

# CLAS Academic Advising Center

Academic advising for students pursuing majors and/or minors offered by the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences  
Call Us: (616) 331-8585 • Visit us On-line: [www.gvsu.edu/clasadvising](http://www.gvsu.edu/clasadvising)

## Pre-Professional E-Bulletin

### Week of January 10, 2011

Your pre-professional advising team would like to advocate that you should consider applying for these wonderful opportunities. How do you know you will (or won't) like it if you don't try it first. Conducting research as an undergraduate is a whole new experience that will benefit you in so many ways. Medical schools are seeking candidates that don't look like everyone else. Participating in undergraduate research is a GREAT way to differentiate yourself from the rest of the candidate pool. Have you taken the research class (301) yet? If so, you know that understanding and evaluating scientific articles is a skill that will be used as a practicing professional. One final benefit is the chance to work one-on-one with a faculty member as s/he conducts research - and to get to know that faculty member. And remember, when you apply to professional school who better than this faculty member to ask to write you a strong letter of recommendation for you!

So, that's our sales pitch on doing research - now, how do you become involved in research?  
READ ON.....

You can:

1. Talk directly with our own faculty
2. Check with your Academic Advisor
3. Check with your Pre-professional Advisor
4. Search the GVSU website
5. READ ON.....

Click to view our: [CLAS Academic Advising Center Pre-Professional Webpage](#)

1. **Grand Valley Announcements and Events**
2. **Programs and Open Houses**
3. **Research Opportunities**
4. **Scholarship Opportunities**
5. **Global Health and Volunteer Opportunities**

The purpose of this newsletter is to share information that may be of interest to you. By posting information, it does not mean that we endorse the organizations or services enclosed. To unsubscribe from the listserv please do the following: *email the listserv using the email address you used to subscribe - leave subject blank - in the message send the command "unsubscribe" - without quotation marks followed by the listserv name*

## 1. Grand Valley Announcements and Events

### **Test Prep Course**

Please note this is **NOT** just an MCAT prep course. After extensive research by a colleague, we have expanded the course to include all students who are taking entrance exams for Chiropractic, Dental, Medical, Optometry, Pharmacy, Podiatry and Veterinary. We have lined up a TERRIFIC team of GVSU faculty to cover the various subjects. Last year's participants rated our class highly.

When: **Thursday** evening beginning **January 20th** from 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.

Course Fee :(determined by the exam you are taking) DAT \$20; MCAT \$25; OAT \$25; PCAT \$20

Room Location: D-1-135 MAK

You **MUST** pre-register for the class. You can quickly register at: [www.zoomerang.com/Survey/WEB22BQG5QAABR](http://www.zoomerang.com/Survey/WEB22BQG5QAABR)

We've gone high tech and you can now pay online @ <http://www.gvsu.edu/clasadvising/ecommerce.htm> (scroll down until you see E-Commerce info) Payment **MUST** be received before the first class.

If you have ANY questions, please call CLAS Academic Advising @ 616.331.8585. We have lots of space so spread the word. This is a GREAT review course at a VERY reasonable price! Each registrant will receive a confirming email before the class with the course syllabus/topic for each evening.

### **Personal Statement Workshop**

When: Tuesday, January, 18, 2011 from 12:00-2:00 pm

Where: 114 HON

Click here for more information: [Information Flyer](#)

Registration is limited to the first 50 students: [Register Here](#)

### **Health Care Experience Workshop**

When: Wednesday, January 26, 2011 from 4:00-6:00pm

Where: To be Announced

Please check the [CLAS Academic Advising Center](#) website for more information

### **Interview Skills Workshop**

When: Wednesday, February 23, 2011 from 3:00-5:00 pm

Where: Grand River Room, Kirkhof

Please check the [CLAS Academic Advising Center](#) website for more information

## 2. Programs and Open Houses

### **The University of Queensland School of Medicine Ochsner Clinical School**

<http://us2.campaign-archive.com/?u=eb015a8a2efb1a89775662800&id=311baafdeb&e=f715dd1302>

\*Open House

New Orleans, Louisiana February 26th, 2011 8am - 3pm

\*Welcome and Program Overview by Professor William Pinsky, Head of Ochsner Clinical School Executive Vice President and System Medical Affairs Chief Academic Officer

\*Curriculum Highlights and Cross Cultural Experiences by Associate Professor Leonardo Seoane, Deputy Head of Ochsner Clinical School, Curriculum

\*Tour The University of Queensland Ochsner Medical School Campus

\*Q & A Session with Professor Pinsky, Program Directors, OCS Admin, Students

\*Admissions Information Session with Thea Volpe and Whitney Bennett

\*RSVP by **February 11th, 2011** to [cmehlich@mededpath.org](mailto:cmehlich@mededpath.org)

Please call Whitney Bennett at 877.777.0155, extension 106 with any questions. For on-site accommodations, call the Brent House Hotel at 800.535.3986 or visit [www.brenthouse.com](http://www.brenthouse.com)

\*Contact them with other questions:

877-777-0155 or [info@mededpath.org](mailto:info@mededpath.org) Visit the website at: [www.mededpath.org](http://www.mededpath.org)

### **UPONIC, Universidad Popular de Nicaragua**

UPONIC, a private national university in Nicaragua, offers a program custom designed for students interested in the health professions. UPONIC has its own school of naturopathic medicine and has combined that with opportunities for clinical time. It will be an academic experience at the base of the economic pyramid to help make your application to pre med and allied health programs different and special. Students will receive clinical experience, cultural emersion experience through staying with host families, travel time, and many other experiences. The program begins May 28, 2011 and ends June 25, 2011.

To apply: Go to <http://www.naturorthopathic.uponic.com.ni/index.php/en/home> and look for the sign-up button.

UPONIC has rolling admissions, so as soon as your application is complete, you will be given one of three decisions: Acceptance for 2011, Need more information, Rejected for 2011 – usually because the program cannot deliver your expectations. The UPONIC teams recognizes that some schools will give aid for international programs and will do all they can to speed the process. If you have questions, contact Claudia Lara Meza at [claudilarameza@gmail.com](mailto:claudilarameza@gmail.com), John Farris at [farris@gvsu.edu](mailto:farris@gvsu.edu) or Paul Lane at [lanepa@gvsu.edu](mailto:lanepa@gvsu.edu)

### **The Consortium for Optometry Summer Enrichment Program**

The Consortium for Optometry Summer Enrichment Programs is pleased to share the upcoming dates for their individual programs. Prospective students may apply to and attend multiple summer programs; they do not restrict or cap an individual's participation between or among any of the four programs described below:

Illinois College of Optometry Focus on Your Future

July 11-15, 2011

The Illinois College of Optometry is pleased to announce their annual summer program for underrepresented minority undergraduate students. The program is a week-long experience that will expose undergraduate students to the profession of optometry in a variety of settings. Participants will have the opportunity to meet and work with current optometry students, ICO Faculty & Staff, as well as practicing optometrists. Students will be housed at no charge in their Residential Complex. There is no cost to participate in this program. Participants are responsible for their travel expenses and/or transportation cost to and from ICO. For more information, please visit:

<http://www.ico.edu/admissions/summerprogram/> Program Contact: Teisha Johnson, 312.949.7407, [tjohnson@ico.edu](mailto:tjohnson@ico.edu)

The Ohio State University I-DOC

August 1-3, 2011

The Improving Diversity in Optometric Careers program is an intensive three-day program for people from an underrepresented ethnicity interested in finding out more about an optometric career. The program provides information about optometry through hands-on experiences, and it aims to increase the number of underrepresented ethnic minority optometrists. Thanks to underwriting by the Vision Service Plan (VSP), there is no cost to attend the program and includes all meals and activities. There are also several scholarships for airfare and accommodations for out-of-state college applicants. For more information about the program and information regarding the application process, please visit the I-DOC webpage: <http://optometry.osu.edu/IDOC>

Program Contact: Justin Griest, 614.292.8825, [griest.6@osu.edu](mailto:griest.6@osu.edu)

Pacific University InSight

July 6-8, 2011

Pacific University College of Optometry is pleased to invite applicants for InSight 2011. Pacific University's InSight 2011 is a program that introduces underrepresented minority students to the profession of optometry through a 3-day, in-residence experience on Pacific University's Forest Grove campus. The three days are filled with hands-on workshops, information sessions, case conferences and social events that educate students on the profession of optometry, and prepare students to competitively finish up the pre-health undergraduate curriculum. Program materials, food, and accommodations will be provided by Pacific University. For more information, or to complete an application, please visit: <http://www.pacificu.edu/optometry/insight>

Program Contact: Janelle Holmboe, 503.352.3145, [holm1408@pacificu.edu](mailto:holm1408@pacificu.edu)

University of California, Berkeley Opto-Camp

Session I, June 20-21

Session II, July 18-20

The goal of Berkeley Optometry's Opto-Camp is to introduce underrepresented and first generation pre-health science majors to Optometry as a potential future career track and to prepare them to be successful applicants to optometry school. The objective of Berkeley Optometry's Opto-Camp is to present a three-day in residence experience that will provide participants with opportunities to learn about the profession of optometry and the process of becoming an optometrist. Program specifics and the application, available on February 15, 2011, are linked here: [http://optometry.berkeley.edu/opt\\_txtp/admissions/admitoptocamp.html](http://optometry.berkeley.edu/opt_txtp/admissions/admitoptocamp.html)

Cost: \$125 program fee; limited number of scholarships to waive program fee per session, as demonstrated by financial need. Program Contact: Heather Iwata, 510.642.9537, [hiwata@berkeley.edu](mailto:hiwata@berkeley.edu)

#### **Human Anatomy for Undergraduates at John Hopkins University School of Medicine**

The eleventh annual summer course in Human Anatomy for Undergraduates will be offered by the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine this year. The course will run for four weeks in June, 2011, on the Medical School campus in Baltimore, and will include both lectures and demonstrations using human cadavers. Applications will be accepted from all currently enrolled undergraduates who have completed their sophomore year of college. Total tuition for the course will be \$3800. All course materials, including the textbook and an atlas, are included in the tuition. Four (4) academic credits will be awarded upon successful completion of the course. Accommodations are available on the main undergraduate campus of Johns Hopkins University. A completed application form, a non-refundable application fee of \$50, and supporting materials (college transcript, letter of recommendation from an academic advisor) are due by **March 15, 2011**. Successful applicants will be notified by April 1, with full tuition due by May 1. More course details, including a downloadable application form, can be found on the Internet at: [www.hopkinsmedicine.org/FAE/anatomyinstitute](http://www.hopkinsmedicine.org/FAE/anatomyinstitute). For further information, please contact Ms. Arlene Daniel at [adaniel@jhmi.edu](mailto:adaniel@jhmi.edu).

#### **Laboratory Summer Program in New York City for Pre-MD/PhD Students**

\*Ideal for students who wish to pursue the combined MD-PhD degree (this program is run by the Weill Cornell/Rockefeller/Sloan-Kettering Tri-Institutional MD-PhD Program).

\*10 weeks of independent research at either Weill Cornell Medical College, Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center or The Rockefeller University (all in NYC).

\*Present & participate in weekly journal clubs

\*Scrub into surgeries at New York Presbyterian Hospital.

\*Give an oral, written and poster presentation of your research in front of your family (who are flown in for the event), friends and colleagues.

\*Receive on going mentorship by your "Big Sib" (a current MD-PhD student), as well as weekly meetings with the Program's leadership.

\*Receive a stipend of \$4,300 (minus the cost of housing).

\*Gateways alumni are accepted and matriculate in the top MD-PhD Programs in the country!

#### **Who is eligible?**

Freshman and sophomores (at time of application) only.

Underrepresented minority and/or disadvantaged backgrounds

US Citizens/Permanent Residents

Students who wish to pursue the combined MD-PhD degrees after college.

For further information and an on-line application, please visit their website

<http://weill.cornell.edu/mdphd/summerprogram/> Please note, our application deadline is **February 1, 2011**.

#### **Des Moines University Health Professions Advanced Summer Scholars ( P.A.S.S.) Program**

Deadline for applications is **February 1, 2011**

A few highlights are listed:

The DMU Health Professions Advanced Summer Scholars (Health P.A.S.S.) program is free to attend; students will be provided with travel reimbursement, housing, and meals.

The Health P.A.S.S. program is specifically geared toward students who are underrepresented in medicine and healthcare – this includes individuals who are racially/ethnically underrepresented, first generation college students, and/or students who come from low-income backgrounds.

Ideally, students will apply to attend the HealthPASS program taking place in the summer between their freshman and sophomore or junior and senior years.

Participants will have the opportunity to experience “a day in the life” of students in four areas of health professions: Osteopathic Medicine (D.O.), Podiatric Medicine and Surgery (D.P.M.), Physical Therapy (D.P.T.), and Physician Assistant (P.A.).

The DMU Health P.A.S.S. program will run from July 10-30, 2010. Learn more about the key features of the DMU Health P.A.S.S. Program online at [www.dmu.edu/](http://www.dmu.edu/) If you have questions contact Margie Gehringer at 515-271-7498 or [margie.gehringer@dmu.edu](mailto:margie.gehringer@dmu.edu).

### **University of Michigan Pre-Medical Scientist Training Program**

The University of Michigan Medical Scientist Training Program (MSTP) is accepting applications for its Pre-MSTP Program. The program will provide an opportunity for highly motivated and talented undergraduates to participate in a ten week summer research-focused program in the University of Michigan Medical School.

The MSTP is an NIH-funded combined M.D./Ph.D. training program; it takes students approximately 8 years to earn the two degrees. MSTP graduates typically establish careers in academic medicine focused on basic research relevant to human diseases. Clinical medicine generally is a small component of the M.D./Ph.D. career and serves primarily to inform and enhance the research.

For undergraduates potentially interested in the above career path, the Pre-MSTP summer program provides biomedical research experience and exposure to clinical medicine. This may help you decide if this is the right career for you, and could enhance your competitiveness when applying to M.D./Ph.D. programs.

A stipend of \$4200 and university housing will be provided. The program will cover transportation costs to and from Ann Arbor up to \$200. Students are responsible for providing their own meals.

Participants can expect to:

Perform full-time research in a faculty laboratory

Attend bi-weekly luncheon presentations where faculty discuss their research

Give short presentations of their summer accomplishments at the conclusion of the program

Obtain clinical exposure opportunities in the form of physician shadowing

Attend the three-day MSTP annual retreat at Higgins Lake

Attend formal MCAT instruction over an 8 week period by the Stanley Kaplan Review Center

To be Eligible Applicants must:

Come from an educational, cultural or geographic background that is underrepresented in the sciences **OR** have experienced financial hardship as a result of family economic circumstances **OR** have a physical or mental disability that substantially limits one or more major life activities

Be a current undergraduate (excluding those applying to Med/Grad School for 2011)

Be a US citizen or permanent resident

Have completed a science course with laboratory

Be able to show proof of their own health insurance coverage

The deadline for application submission is **February 12, 2011**. Please contact [mstp@umich.edu](mailto:mstp@umich.edu) or visit

<http://www.med.umich.edu/medschool/mstp/> with any questions.

### **Summer Medical and Dental Educational Program at the University of Louisville**

The Summer Medical & Dental Education Program (SMDEP) is a six-week intensive summer residential academic enrichment program, focused on integrated problem solving in the basic sciences, centered on medical and dental applications. Applications will be available at [www.smdep.org](http://www.smdep.org). They will be accepting applications from college freshman and sophomore pre-medical and pre-dental students. Deadline for all application material is **March 1, 2011**. Please apply early. The program includes: Science Enrichment, Free Housing and Meals plus stipend, clinical exposure and clinical correlations, team based learning modules, exciting written/oral presentation component, financial planning workshop, individualized career planning, health disparities symposium, chance to meet and interact with current medical and dental school students and SMDEP Alumni and get to know faculty and staff from

the School of Medicine and School of Dentistry. Please email [specprog@gwise.louisville.edu](mailto:specprog@gwise.louisville.edu) or call 502-852-7159 with any questions.

### **3. Research Opportunities**

#### **Student Summer Scholars**

The application is a collaborative effort between the potential student scholar and faculty mentor. A student may propose a research or creative project to a faculty member or a faculty member may actively recruit a student for full-time work during the twelve-week spring/summer session.

**Are now accepting applications.** Please [apply online](#) by **January 28, 2011**. Registration closes at 11:59 PM, January 28, 2011, however, administrative support will only be available until 5:00 PM. PLEASE NOTE: Your application is incomplete if you have not uploaded your application document. INCOMPLETE APPLICATIONS WILL NOT BE CONSIDERED.

To review the application used for the 2011 process, please refer to the [Text Application](#). Please also review the [Scoring Rubric](#) URC will use to assess the applications. Traditionally, the application has six sections:

1. Project Goals/Scope
2. Project Feasibility
3. Faculty Narrative: Quality of Student Learning Experience
4. Student Narrative: Qualifications and Motivation
5. Commitment to Project
6. Dissemination Plan

#### **Student Eligibility**

The program is available to undergraduate students at GVSU who have not yet completed the requirements for graduation. It is expected that the student will be enrolled at GVSU for at least one full semester of study beyond the period of the award.

#### **Faculty Eligibility**

All tenured, tenure-track, visiting, and affiliate GVSU faculty are eligible to sponsor S3 students. Faculty will commit an appropriate portion of their time to effectively and actively mentor a student; they will be expected to have a limited teaching load for Spring/Summer semester. Faculty are expected to disclose any pending or successful applications for additional funding during the Spring/Summer Semester.

#### **University of Michigan Cardiovascular Center Research Fellowship Program**

The University of Michigan Cardiovascular Center is pleased to announce their U of M CVC Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowship Program for 2011 is now accepting applications. This fellowship program will provide up to twelve full-time summer research opportunities at the University of Michigan for talented undergraduate students interested in cardiovascular research.

The fellowship website, <http://sitemaker.umich.edu/cvcsummerfellowship/>, has more information on the fellowship program and the application process.

The online fellowship application deadline is **January 31, 2011**. Letters of recommendation for which requests are sent electronically when the application is completed, will be accepted until February 11.

The University of Michigan Cardiovascular <<http://www.med.umich.edu/cvc/>> Center moved into its new state of the art clinical building in the summer of 2007 with a long term vision to become the best academic heart and vascular center in the world. This fellowship program is a part of its overall mission of creating an understanding of cardiovascular disease across the life span, through multi-disciplinary collaboration among clinicians and scientists, to achieve: Superior, compassionate patient care, innovative science and discovery, and excellence in education. This fellowship program is supported by the University of Michigan Cardiovascular Center and a generous gift from the Esperance Family Foundation supporting vascular biology research.

#### **University of Pittsburgh Intramural Research Award Program**

Funded by the PA Dept of Health, UPIRTA's goal is to increase the numbers of underrepresented scientists working in the areas of Infectious Diseases and Autism research.

They have 2 grant-funded research spots available in Infectious Diseases (looking at MRSA, C. difficile, A. baumannii, staph aureus and modeling for H1N1), and up to 3 positions available in Autism research. Both programs will fund GRE test preparation.

The positions will run from August of 2011 to May of 2012. The application receipt deadline is **May 16, 2011**, though early application is suggested.

Information is at <http://www.healthdiversity.pitt.edu/programs/upirta.php>. Interested students contact Paula Davis at 412-648-2066 or [pkd100@pitt.edu](mailto:pkd100@pitt.edu). Visit their website at [www.healthdiversity.pitt.edu](http://www.healthdiversity.pitt.edu)

### **Washington University St. Louis's Division of Biology & Biomedical Sciences and the Medical Scientist Training Program.**

THREE summer research programs: Biomedical Research Apprenticeship Program (BioMedRAP); Cell & Developmental Biology Research Apprenticeship Program (CD-BioRAP); and the AMGEN Scholars Program.

All three programs are a joint effort of the WUSTL's Division of Biology & Biomedical Sciences and the Medical Scientist Training Program. They have the following elements in common:

- \* 10 weeks of independent research in a lab located at WUSTL, WUSTL School of Medicine, or the Missouri Botanical Garden
- \* Weekly journal clubs and scientific seminars
- \* Workshops on career development, ethics, presentation skills and scientific writing
- \* Mock Interviews and individualized career advising
- \*Presentation of work at a summer-ending research symposium.
- \* Community service project
- \* \$4,000 stipend for the summer. They provide housing at no cost, so that is \$4,000 cash money, in the participant's pocket
- \* Travel covered to and from St. Louis
- \* Travel funds to present work at scientific meeting
- \* A genuine MCAT or GRE prep course. This is not a workshop, but a full-blown course taught on weekends by a professional test prep company. Students keep the materials and have access to the test bank for a year. This is provided at no cost to the student.

They have 3 different funding sources, and these benefactors have different ideas about what a summer research program should look like. The most important differences are: AMGEN Scholars and CD-BioRAP are limited to US citizens & permanent residents, while BioMedRAP is open to all; CD-BioRAP and AMGEN do not require prior research experience, while BioMedRAP expects that individuals will have had two semesters or summers of research. Please note that all programs are aimed at individuals who are seriously committed to careers in research and plan to earn a PhD or MD-PhD. Individuals interested solely in medical careers should not apply. Participants in these programs have gone on to the best PhD and MSTP programs in the country, including Stanford, UCSF, WUSTL, Chicago, Hopkins, Penn, Cornell, Yale, Harvard, etc.

Applications are available online now and completed applications will be accepted until **January 31** for CD-BioRAP and BioMedRAP and **February 1** for Amgen Scholars Program. For more information please or go to their website at <http://biomedrap.wustl.edu> , or contact Rochelle Smith at 314-362-7963 or [rsmith@wustl.edu](mailto:rsmith@wustl.edu)<<mailto:rsmith@wustl.edu>>.

### **Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine Summer 2011 Undergraduate Research Opportunities**

This web site includes numerous research opportunities at the School of Medicine <http://casemed.case.edu/>, University Hospitals Case Medical Center<<http://www.uhhospitals.org/Default.aspx?alias=www.uhhospitals.org/case>>, Rainbow Babies and Children's Hospital

<http://www.uhhospitals.org/Default.aspx?alias=www.uhhospitals.org/rainbowchildren>

MetroHealth Medical Center <http://www.metrohealth.org/>

and Cleveland Clinic <http://my.clevelandclinic.org/default.aspx>.

Specific questions about a research opportunity should be sent directly to the program's office.

\*Undergraduate Summer Research Link:\*

[http://casemed.case.edu/admissions/research/summer\\_programs.cfm](http://casemed.case.edu/admissions/research/summer_programs.cfm)

\*Information about their School and MD Tracks:\*

<http://casemed.case.edu/admissions/>

**Western Kentucky University's National Science Foundation Research Experience for Undergraduates (REU)**

Western Kentucky University seeks talented science students to participate in its summer National Science Foundation Research Experience for Undergraduates (REU) program in investigative biotechnology. The preference is for rising juniors and seniors (younger students with research experience will be considered), who have completed core courses in the science curriculum at their home institutions and have demonstrated a curiosity and passion for science. They especially encourage applications from students who are members of groups underrepresented in graduate education in the biological sciences.

Thirteen faculty members in Biology, Chemistry, and Mathematics and Computer Science will serve as mentors to accepted students. Academically, students will be trained in research techniques, participate in exciting research (students can chose from over nineteen projects), and gain valuable presentation skills. Additionally, students will benefit from a series of workshops exploring ethics and preparing students to apply for and succeed in graduate school. Practically, students will receive a stipend of \$480 per week, free housing, meal and travel allowances, and lab supplies.

Students can find more information and application instructions at <http://www.wku.edu/biotechreu>. Applications must be postmarked by **Friday, February 4, 2011**. If you have any additional questions please feel free to contact Dr. Shivendra Sahi ([shivendra.sahi@wku.edu](mailto:shivendra.sahi@wku.edu)), Dr. Rodney King ([rodney.king@wku.edu](mailto:rodney.king@wku.edu)), or Dr. Audra Jennings ([audra.jennings@wku.edu](mailto:audra.jennings@wku.edu)).

**The Van Andel Research Institute**

Are you an undergraduate or masters-degree student with a passion for cellular, molecular and genetic biology in order to make a difference for human health? The Van Andel Institute Graduate School (VAIGS) provides an innovative Ph.D. program for students with the capacity and motivation for careers in biomedical research.

The Van Andel Research Institute, located in Grand Rapids, Michigan, conducts biomedical research with an emphasis on translating scientific results into clinical applications. VAIGS trains Ph.D. scientists to be leading scholars in cellular, molecular and genetic studies relevant to human diseases. Their innovative problem-based curriculum leads students to explore fundamental concepts in genetics, biochemistry, cell and molecular biology, and bioinformatics through highly integrated courses based on current research questions. Graduate students conduct their dissertation research in state-of-the-art laboratories within a beautiful, award-winning building. Other components of the program help develop the professional skills needed in future research leaders.

For the entering class of Fall 2011, they seek effective independent learners who work capably in a collegial team environment. A solid foundation in cell biology, molecular biology and genetics will be important, but they believe the understanding of and passion for the life of a scientist is most critical for applicants. Those with a bold and pioneering spirit will make the most of this opportunity.

For more information and an on-line application see their website at [www.vai.org/Education/GraduateSchool.aspx](http://www.vai.org/Education/GraduateSchool.aspx). You may also contact the graduate school office at [gradschool@vai.org](mailto:gradschool@vai.org) or 616-234-5708.

**Summer Undergraduate Research Program at the University of Pittsburg School of Medicine**

Summer undergraduate research program provides stimulating and rewarding research opportunities for undergraduates considering graduate education in biomedical research. Students admitted to the program conduct an independent research project under the guidance of a faculty member in one of seven programs. Funding includes a \$3,500 stipend for the 10-week program, plus \$500 for transportation and FREE campus housing. You may apply if you are a rising sophomore or rising junior enrolled in a regionally accredited college or university in the US. International students are eligible to apply if currently in F1 or J1 visa status. Individuals from groups underrepresented in the sciences are encouraged to apply. Please visit [www.gradbiomed.pitt.edu](http://www.gradbiomed.pitt.edu) for more information.

**Interdisciplinary Research Experiences for Undergraduates in the Structure and Function of Proteins at the University of Michigan**

Student participants will be engaged in an intensive 10 week period of hands-on experimental training and independent investigation in the areas of biochemistry, biophysics, cheminformatics, computational chemistry,

enzymology, marine biology, molecular biology and plant biology. The research projects featured in this program all involve studies of the structure and function of proteins. In addition to the research experience, students will participate in a series of weekly enrichment seminars focusing on scientific communication, graduate school admissions and scientific career options. Rising juniors and seniors majoring in biochemistry, biology, biophysics, chemistry, computer science, engineering (chemical/biomedical), mathematics or a related discipline will be eligible for participation in the program. Applications are available online at: <http://pharmacy.umich.edu/reu>. Application deadline is **February 15, 2011**. The program dates are June 6-August 12, 2011. Participants will receive a \$4500 stipend, on campus housing, a \$1000 meal allowance and a \$300 travel allowance. You must be a US Citizen or Permanent Resident to apply. For further information, please contact Dr. Cherie R. Dotson (crdotson@umich.edu /734-615-6562) or Dr. Ronald W. Woodard at [rww@umich.edu](mailto:rww@umich.edu) /734-647-8429.

## 4. Scholarship Opportunities

### **James "Rhio" O'Connor Memorial Scholarship**

The James "Rhio" O'Connor Memorial Scholarship Fund is offering its scholarship again this year. It is an essay contest open to all college students. The essay subject concerns cancer and the scholarships are \$5,000 for first place, \$2,000 for second place, and \$1,000 for third place. Students can receive more information and request an application packet at this website: <http://www.cancermonthly.com/scholarship.asp>

### **Whitaker International Fellows and Scholars Program**

The Whitaker International Program is a competitive grant that sends emerging leaders in biomedical engineering (or bioengineering) overseas to increase international collaboration in the field. The Whitaker Program was funded by The Whitaker Foundation (now closed), and is administered by the Institute of International Education.

Whitaker International Program grants are awarded based on an activity/project proposal that is relevant to biomedical engineering. They hope to offer about 50 grants annually, but only the highest-quality applicants are awarded. In the last three competitions, 15, 20 and 35 grants have been awarded.

They are looking for at least 150 qualified applications this year, so all students who are even thinking of this type of option are encouraged to apply.

Awards have included research in heart blood flow, improved prosthetic leg design, and development of affordable oral cancer screening tools. Projects occur worldwide, including the UK, Chile, Denmark, India, South Africa, and many more.

#### Types of Grants

The Whitaker International Program has two categories

- \* Fellows - Graduate-level applicants, from graduating seniors through current PhD students. Fellows receive a stipend for one year, and are eligible for tuition reimbursement.
- \* Scholars - Post-doctoral applicants, who recently received their PhD. Scholar awards can be for as little as one academic semester or as long as two years of funding, depending on their needs. Second year funding is contingent upon demonstration of progress made during the first year.

#### Website & Online Application

<http://www.whitaker.org/>

<http://whitaker.usapplications.org/>

The online application is now open with a **January 24, 2011** deadline. The website listed above has all the information pertaining to the program, including eligibility requirements, potential host institutions, and former grantee profiles.

#### Whitaker Program On-line Forum

<http://www.whitaker.org/forum/>

A new Whitaker on-line forum has been created for applicants to interact with former grantees and ask them questions about grant projects, tips on the application, securing host affiliations, and the general grant experience. Additionally, the forum has answers to many Frequently Asked Questions on the Whitaker Program.

## 5. Global Health and Volunteer Opportunities

### **Pre-Med Opportunity in India**

Any undergraduate student that is interested in international community health should know about the Mabelle Arole Fellowship, awarded annually since 2002 through JSI Research and Training, Inc. Candidates must be admitted to medical school to be eligible. If awarded the Fellowship, they defer entrance to medical school for one year.

Applications are due in **mid-January 2011** and finalists are interviewed in mid-March at American Medical Student Association conference in Washington, DC. The Fellow departs US in late August and returns in early summer of 2012. The Fellow, who receives \$8,000 to cover all expenses, spends 10 months at the Comprehensive Rural Health Project at Jamkhed (in Maharashtra), one of the best examples of how mobilized/empowered communities can significantly improve their health/nutrition status. All relevant information is available on the AMSA website ([www.amsa.org](http://www.amsa.org), search for Arole) which has link to Jamkhed site and contains reports by previous Fellows. Any questions can be directed to Dr. David Pyle at [dpyle@JSI.com](mailto:dpyle@JSI.com) or 503-894-8546 (in Portland, OR).

### **Volunteering at Saint Mary's Health Care in Grand Rapids**

If you are interested in volunteering at Saint Mary's in Grand Rapids, please fill out the application at the following link:

<http://gvsu.edu/cms3/assets/18FB597A-9B8F-F6AC-C940CACB896B0C17/stmarysvolunteer.pdf>

You will need to complete the application, the background request form, two reference forms, and review the list of volunteer opportunities (which is included in the application). If you have any questions, contact Rachel Selgo at [selgor@trinity-health.org](mailto:selgor@trinity-health.org) or call at 616-685-1898.

### **The Global Health Corps**

<http://ghcorps.org/>

#### **Mission**

Global Health Corps (GHC) aims to mobilize a global community of young leaders to build a movement for health equity. GHC believes that a global movement of individuals and organizations fighting for improved health outcomes and access to healthcare for the poor is necessary in order to change the unacceptable status quo of extreme inequity. GHC works to build this movement by recruiting, training, and supporting the movement's future leaders and by diversifying the pool of young people working in global health.

GHC provides opportunities for young professionals from diverse backgrounds to work on the frontlines of the fight for global health equity in year-long fellowships. Their fellows will have a measurable impact on the health of the communities in which they work, and draw upon that experience and the GHC alumni network, to deepen their impact throughout their careers.

GHC will create a pipeline of young leaders for the global health equity movement, and at scale will play a central role in sustaining and consistently reinvigorating this movement for change. This infusion of young, passionate, skilled leaders will help to tip the balance towards a more equitable and just global distribution of health services.

### **International Service Learning**

International Service Learning (ISL) announces a jointly sponsored four week program for pre-health and health students combining hospital rotation and field clinics. ISL has partnered with Masaya General Hospital for four years. See Masaya Hospital Project <http://www.islonline.org/global-gifts-and-grant-program/> for more info.

Pre-health students' experiential involvement is approved and supervised by Nicaragua health officials and hospital personnel and will focus on public health and community triage. ISL is the only NGO officially recognized by the government assembly of Nicaragua for pre-health experiential learning. Please forward ISL-Masaya Joint Hospital/Community Rotation <http://www.islonline.org/isl-masaya-hospital-rotation/> to students interested in general medicine, pediatrics, ob/gyn, orthopedics, public health, and nursing.

International Service Learning Health Teams <http://www.islonline.org/programs/health/> provide valuable hands-on patient care experience for students. They are making a difference in the lives of those in need of essential health services and are now accepting applications for Spring Break teams!

Serve – Travel – Learn: Mexico, Belize, Nicaragua, Costa Rica, Panama, Peru, The Dominican Republic, Tanzania Health Teams Schedule <http://www.islonline.org/schedule/december-2010/>

Well Child International <http://www.islonline.org/well-child-international/>  
Hike for Humanity <http://www.islonline.org/programs/hike-for-humanity/>

For more information on general health, dental, optometry, veterinary, physical therapy, and public health trips, contact Pepper at [Info@ISLonline.org](mailto:Info@ISLonline.org) or visit the website: [www.ISLonline.org](http://www.ISLonline.org)

Well Child International is the newest program, dedicated to providing OB/GYN and pediatric care to women and children in underserved communities. Receive a discount on your trip by recruiting others to join you in this life-changing experience. Contact [Diannah@ISLonline.org](mailto:Diannah@ISLonline.org) for more information. Additional financial aid is available through the GSM Financial Sponsorship Program  
[http://app.streamsend.com/c/?redirect\\_to=http%3A%2F%2Faboutgsm.org%2Fsponsorship\\_program.html](http://app.streamsend.com/c/?redirect_to=http%3A%2F%2Faboutgsm.org%2Fsponsorship_program.html)

Thanks to the students helping staff these teams, it is estimated that approximately 35,000 of the underserved with varying levels of health care will be served.

More info at [www.ISLonline.org](http://www.ISLonline.org)

ISL sends medical/dent/opt/public health/PT/vet/pharmaceutical teams to countries in Latin America, Central America, and Africa. They include pre-health students on their teams as a way of preparing the next generation of international medical caregivers. Students receive supervised hands-on experience, health related seminars, and financial sponsorship. Listings of university, professional, and student references are available upon request. Over a 15 year period they have fielded over 500 hundred teams and annually provide health care for 15,000 of the underserved.

***Know thyself means this, that you get acquainted with what you know and what you can do.***

***-Menander***