
**THE UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH INTRAMURAL RESEARCH
TRAINING AWARD
UPIRTA***

***A Post-baccalaureate Experience for
Underrepresented Scientists***

**RESEARCH FOCUS ON
ANTIBIOTIC-RESISTANT INFECTIOUS DISEASE
AND AUTISM**



***FUNDED BY A GRANT FROM THE STATE OF PENNSYLVANIA**

Explore a career in research through an intensive post-baccalaureate experience

The University of Pittsburgh Schools of the Health Sciences would like to invite you, as an individual underrepresented in biomedical and public health research (African American, Latino/Hispanic, Native American, Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander), to participate in UPIRTA – the University of Pittsburgh Intramural Research Training Award post baccalaureate program. Open to those who have completed (or are about to complete) their undergraduate training, UPIRTA is designed specifically to prepare and support underrepresented students who wish to pursue careers in biomedical or public health research.

Spend a year strengthening your research skills and preparing for graduate study in biomedical science or public health through mentored lab placements in antibiotic-resistant infectious disease or autism. UPIRTA will enhance your scientific research, writing and public speaking skills. You will discover a challenging and stimulating program in the environment of a major academic medical center.

The University of Pittsburgh Medical Center Health System

The University of Pittsburgh Medical Center Health System (UPMC) is a dynamic, progressive academic health care complex encompassing six schools of health sciences, and a host of affiliated hospitals, clinical facilities, and specialized medical centers. In recent years, UPMC has experienced a renaissance in programs, personnel, resources, and physical space. We have established pioneering health care programs and recruited some of the nation's most talented scientists to fill key leadership positions.

UPMC has major, interdisciplinary programs in cancer, AIDS, immunology, genetics, aging, orthopedics, and cardiovascular disease coupled with world-renowned programs in transplantation, epidemiology, neuroscience, and psychiatry, among others. Among the translational centers that have blossomed during the past decade are the University of Pittsburgh Cancer Institute; the Division of Transplantation Surgery; the Sports Medicine Institute; the Center for Emergency Medicine; the Center for Neuroscience; the Heart Institute; the Brain, Behavior, and Immunity Center; the Benedum Geriatric Center; the Alzheimer's Disease Research Center; and the Center for Biotechnology and Bioengineering.

The Academic Program

UPIRTA is a highly competitive post baccalaureate research program that pairs talented underrepresented students with biomedical researchers working in the areas of antibiotic-resistant infectious disease (MRSA, *C. difficile*, *A. baumannii*, staph aureus) or autism. Faculty from the Division of Infectious Diseases, Department of Medicine, School of Medicine and the Department of Epidemiology, Graduate School of Public Health, the Division of Clinical Microbiology and others will mentor and supervise the experiences of UPIRTA students.

All UPIRTA students will submit a paper on their research at the completion of the program, and present their work to their peers and preceptors.

In preparation for applying to graduate programs, UPIRTA students who require exposure to upper-division undergraduate coursework in biology will receive tuition support for one course per semester.

Enrichment Activities and Student Life

Learning Skills Seminars - Sessions are offered by a learning skill specialist, and focus on assessment and development of study skills such as note-taking, test-taking, problem solving and memorization techniques. Assistance in reading and writing scientific material is available. Individual sessions may be held as requested.

Peer Mentorship – Currently enrolled graduate students will provide mentoring to enhance UPIRTA students' adjustment to the campus academic environment and life in the City of Pittsburgh.

Social activities for UPIRTA fellows will be held in conjunction with School of Medicine and Graduate School of Public Health student activities. Thus, students will build a broad network of peers who are on the same academic and career path.

Brown Bag Lunch Series - Offered twice per semester. URM researcher role models will give informal presentations on their backgrounds, preparation, interests and goals.

Benefits

As UPIRTA is funded by a grant from the State of Pennsylvania, preference in admission is given to graduates of Lincoln University, PA, Cheyney University PA, The University of Pittsburgh, residents of the city of Pittsburgh and the State of Pennsylvania. Each participant receives a \$20,000.00 graduate stipend and health coverage. There is no charge for tuition or educational materials.

Application Instructions

1. Ask your college/university to send your official transcript to the address below.
2. Ask two individuals who are familiar with your academic work to complete and submit recommendation forms to this office (forms enclosed). At least one recommendation should be from a research mentor.
3. Complete all sections of the application form and return them, along with an essay describing your background, career goals, and interest in this program.
4. ***It is your responsibility to make certain that those submitting materials on your behalf have sent the necessary materials on or before the deadline date.***
5. Enrollment is limited to 4 students, so early application is encouraged.
6. The application deadline is **April 15**. Your application will not be considered unless all materials have been received.
7. Application materials, and any questions, should be directed to:

The University of Pittsburgh
Office of Health Sciences Diversity
190 Lothrop Street
161-163 Lothrop Hall
Pittsburgh, PA 15260
(412) 648-2066 phone
(412) 383-5728 fax

UPIRTA

The University of Pittsburgh
Office of Health Sciences Diversity
190 Lothrop Street
161-163 Lothrop Hall
Pittsburgh, PA 15260
(412) 648-2066
(412) 383-5728 (fax)

I am applying for the 20__ academic year.

Please provide the information requested in the space provided.

Name _____
(Last) (First) (M.I.)

Last 4 digits of Social Security Number _____ Date of Birth _____
MM/DD/YY

Permanent Address _____ Current Address _____

E-mail address _____ Valid until (date) _____

Permanent Telephone () _____ Current Telephone () _____

I would prefer to receive mail at my (circle one): Permanent Address Current Address

Are you a U.S. citizen or a permanent resident? _____

How do you describe yourself? Please check all that apply (**optional**)

African-American Native American Native Alaskan Native Hawaiian
Hispanic/Latino Other (please specify) _____

Please provide the name, address, and phone number of someone who is always aware of your whereabouts.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone (day) _____ (evening) _____

Family Information

Father: Living / Deceased Mother: Living / Deceased

Occupation _____ Occupation _____

Education _____ Education _____

Number of brothers and sisters _____ Ages of brothers and sisters _____

Are there special circumstances such as economic or educational disadvantage that our committee should consider as we evaluate your application?

List in order, all colleges and universities you have attended, whether or not a degree was granted.

Institution	Major	Dates attended	Degree

Please list the titles and grades of your science and math courses.

Title	Grade

Please indicate your current school status:

College: Senior Postgraduate

If you have taken the GRE, please list your scores: Verbal _____ Quant _____
Analytical Reading _____

If you have taken the MCAT, please list your scores:

Physical Science _____ Biological Science _____ Verbal Reasoning _____ Writing Sample _____

List principal extracurricular activities, including volunteer work and research.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

List any academic honors, prizes, or scholarships received.

At the present, what is your primary career goal?

How did you hear about this program?

Recommendations

Give the names, titles, addresses and phone numbers or email addresses of two professors whom you will ask to complete and submit recommendations.

Name _____ Name _____

Title _____ Title _____

Address _____ Address _____

Phone/Email _____ Phone/Email _____

Essay

On a separate page, please discuss your background, explaining any unusual aspects of your education and record, and career plans at this stage of your education. Explain why you are interested in the University of Pittsburgh Intramural Research Training Award program, and what you expect to gain from this program.

I certify that the information in this application is true and correct.

Applicant Signature

Date

University of Pittsburgh Intramural Research Training Award Recommendation Form

Applicant=s Name _____

I waive access to this document under the Family Rights and Privacy Act (the Buckley Amendment).

Signature _____ Date _____

To the applicant:

After you have read and completed the information above, please give this form to a faculty member who is familiar with your work.

To the recommender:

The above named student is applying for the University of Pittsburgh Intramural Research Training Award program (UPIRTA). Your candid estimate of the applicant=s academic performance, potential for success, and qualities as a person will help us in making selections for admission. Information provided on this form will be used solely for admissions purposes, and as such, is not subject for review by the student. Please complete this form as soon as possible, and return it to the address above. Our application deadline is **April 15**.

1. How long have you known the applicant? _____

2. In what subject(s) have you taught the applicant? _____

3. In your judgment, does the applicant show strong interest in a career in research? Please comment.

4. Please provide a brief, frank appraisal of the applicant=s academic capability, motivation and personality. Feel free to continue on an additional sheet, or attach a separate letter.

Recommender Name _____ Title _____

Address _____

Telephone _____ Date _____

Signature _____

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Recommender Name _____ Title _____

Address _____

Telephone _____ Date _____

Signature _____