

The Healthy Decision-Making and Behavior for Healthier Youth Program

Summer Intern Positions

The Internship Program offers summer research and leadership development opportunities to motivated high school and college students. The Program aims to promote healthy decision-making and behavior among young people. It will proactively engage young Asians and Pacific Islanders (APIs) in science and research as well as promote an understanding of substance abuse disorders. Approximately 30 students will be selected to participate in the Program, where collaboration, sharing, and team work are essential. The curriculum consists of presentations on health science topics (medicine, public health, biomedical science, cognitive, behavioral, and social sciences, and research), focus group activity, career and leadership development as well as topics of interest to and selected by the interns. The health science topics will be offered in the format of seminars presented by the faculty and the interns themselves. Under the supervision of well-established researchers and health professional mentors, the interns will participate in centralized cross-site public health program projects as well as site-specific research projects. Interns who complete the summer Program in good standing will receive a graduation certificate from the National Institute on Drug Abuse acknowledging their achievement. The Program may continue beyond summer to support interns motivated to move forward or reach out to their school and community.

Application date: March 1 – March 31, 2013

Duration: May through August, 2013

Core curriculum: July 5, 2013 – August 12, 2013 (6 weeks)

Hours: 40 hours/week

General requirements:

1. High school or college student in good standing
2. Demonstrated interest in science and research
3. Able to participate at least the 6-week core curriculum from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday

Acceptance date: Students will receive notice of acceptance by early April.

Participating sites and local contacts:

Connecticut team:

Dr. Helen Wu
University of Connecticut Health Center, Farmington, CT
zwu@uchc.edu

Dr. Jianghong Li
Institute for Community Research
Jianghong.li@icrweb.org

Greater Metropolitan DC team:

Dr. Woody Lin
National Institute on Drug Abuse, Bethesda, MD
ylin1@mail.nih.gov

Hawaii team:

Dr. Linda Chang
University of Hawaii, Honolulu, HI
ichang@hawaii.edu

New Jersey team:

Dr. Sulie L. Chang
Seton Hall University, South Orange, NJ
Sulie.Chang@shu.edu

South California team:

Dr. Yih-Ing Hser,
University of California, Los Angeles, CA
yhser@ucla.edu

Texas team:

Dr. Johnny He
University of North Texas Health Science Center, Fort Worth, TX
Johnny.He@unthsc.edu

General contacts:

Dr. Woody Lin
National Institute on Drug Abuse, Rockville, MD
ylin1@mail.nih.gov

Dr. Helen Wu
University of Connecticut Health Center, Farmington, CT
zwu@uchc.edu

Sponsor: Asian American Pacific Islander Workgroup
National Institute on Drug Abuse

Highlights of previous summer intern activities:

[Article](#) on Michael Guo, Vienna, VA. *2012 NIDA AAPI Workgroup Summer Intern.*

Frequently asked questions: See attachment

Questions & Answers on the Internship program

Q: Will the student accepted to the program receive a stipend?

A: This is an unpaid, student volunteer position.

Q: How does the training program work?

A: The Program consists of several teams across the United States and Hawaii. Interns are required to participate in centralized activities offered by the Program as well as events scheduled by the host team. Please note that the research is not necessarily conducted in a wet lab setting. The Program is established to allow members to access training from a distance. Seminars and lectures are centrally coordinated and managed and offered in the format of WebEx meetings where members can log-in as long as they have access to a computer, internet, and telephone. Self-education and self-instruction as well as team work are emphasized. Each intern will have the opportunity to lead at least one specific topic activity, depending on the person's interest, motivation, and capability. In addition, a final report and a term paper is expected, which can be presented to the intern's school counselor if requested.

Q: Do you select only students who are interested in health science?

A: The Program welcomes all applicants. Last year, only two students entering the Program had an interest in going to medical school; most were undecided. Many are attracted by the leadership training opportunities that the Program has to offer. The comprehensive review of disciplines in health science is regarded as excellent reference in selection of majors.

Q: How will my application be processed?

A: The faculty person on the team nearest to you is the person who should receive and process your application (Refer to the Program Announcement for teams). After initial review, the faculty will contact you regarding an interview. Please include the following in your application:

- a. Cover letter: please indicate availability of transportation, computer, internet, and telephone if telework is required.
- b. A personal statement about you, your interests, a list of extracurricular activities and what you see as short to reach your short and long term goals.
- c. One page essay about an extracurricular activity in which you have proactively engaged will be very helpful.
- d. An updated resume with your GPA.
- e. Two letters of reference sent directly to your contact from people who know you well.

Additional materials needs before orientation:

- f. Parent/guardian's email statement of support.
- g. A transcript (unofficial is acceptable initially).
- h. A recent photo.

Q: How do I learn more about the Program?

A: The Program Announcement gives an overview of the Program. The applicant will learn more details during the interview.