

# University of Pittsburgh Intramural Research Training Award (UPIRTA)



**UPIRTA** (University of Pittsburgh Intramural Research Training Award) is a highly competitive post-baccalaureate research program that pairs talented underrepresented students with biomedical researchers in antibiotic-resistant infectious disease (MRSA, *C. difficile*, *A. baumannii*, staphylococcus 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, as well as those in the Department of Psychiatry will mentor and supervise the experiences of UPIRTA Scholars. The Scholars who successfully complete the one-year post-baccalaureate program will be well-positioned for consideration for admission to a health sciences doctoral program at the University of Pittsburgh.

## UPIRTA Provides:

- Two Curriculum Pathways
  - *Biomedical Science or Clinical Research in Autism*
  - *Antibiotic-Resistant Infectious Disease*
- Mentored Research Experience in Labs
- Annual Stipend and Benefits (health insurance and tuition remission)
- Preparation for Graduate School Application and Interview process
- Leadership Training and Development
- GRE Test preparation and study skills assessment

## Eligibility Criteria

To be eligible for UPIRTA, applicants must:

- Be U.S. Citizens or Permanent Residents
- Have recently attained a bachelor's degree in biomedical or behavioral sciences (no longer than 24 months prior to application to UPIRTA), or be on track to earn a baccalaureate degree
- Identify with a group that is underrepresented in biomedical or behavioral sciences research
- **Intend to apply to a graduate program leading to a PhD in the health sciences**

## Selection Criteria

Applicants should have recently earned or will soon earn their baccalaureate degree and have a keen interest in entering a PhD program. In reviewing a candidate's application, we consider a variety of criteria that demonstrate whether the candidate exhibits potential and motivation towards research with the expectation to matriculate in a PhD program.

Potential UPIRTA Scholars must have at least a B-average in science coursework and an overall grade point average of 3.0 or higher. Exceptions may be made for those students who have had previous research experience and/or a strong sense of future goals.

Training will be individualized and each Scholar's progress will be tracked on the basis of completion of program milestones and evaluation of completed projects and assignments.

## Application Information

To be considered for fall 2009, applicants should submit:

- The application
- A personal essay that describes:
  - Your reasons for wanting to participate in the UPIRTA
  - Any previous research experience
  - Your reasons for wanting to pursue a PhD degree in a biomedical field after completing the program
  - Your future education and career goals after you complete the UPIRTA
- Letters of recommendation from at minimum two college science teachers and/or mentors. If you have participated in laboratory research, one of the letters should be from your research mentor.
- **Official** transcript(s) of all undergraduate work

UPIRTA is funded by the generous contribution of the State of Pennsylvania.

For more information about UPIRTA, contact the Office of Health Sciences Diversity at (412) 648-2066 or [diversity@hs.pitt.edu](mailto:diversity@hs.pitt.edu).