The Graduate Program in Microbiology and Immunology (PMI) is excited to offer the undergraduate Microbiology and Immunology Diversity Scholars (MIDS) Program!

**Overview:**

The purpose of the MIDS Program is to promote diversity in STEM by engaging underrepresented minority undergraduate students in long-term biomedical and/or public health research, career development, and mentorship in preparation for graduate-level education and careers in the biomedical sciences.

The MIDS Program provides research experience and scientific training to undergraduate Scholars from historically underrepresented racial/ethnic groups. For two years (4 semesters), our Scholars engage in clinical and/or translational research projects under the guidance of experienced researchers and principal investigators in the fields of microbiology and/or immunology within the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine. In addition to research experience, Scholars develop scientific technical and communication skills, build relationships with mentors, attend career development seminars, and present their independent research at both in-house and national scientific conferences. Through two years of research, career development, and mentorship, Scholars develop into competitive applicants for graduate programs, specifically PhD or MD/PhD programs, immediately upon bachelor degree completion.

**Program Structure:**

Upon acceptance into the Program, the MIDS Committee pairs each Scholar with a faculty mentor based on the Scholar’s research interests indicated in the application. Scholars will remain in that lab for the entirety of the program. Scholars are expected to be in lab a minimum of 10 hours, but no more than 15 hours, per week for 10 weeks during the Fall and Spring semesters. Approximately 85% of their effort will be dedicated to their independent research project. The remaining 15% will be spent on the professional and academic development of the Scholar, including but not limited to: scientific writing (abstracts, manuscripts, etc.), poster and oral presentations, attending University of Pittsburgh professional and career development sessions, networking, and meeting with academic mentors or advisors. Scholars will be compensated for their time in the program (see Compensation).

**Compensation:**

Scholars will be compensated $1500 each Fall and Spring semester. Annually, Scholars will receive $500 towards travel to a national scientific conference. Additional travel expenses will be covered by travel awards or the faculty mentor. Funding is guaranteed for the length of the program. The first year is funded by the MIDS Program and the second year is funded by the faculty mentor.

**Scholar Expectations:**

- Commit 10-15hrs per week (3-4 hour blocks) in the laboratory for 10 weeks each semester
- Attend monthly MID Seminars for career and professional development
• Apply/attend 1 Pitt-sponsored scientific conference and/or 1 national scientific conference each year
• Submit an Annual Written Report detailing your laboratory project at the end of each academic year

**Faculty Mentor Expectations:**

• Provide mentorship and research experience to the Scholar for a minimum of 2 years.
• Have sufficient funding to support the Scholar’s second year in the MIDS Program (~$3,500).
• Engage the Scholar in an *independent* research project.
• Ensure Scholar presents research at one Pitt-sponsored and one national scientific conference per year.
• Offer a welcoming and enthusiastic lab environment!

______________________________________________  ________________
Scholar Signature Date

______________________________________________  ________________
Faculty Mentor Signature Date

Additional questions or concerns? Contact our Program Director, Dr. Olja Finn (ojfinn@pitt.edu)