The Duke Skin Disease Research Center (SDRC) seeks to advance discovery and translation in skin biology and disease, by providing access to critical, difficult-to-duplicate technologies and resources to facilitate studies at the gene, cellular, tissue and animal levels with relevance in understanding skin biology and pathogenesis of skin disease. The SDRC is funded through resources provided by Duke University School of Medicine, Pinnell Center for Investigative Dermatology and National Institute of Arthritis and Musculoskeletal and Skin Diseases of the National Institutes of Health.

I. Purpose

The Duke Skin Disease Research Center (SDRC) is offering mentored research opportunities for undergraduates from Duke University and other institutions for the summer of 2016. This program is designed to build a diverse and inclusive community of individuals with interest in biomedical research investigating skin biology and skin diseases. The Duke SDRC defines diversity in the biomedical research community broadly including but not limited to racial, ethnic, disadvantaged backgrounds, disabilities and LGBTQ. We believe that through an increasingly diverse biomedical research community we will broaden the breadth and depth of research and patient care to the benefit of society. Rising second-, third- and rising fourth-year undergraduate students interested in research careers in biomedical research, skin biology and skin diseases are invited to apply. Mentors for this program will include members of the Duke Skin Disease Research Center. This community of researchers involves members from the Departments of Dermatology, Medicine, Pharmacology and Cancer Biology, Surgery, Pathology, Molecular Genetics and Microbiology, Immunology, Chemistry and Biomedical Engineering. Research activities include basic and translational projects and are located on the Duke Medicine campus.

The goals of the Duke SDRC Undergraduate Mentored Research Program are:

- Develop the interest of highly motivated undergraduates with an interest in biomedical research to the study of skin biology and skin diseases
- Increase the diversity and inclusiveness of the research community that is focused on skin biology and skin diseases

Duke SDRC undergraduate research fellows will have 10-week paid summer research fellowships in the laboratories of excellent, experienced researchers who are advancing science in skin biology and disease. They will participate in the Duke SDRC seminar series, and are encouraged to join activities of other Duke summer programs for undergraduates interested in biomedical research and medicine (Duke Summer Medical and Dental Education Program, Duke BioCoRE Program, Duke Summer Research Opportunity Program). Research fellows, who are Duke undergraduates, will have the opportunity to continue their research during the school year and re-apply for a second summer fellowship.

II. Key Dates

- Full Application Submission Deadline: January 15, 2016
- Final Selection: March 1, 2016
- Funding Period: May 31 to August 6, 2016

III. Eligibility

- Rising second-, third- and fourth-year undergraduates students interested in research careers in biomedical research, skin biology and skin diseases. Student needs to be attending a school located in the US and be a US citizen or US permanent resident.
IV. Funding

Each award will consist of:
- Up to $600 travel reimbursement
- Housing on Duke campus
- Stipend of $4000
- Up to $1500 provided to Duke SDRC mentor’s laboratory to support proposed research

V. Selection Process and Review Criteria

Application Submission: Awards are made after review of the application by the Duke SDRC Review Committee. The Duke SDRC Review Committee will consider the following when evaluating applications:

- Previous research experience or interest in biomedical sciences.
- Description of long-term career goals and how this program might help you achieve those goals.
- Description of how your participation in this program will help meet the program goals of increasing an interest in research in skin biology and disease and increasing diversity in the skin biology and disease research community.
- Two letters of recommendation from university teachers or mentors
- Evaluation of college transcript

VI. Application Procedure

Duke SDRC utilizes the DTRI MyResearchProposal@Duke online application software to accept applications. To apply

- A step-by-step user’s guide for applying via the DTRI MyResearchProposal@Duke software is available. Please watch applicant tutorial or review this document.
- Select the “Duke SDRC Mentored Research Program For Undergraduate Students Summer 2016” funding opportunity and follow the instructions.

MORE INFORMATION

For additional information on this funding opportunity, please contact Duke SDRC at DukeSDRC@dm.duke.edu.