel with this increased scientific appreciation of immune cell function, there has been an acute rise in the public’s interest in immunity-boosting supplements and probiotics.

At the University of Minnesota, this explosion in immunological interest has been accompanied by the creation of a world-class, NIH-funded immunology program, through the Medical School’s Center for Immunology. We now offer medical students the opportunity for a directed-research experience in the area of Infection and Immunity, within the Center for Immunology. Successful applicants to this program will not only attain a greater appreciation for scientific discovery and immunology in their future medical practice, but will also lay the ground work for a career in Academic Medicine.

Program Benefits:

- $4,222 estimated stipend for 2-month full-time summer research experience (July 1st through August 26th, 2021) will be provided to up to 7 University of Minnesota medical students.
- Laboratory-based research experience under the guidance of a Center for Immunology investigator.
- Weekly immunology literature review and focused discussion on immunity and health between faculty and students.
- Development of research poster and PowerPoint presentation from your own work.
- Opportunity to present your scientific results at a national meeting.

Selection of Students:

- Applicants must be 1st year University of Minnesota medical students in good standing at either the Twin Cities or Duluth campus.
- Submit (a) an updated CV, (b) past undergraduate and current medical school transcripts (unofficial is acceptable), (c) names of 2 references, and (d) a ≤1–page cover letter that details your past research experiences, describes your interests in immunity and science as it relates to medicine, and expresses your commitment to diversity in academic medicine to Dr. Daniel Mueller by email at sprause@umn.edu. Please include a rank list of potential laboratory mentors if you desire.
- Application deadline is 5 pm Monday Feb. 15th, with selection of candidates expected by March 1st.