



Office of Medical Student
Research and International
Studies

School of Medicine
Alan Magee Scaife Hall
3550 Terrace Street
Pittsburgh, PA 15261

Dear UPSOM applicant

We congratulate you on your admission to the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine and would like to inform you that you are eligible to apply to the ***Pitt-Med Research Experience for Pre-matriculants (PREP)*** program.

The goal of the ***PREP*** program is to provide highly motivated students who are admitted to Pitt Med with an accelerated research experience prior to matriculating into medical school. The program will begin on June 1st and run for 8 weeks prior to the start of Pitt Med orientation. Work schedules can be made flexible only when approved by the faculty mentor and program directors. Qualified applicants who have identified a mentor within the Pitt schools of health sciences are eligible to apply. The proposals will be judged based on the quality of the background and significance, a clear statement of the hypothesis to be tested, a rigorous study design with well described methods, an appropriate role for the student within the scope of an 8-week experience, and well thought out analysis plan.

****Please note that ethical approval must be obtained from the University of Pittsburgh Institutional Review Board (IRB) for studies involving human subjects or Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) for studies involving laboratory animals prior to the start of the research experience. Therefore it is strongly encouraged that students select a project for which their mentor already has ethical approval.**

The following five (5) documents constitute a complete ***PREP*** application:

1. **Research Plan**

- Each student must make contact with a mentor within the University of Pittsburgh Schools of the Health Sciences and devise a 2-page proposal (excluding references) after communicating with the selected mentor.
- Proposal must be single spaced in Times New Roman 12 point font and contain the following information:
 - Title
 - Background and significance of the proposed work
 - Specific Aims and Hypotheses to be tested
 - Methods
 - Analysis Plan
 - Role of the student
 - Ethical Approval
 - References

2. **Updated CV or Resume**

- Students should submit an updated curriculum vitae that includes information about prior degrees and institutions attended as well as previous research experience, if any.

3. **NIH Bio-sketch**

- An NIH style Bio-sketch for the faculty mentor must be provided.

4. **Personal Statement**

- Students should submit a one page personal statement explaining his/her interest in research, prior research experience, if any, and goals for participation in the program.

5. **Letter of support**

- A letter of support from the proposed research mentor is required.

To apply to the **PREP** Program, you must submit a completed application directly to Suzann Beardsley (MSRIS@medschool.pitt.edu) no later than April 15th to be considered. Funding decisions will be released at the end of April.

If you have any questions, please contact Suzann Beardsley at MSRIS@medschool.pitt.edu.

Thank you and congratulations again!

Don DeFranco, PhD
Associate Dean for Medical Student Research

Peter Veldkamp, MD, MS
Associate Dean for Medical Student Research