



Diversity in Cancer Research

University of Chicago

www.uchicagomedicine.org/DICR
DICR@bsd.uchicago.edu

The University of Chicago Medicine Comprehensive Cancer Center welcomes undergraduates to explore exciting careers in cancer research through the Diversity in Cancer Research (DICR) program. Over the course of the summer, participants work full time in the laboratories of established cancer researchers, gaining hands-on experience in areas at the forefront of the field: cancer immunology, molecular mechanisms of cancer, clinical and experimental cancer therapeutics, cancer prevention and control, cancer disparities and more. Rigorous research training is complemented with year-round career development and skill-building workshops, leadership training, opportunities in community outreach and engagement, and personalized mentorship for post-baccalaureate transitions. Participants receive a taxable stipend of \$5,000.

DICR is ideal for undergraduates with initial research experience, who aim to advance their scientific expertise and professional skills in preparation for careers in research and medicine. The program is funded by a grant from the American Cancer Society.

PROGRAM DATES The 2023 summer research experience runs June 12 – August 18. On-campus research placements are contingent on university, local and state policies for COVID safety as of spring 2023, including vaccination requirements.

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

- College sophomore or junior at time of application
- At least 16 years of age at start of program
- Strong interest in a career in scientific research or medicine
- Strong academic record, particularly in math and science
- Ability to commit to the yearlong program, including a 10-week summer research experience (40 hours/week) and monthly enrichment activities throughout the subsequent academic year

Individuals from groups underrepresented in biomedicine, encompassing all relevant social, behavioral as well as health sciences, are strongly encouraged to apply. Applications are encouraged from any individual with a demonstrated commitment to increase the full participation of underrepresented groups in biomedicine.

<https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-OD-20-031.html>

TO APPLY

- Submit the online application form by **11:59PM on Monday, February 20.**
- Arrange for two individuals (at least one professor) to complete the online applicant recommendation form by **11:59PM on Monday, February 20.**
- Applicants who advance to the second round: Complete a virtual interview with the program leadership team, scheduled **late February/early March.**

Conflict of Interest Policy: The selection of applicants is managed by the program leadership team. Immediate family members of the leadership team and UChicago faculty are ineligible for the program. All applications will be subject to the Conflict of Interest Policy.



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APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

Access the Diversity in Cancer Research program application form at https://redcap.link/DICR_app_2023. Be prepared to enter the following information:

Academic Information

- Name of college or university
- Current major or concentration
- Current GPA (overall, unweighted)
- Most recent school transcript (PDF document labeled <LastName_FirstInitial Transcript>, e.g., Rowley_J Transcript)

Note: Transcripts do NOT have to be official. However, they should include courses and grades from the beginning of your freshman year. Your name and the name of your school should be clearly visible.

Program Information

- Your top three areas of interest, based on the following fields of cancer research:

Molecular Mechanisms of Cancer: Investigation of the molecular and cellular events that cause cancer and result in uncontrolled tumor cell growth and spread. Includes the study of gene mutations, signaling pathways, anti-tumor immunity and regulation of cell proliferation, death, metabolism, motility and metastasis.

Clinical and Experimental Therapeutics: Research that focuses on identifying novel molecular targets for cancer therapy and translating research findings into clinical application by implementing new therapies, tests or tools into cancer patient care.

Computational Cancer Biology: Analysis and interpretation of genomic and other large-scale data (bioinformatics) to understand the causes, risk and outcomes of cancer.

Cancer Imaging: Development of innovative imaging technologies and analysis tools and methodologies to improve cancer detection, diagnosis and treatment.

Cancer Engineering: A type of biomedical or molecular engineering that applies engineering principles and design concepts to improve the prevention, detection, diagnosis and treatment of cancer.

Cancer Prevention and Control: Determination of the environmental, genetic, psychological, biobehavioral and economic factors underlying the development, risk, prevention, diagnosis, prognosis and survivorship of cancer.

Cancer Disparities: Understanding the underlying factors that cause certain populations to face an unequal burden of cancer incidence or mortality and devising strategies to reduce or eliminate those differences.

- Responses to the following questions (limit 250 words per response):
 - Of the learning opportunities related to careers in science and medicine, why have you chosen to apply to DICR?
 - How do you hope this program will help you move forward with your academic and career plans?
 - What qualities and experiences do you have that best prepare you for the demands of the DICR program?
 - Is there anything else important for us to know about you?

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Arrange for two individuals (at least one professor) to complete the online recommendation form on your behalf by **11:59PM Central on Monday, February 20**. Download an instruction sheet for recommenders at www.uchicagomedicine.org/DICR. Recommenders can access the online recommendation form at https://redcap.link/DICR_rec_2023.

APPLICATION DEADLINES

- February 20, 2023: Application and recommendations due by 11:59PM Central
- Late February/early March: Admissions interview
- March 15, 2023: Acceptance notification
- April 1, 2023: Commitment deadline

CONTACT

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