

Paid Summer Health Services Research Internship for Undergraduate Students

Today, one in every four Americans belongs to a racial or ethnic minority group. Yet despite tremendous advances in health science in recent decades, minorities still fall victim to heart disease, cancer, diabetes and HIV/AIDS in numbers far greater than whites.

Clearly, it's going to take more than medicine alone to change this fact. It will take a health services researcher whose minority perspective can bring a broader understanding to the political, social, economic and environmental realities of the disparity of health care between minorities and whites.

To prepare top candidates to pursue research in health services and epidemiology, the Leonard Davis Institute of Health Economics (LDI) and the Health Care Management Department (HCMD) of the Wharton School are seeking applicants for our summer research program for underrepresented minority undergraduate students and interested others. Candidates from minority groups that are underrepresented in the field of health services (African-American, Hispanic/Latino, Native American, and Pacific Islander) are particularly encouraged to apply.

The Summer Undergraduate Minority Research (SUMR) program, in its eleventh year, provides rising sophomores, juniors and seniors with an opportunity to receive a generous monthly stipend to conduct health services research on a topic of their choice, under the guidance of Penn faculty. The purpose of SUMR is to prepare and encourage top minority students to pursue academic and research careers in health services research and epidemiology. In addition to conducting research, SUMR Scholars will participate in an orientation program, enroll in a GRE prep course, attend weekly seminars, attend a national conference in Boston, and network with health services researchers and epidemiologists. The program runs from late May through mid-August and currently is funded by LDI, HCMD and the VA Center for Health Equity Research and Promotion (CHERP). Past supporters, and/or supporters of individual SUMR Scholars, have included the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ), Penn's Center for Diversity Health Education and Research, Penn's School of Nursing, and the Provost's Diversity Fund.

I would appreciate your passing this information on to students who may be interested in a summer internship in research, and/or, if possible, posting a link to the SUMR program (<http://www.upenn.edu/ldi/sumr/index.html>) on your web site.

Interested students can get program details and the on-line application due February 1, by visiting SUMR's web site at <http://www.upenn.edu/ldi/sumr/>.

Please contact me at levyj@wharton.upenn.edu or (215) 898-1655 if you have any questions.