



THE UNIVERSITY OF MISSISSIPPI MEDICAL CENTER
Center for Psychiatric Neuroscience
2010 NEUROSCIENCE SCHOLARS SUMMER PROGRAM
APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

FUNDING SOURCE. The Center for Psychiatric Neuroscience (CPN) has been established at the University of Mississippi Medical Center with funding from the National Center for Research Resources, a division of the National Institutes of Health. The CPN directly funds the Neuroscience Scholars Summer Program.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION. The CPN believes it is crucial to foster interest in psychiatric neuroscience at the undergraduate level. The CPN's Neuroscience Scholars Summer Program is an undergraduate summer research internship that provides the opportunity for undergraduates to explore their interest in neuroscience research. The CPN Mentoring and Education Core is responsible for program recruitment and implementation of the Neuroscience Scholars Summer Program.

Throughout their internship, students participate in original research at UMC as part of a multidisciplinary research team. The CPN research laboratories investigate areas of neuroscience research ranging from the neurobiological basis of substance abuse behavior to the molecular mechanisms regulating synaptic activity to the neuroanatomical abnormalities attending psychiatric disease.

Neuroscience scholars are matched with projects that best fit their interests as indicated on their application forms. Each student is assigned to a UMC faculty researcher who serves as their mentor throughout the program. Faculty mentors provide instruction in modern research methods, techniques and the uses of state-of-the-art research tools and are available to the neuroscience scholars to provide an understanding of research as a career.

Weekly meetings of all the students are held to facilitate discussions amongst the scholars and to offer opportunities to enhance their learning through a series of lectures presented by experts in the field of neuroscience research. Because each research project is unique, the students benefit from sharing their laboratory experiences with each other.

PROGRAM DATES. The Neuroscience Scholars Summer Program is a 10-week internship, although the length of the internship can vary in exceptional circumstances. The 2010 program **begins Monday, May 24, 2010** and continues through **Friday, July 30, 2010**.

ELIGIBILITY. College or university undergraduates (including incoming freshman and graduating seniors) and medical students between years M1 and M2 with permanent residence in Mississippi.

STIPEND. Scholars will receive a stipend at the UMC Student Researcher I, II, or III level, depending on the academic level of the student.

HOUSING. No housing allowance is available. Students must secure their own housing.

CRITERIA FOR ACCEPTANCE. Internships to the Neuroscience Scholars Summer Program are awarded on a competitive basis. Applicants are accepted based on past academic performance, faculty recommendations, and research career goals as outlined in the application.

PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS.

1. Participants must engage in full time research in the mentor's laboratory.
2. Participants are required to attend all program meetings. This includes mandatory attendance at the program's orientation meeting and weekly program meetings.
3. At the close of the summer program, all scholars must participate in a one-day symposium at which they will present an oral report of their project.
4. Participants are required to submit a written report on their research project at the conclusion of the program.
5. Scholars are asked to evaluate the program and participate in post-program surveys that track their academic and career progress.

HOW TO APPLY. Application requires an application form, two faculty recommendation forms, and an official copy of academic transcripts. The application form is to be completed and signed by the student applicant. The two faculty recommendation forms should be completed by faculty members familiar with the applicant, placed in sealed envelopes, and returned to the applicant for submission with the completed application form. Application materials may be found at <http://cpn.umc.edu> (click on "Education" link, then on the "Undergraduate Summer Research Program" link), from your faculty advisor, or by calling (601) 815-5392.

Completed application packets and official academic transcripts should be mailed to:

Catherine Kaime, Program Coordinator
Center for Psychiatric Neuroscience
University of Mississippi Medical Center
Department of Psychiatry and Human Behavior
2500 North State Street, Room L721
Jackson, Mississippi 39216

APPLICATION DEADLINE. The completed Application Form, two sealed Student Evaluation Forms, and official academic transcripts are due in the CPN office by **Friday, March 12, 2010**. Notification of acceptance to the Neuroscience Scholars Summer Program will be mailed the first week of April, 2010.

QUESTIONS. Contact Catherine Kaime at ckaime@psychiatry.umsmed.edu or (601) 815-5392.