REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS (RFA)

2016 Pathways to Research Program (PReP)
(Formerly Undergraduate Research Program)

Program Overview

● Seeking applicants enrolled at colleges and universities in Minnesota who are from an underrepresented population (see definition on page 4)
● Stipend of approximately $424/week provided for full-time engagement, 12 weeks between May 30, 2016 and August 19, 2016
● Up to ten students selected
● Funding for travel to present at a scientific conference for outstanding projects
● Students are eligible regardless of citizenship or immigration status
● Applications due by 12:00 p.m. (noon) on Friday, February 5, 2016

1. NATURE AND PURPOSE OF THIS RFA

The Pathways to Research Program (formerly Undergraduate Research Program) provides undergraduate students with knowledge, skills, and experience in translational science and health equity research through a structured core curriculum including a mentored research project, weekly research seminars, small group discussions, and a final poster to present research findings at the annual University of Minnesota CTSI Poster Session and Reception held in fall 2016. PReP provides an opportunity for students from populations underrepresented* in research to begin or advance their research career. Opportunities for travel funds to participate in national and international scientific meetings are awarded on a competitive basis.

The cornerstone of the research training program is the scholar’s participation in a research project under the direct supervision of a University of Minnesota faculty mentor. With input and oversight by the faculty mentor, scholars will design a research plan related to the mentor’s ongoing research programs.

2. ELIGIBILITY

● Undergraduate students enrolled at the University of Minnesota or other colleges and universities in Minnesota. Graduating seniors must be enrolled in a graduate program for the fall of 2016 (letter of acceptance is required)
Clinical and Translational Science Institute

- Ability to commit to a full-time research experience during the program. Scholars cannot concurrently take classes or hold UMN employment without prior approval from program.
- Candidates must be from an underrepresented population (see definition on page 4).

3. SELECTION CRITERIA

- Interest in a career in human health research
- Quality and content of personal essay
- Letters of recommendation
- Academic credentials
- Candidate interview: Interviews will last approximately 15 minutes and will be conducted via video conference with up to three experienced mentors.

4. EXPECTATIONS OF SCHOLARS

- Commit to full-time (40 hours), on-site research training for 12 weeks during the 2016 summer.
- Scholars cannot concurrently take classes or hold UMN employment without prior approval from program.
- Attend weekly program seminars and program activities.
- Complete all required training.
- Complete baseline, weekly, and post evaluations.
- Prepare a final research poster to present findings and translational component at the CTSI Poster Session and Reception in fall 2016.

5. MENTORS

Scholars who are accepted to the 2016 PReP program will be placed with a University of Minnesota faculty mentor. Candidate’s interests and preferences will be taken into account. Placement decisions by program leadership are final.

6. EXPECTATIONS OF MENTORS

- Complete required training course by May 27, 2016 Course link: http://z.umn.edu/mentortrain.
- Attend new mentor orientation (for new mentors only).
- Complete a Mentor-Mentee Compact with the Scholar.
- Hold regular, planned interactions with the Scholar.
- Attend the program kick-off and mid-program event in July with other scholars and mentors.
- Attend and participate in the CTSI Poster Session and Reception in fall 2016.
7. APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS AND TIMELINE

Complete and submit an online application and upload all required documents through the submission link on the CTSI PReP website by **12:00 p.m. (noon) on Friday, February 5, 2016**. The submission form will automatically close at 12:01 p.m. Late or partially completed applications will not be accepted, please plan accordingly.

**PROGRAM TIMELINE**

- November 17, 2015  RFA released
- February 5, 2016  Applications due (12 p.m.)
- Feb./March 2016  Successful candidates contacted for interviews/Interviews conducted
- April 2016  Successful candidates contacted, placed with mentor
- May 2016  New Scholar Orientation on University of Minnesota - Twin Cities campus
- May 30, 2016  Program begins
- August 19, 2016  Program ends

Complete applications should adhere to the guidelines below and must include:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1. Scholar Applicant Information</th>
<th>online form</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2. Personal Essay including:</td>
<td>up to 2 pages</td>
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<tr>
<td>● Your academic and career goals</td>
<td>single spaced, 12 pt font</td>
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<td>● Your interest in human health research</td>
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<td>● Research experience you have had (if applicable)</td>
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<td>3. Description of how you meet the eligibility requirements of this program</td>
<td>1 – 2 paragraphs</td>
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<td>4. Resume or CV including:</td>
<td>up to 4 pages</td>
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<td>● Paid work experiences</td>
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<td>● Unpaid work experiences (working in a family business, taking care of younger siblings/elderly adult, etc.)</td>
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<td>● Community service and volunteer activities</td>
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<td>● Awards and achievements received</td>
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<td>5. All transcripts from undergraduate school (unofficial copy acceptable)</td>
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<td>6. Three letters of recommendation (professional recommendations, not personal friends or family members)</td>
<td>Letters may be uploaded or sent directly to <a href="mailto:ctsieduc@umn.edu">ctsieduc@umn.edu</a></td>
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*Definition of Underrepresented/Disadvantaged background:

Applicants **must** belong to one or more of the following groups:

1. Individuals from a diverse racial and ethnic group that is underrepresented in health-related sciences in the United States (*African Americans, Hispanic Americans, Native Americans, Alaska Natives, Hawaiian Natives and natives of the US Pacific Islands*).

2. Individuals with physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities.

3. Individuals who come from a family with annual income below established *low-income thresholds*.

4. Individuals who will be the first in their family to graduate from a four year university or college

5. Individuals who come from a social, cultural, or educational environment that recently directly inhibited the individual from obtaining the knowledge, skills, and abilities necessary to develop and participate in a research career.