

Aspirnaut™ Undergraduate Research Internships on the Pathobiology of Diabetic Nephropathy

May 25 – July 31, 2015 (10 weeks)

Application Deadline: **February 1, 2015**

Description

The Aspirnaut™ Summer Research Internship Program™ is a hands-on and mentored basic science research laboratory experience for undergraduate students interested in a career in biomedical research. The program is supported by the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases of the National Institutes of Health and recruitment is targeted to underrepresented racial and ethnic groups, American Indians/Alaska Natives and those from geographically- and economically-disadvantaged backgrounds as defined by the federal government.*

There are two principle aims for this program:

1. An intense research experience for undergraduate students involving crafting of questions, designing and conducting experiments, and presenting and arguing results on the topic of “Pathobiology of Diabetic Nephropathy.”
2. To teach undergraduate interns how to be mentors and inspirational role models for elementary and middle school students at rural schools.

Participants reside on the campus of Vanderbilt University and conduct research activities at Vanderbilt University Medical Center. Research assignments are coordinated under the direction of Billy Hudson, Ph.D., Director of the Vanderbilt Center for Matrix Biology. Interns are assigned to a mentor and research lab related to diabetes. Interns are fully engaged in their research project and meet regularly to discuss their projects with scientific mentors and to interact with guest speakers. At the end of the program, interns prepare written reports and give oral and poster presentations to their peers and mentors. Participants attend the NIH/NIDDK/KUH Summer Research Symposium and present their posters during the last week of the internship. This year’s symposium will be held at Emory University in Atlanta, Georgia. Cost of attendance is covered by the internship program.

Activities and assignments will vary within a standard nine-to-five timeframe in laboratory atmospheres, with evenings and weekends available for the participants to complete homework assignments. Interns receive training in science outreach communication. There is plenty of free time to explore the university, the city of Nashville, and its surrounding areas.

Benefits

The summer research interns will receive a salary of \$500 per week for the ten-week period. This salary is intended to cover all intern costs associated with participation in the program including housing, food, and travel to and from Nashville. The salary will be pro-rated for any days/weeks not completed. Housing is available in Vanderbilt University campus dormitories at a rate of \$30.00 per day. Students who chose to reside on campus agree to follow housing policies determined by the Office of Conferences. Nearly all interns live on campus.

Eligibility & Application

Rising sophomores, juniors, and seniors with a GPA of 3.0 or better on a 4.0 scale and who are in good standing at their primary institution are eligible. Applicants should have already completed biology and chemistry or biochemistry. Rising seniors should have at least one semester remaining of their undergraduate education at the start of the summer program. Applicants must have 2 letters of recommendation submitted on their behalf from college faculty (at least 1 should be from an instructor of a math or science course) and must provide a transcript at the time of application (transcript should include current courses).

Applicants who have successfully completed high school and who are matriculating into a 4-year college/university in the fall are also eligible if they have taken an advanced course in biology, chemistry, or physics in high school.

Candidates should demonstrate interest in/potential to pursue graduate study (i.e., Ph.D., M.D., M.S.) toward an advanced degree in STEM (science, technology, engineering, mathematics) fields and in biomedical research.

Interns must be a documented U.S. citizen or non-citizen national or permanent resident in possession of an alien registration receipt card (I-551) or other legal document of such status. International citizens studying in the United States with an F-1 visa are not eligible for these spots. Individuals seeking asylum or refugees are not eligible.

* NIH groups that are considered to be in need of special recruitment and retention plans in order to diversify the biomedical, behavioral, clinical, and social sciences workforce: 1) Individuals from racial and ethnic groups that have been shown by the National Science Foundation to be underrepresented in health-related sciences on a national basis (see data <http://www.nsf.gov/statistics/showpub.cfm?TopID=2&SubID=27> and the report Women, Minorities, and Persons with Disabilities in Science and Engineering, 2007, p. 262) and those groups shown to be underrepresented in health-related sciences on a national basis: American Indians or Alaska Natives, Blacks or African Americans, Hispanics or Latinos, Native Hawaiians or Other Pacific Islanders; 2) Individuals with disabilities, who are defined as those with a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities; 3) Individuals from disadvantaged backgrounds who are defined as: (a) from a family with an annual income below established low-income thresholds based on family size, published by the U.S. Bureau of the Census, and adjusted annually for changes in the Consumer Price Index, and adjusted by the Secretary for use in all health professions programs (<http://aspe.hhs.gov/poverty/index.shtml>). These individuals have qualified for Federal disadvantaged assistance or have received any of the following student loans: Health Professional Student Loans (HPSL), Loans for disadvantaged Student Program; or have received scholarships from the U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services under the Scholarship for Individuals with Exceptional Financial Need; and (b) Individuals who come from a social, cultural, or educational environment such as that found in certain rural or inner-city environments that have demonstrably and recently directly inhibited the individual from obtaining the knowledge, skills, and abilities necessary to develop and participate in a research career.

1. Email Address _____

(Please provide a valid email address)

Eligibility Status

2. I am attending an undergraduate college/university
in Fall 2015

Yes

No

Personal Information

3. First Name _____

4. Last Name _____

5. Social Security Number _____

6. Date of Birth (MM/DD/YYYY) _____

7. Current Age _____

8. Gender:

Male

Female

9. Place of Birth (City/State/Country): _____

10. I am a documented U.S. citizen
or non-citizen national or permanent
resident in possession of an No alien
registration receipt card (I-551) or
other legal document of such status

Yes

No

11. Mailing Address Street/P.O. Box _____

12. Mailing Address City _____

13. Mailing Address State _____

14. Mailing Address Zip Code _____

15. Home Telephone Number _____

16. Student Cell Phone Number _____

17. Alternative Email Address _____

18. Tribal Name and Membership Number (if applicable) _____

Academic Information

19. College/University Attending in Fall 2015 _____
20. Major _____
21. Double Major (or Minor) if applicable _____
22. Current Grade Point Average _____
23. Year in school as of Fall 2015
- Freshman
 - Sophomore
 - Junior
 - Senior
-
-

Demographic Information

Please Note: Responding to these demographic questions is voluntary. No adverse action will result whether you answer these or not. This information will be used when the Aspirnaut™ Program is applying for grants and other funding sources.

24. What is your race/ethnicity
- White
 - Hispanic or Lationo
 - Black or African American
 - American Indian or Alaska Native
 - Asian
 - Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander
 - Other
25. Do you have a disability as defined by the Americans with Disabilities Act?
- Yes
 - No
26. Are you a US Military Veteran?
- Yes
 - No
27. What is the highest level of education your mother has completed?
- Less than High School
 - High School or GED
 - 2 Year Degree – Associates Degree
 - 4 Year Degree – Bachelor Degree (BS, BA)
 - Master's Degree

- Doctoral Degree
- Professional Degree (MD, JD)
- Don't know

28. What is the highest level of education your father has completed?

- Less than High School
- High School or GED
- 2 Year Degree – Associates Degree
- 4 Year Degree – Bachelor Degree (BS, BA)
- Master's Degree
- Doctoral Degree
- Professional Degree (MD, JD)
- Don't know

29. What is your total household income per year?

- Less than \$10,000
- \$10,000 - \$19,999
- \$20,000 - \$29,999
- \$30,000 - \$39,999
- \$40,000 - \$49,999
- \$50,000 - \$59,999
- \$60,000 - \$69,999
- \$70,000 - \$79,999
- \$80,000 - \$89,999
- \$90,000 - \$99,999
- More than \$100,000

30. How many people reside in your household?

(Household size is the number you provide on your FAFSA form).

- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5
- More than 5

31. Are you eligible for free or reduced-fee lunches?

- Yes
- No

Emergency Contact Information

32. Name _____
33. Email _____
34. Phone _____

Short Response Questions

35. Please provide concise responses to the questions below.

1. Describe your qualifications for participation in this program. Please include any examples of coursework that fostered your interest in research.
2. Why do you want to attend this program? What about basic science research interests and challenges you?
3. Describe your extracurricular interests, activities, and hobbies.
4. Describe your education and career goals and reasons for pursuing them.

Finalizing Application

44. Please list any dates you are unavailable during the program and the reason for this. _____

45. Attach an official copy of your college transcript (unofficial copies may be uploaded during the initial application process but official copies of most current transcript must be sent to the address below or via email by February 1)

45. I have mailed two sealed letters of Recommendation to the following Address:
Aspirnaut Research Internships Vanderbilt University
1161 21st Avenue
South CCC-3300
Medical Center North Nashville, TN 37232-2104
Or have had my references email them to:
researchinternships@aspirnaut.org
on official school letterhead and from an official school email address.

- Yes
 No

46. By typing your name here you are certifying that the information you have entered on this application form is complete and accurate. _____