ResearchStart welcomes high school students from the Chicago and Urbana-Champaign areas to explore exciting careers in cancer research. 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, pharmacogenomics of anticancer agents, bioengineering, experimental cancer therapeutics, cancer disparities and more. Rigorous research training is complemented by career development and skill-building workshops, a cancer-based faculty lecture series and a network of faculty and peer mentors dedicated to students’ success. The program culminates in a research symposium for family, friends and members of the scientific community. Participants receive a taxable stipend of $2,500.

PARTICIPATING INSTITUTIONS: University of Chicago, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, University of Illinois at Chicago, Northwestern University and Rush University

PROGRAM DATES: June 22 – August 14, 2020

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS
• High school junior or senior at time of application
• Strong interest in a career in scientific research or medicine
• Strong academic record, particularly in math and science
• Ability to commit to 8 full weeks of programming, 35-40 hours/week

ADMISSION
Admission to researchStart is highly competitive. No more than 30 participants will be selected across sites, based on their stated interest in the program, academic record and third-party recommendations. To apply:

• Submit the online application form by 11:59PM on Monday, January 20, 2020. The online application form is accessible here: j.mp/2KfInKm

• Arrange for two individuals (at least one teacher) to complete the online applicant recommendation form by 11:59PM on Monday, January 20, 2020. The recommender information packet is accessible here: uchicagomedicine.org/researchStart. The online recommendation form is accessible here: j.mp/34WeJlk

• Applicants who advance to the second round: Complete an in-person interview with the program leadership team at your chosen program site, scheduled for February 2020.

Conflict of Interest Policy: The selection of applicants is managed by the leadership teams at each program site. Immediate family members of the site leadership teams or the researchStart Advisory Committee are ineligible for the program. Immediate family members of faculty from a given site are ineligible for that site. All applications will be subject to the Conflict of Interest Policy.

CONTACT
researchStart@bsd.uchicago.edu  773-702-4678  uchicagomedicine.org/researchStart
APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS
Access the researchStart application form at j.mp/2KfInKm. Be prepared to enter the following information:

Academic Information
- Current school name, address and phone number
- Current GPA (overall, unweighted)
- Most recent school transcript (upload as a PDF document)

Program Information
- Site preference: University of Chicago, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, University of Illinois at Chicago, Northwestern University (medical campus), Rush University
  *researchStart does NOT provide housing or transportation for program participants. Please select only those sites for which you can make your own accommodations.*
- Areas of research interest, based on the following categories:
  - 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, 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 350 words per response):
  - What qualities and experiences do you have that best prepare you for the demands of this program?
  - Of the learning opportunities related to careers in science and medicine, why have you chosen to apply to this program?
  - How do you hope this program will help you move forward with your academic and career plans?
  - Is there anything else important for us to know about you?

RECOMMENDATIONS
Arrange for two individuals (at least one teacher) to complete the online recommendation form on your behalf by 11:59PM on January 20. The recommender information packet is accessible here: uchicagomedicine.org/researchStart. The online recommendation form is accessible here: j.mp/34WeJlk.

APPLICATION DEADLINES
- January 20, 2020: Application and two recommendations due by 11:59PM
- February 17, 2020: On-campus admissions interviews at the University of Chicago, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and University of Illinois at Chicago (interview dates for Northwestern and Rush TBD)
- March 1, 2020: Acceptance notification
- March 15, 2020: Commitment deadline