

Program Dates 2021:
June 21, 2021 – August 6, 2021
DEADLINE: February 1, 2021



**Weill Cornell
Medicine
Medical College**

How to Apply

1. Create an account at <http://bit.ly/t-srf>.
2. Select **Summer 2021** in the **Program Plans** pop-up window.
3. Select the **Travelers Summer Research Fellowship Program** to begin the application process.
4. Before submitting materials in the other tabs, go to the **My Application** tab and select **Program Materials** for the complete instructions and to answer the supplemental questions.

Questions?

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Travelers Summer Research Fellowship Program 2019



Clinical Research; Dalio Institute of Cardiovascular Imaging,
Dr. Jessica Peña (T-SRF '97)



Basic science research; Kreek Lab at Rockefeller University



T-SRF 2019 Participants and Program Assistants

2021

53 years of excellence

The Travelers Summer Research Fellowship Program

For Premedical
Students

TRAVELERS



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"Of all the forms of inequality, injustice in health care is the most shocking and inhumane." " It was in March of 1966 that the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King made this statement. Over 54 years later, the manner in which COVID-19 has disproportionately impacted communities of color highlights the fact that insufficient progress has been made addressing longstanding healthcare disparities.

Since the late 1970's when the federal government began stratifying health outcomes by race and ethnicity, healthcare disparities have been noted. These disparities have been characterized as extensive, pervasive and persistent. In 2002, the Institute of Medicine issued a publication entitled *Unequal Care*, exploring the contributors to these healthcare disparities and offering mitigation strategies. Among the recommendations was diversification of the US healthcare workforce. In fact, in light of the shifting demographics in America, bringing diversity to the workforce was characterized as being in the nation's compelling interests.

Nearly 20 years have passed since these publications yet certain racial and ethnic groups remain underrepresented in the US healthcare workforce. Dr. Joy Howell, who serves as Assistant Dean of Diversity and Student Life of Weill Cornell Medicine believes that "Medical education is a public good and we have a responsibility to cultivate a diverse physician workforce that will deliver outstanding, culturally sensitive care to every segment of our society". The Travelers Summer Research Fellowship is an enduring and exceptional program that is tangibly advancing this cause.

Identifying potential medical students who have a serious interest in the addressing the healthcare needs of the underserved is critical. Every effort must be made to include among our medical student body individuals from minority and underserved backgrounds, who have had a diverse range of life experiences, demonstrable engagement in various student organizations addressing minority issues, and deeply committed to addressing the healthcare disparities.

The Travelers Summer Research Fellowship Program is designed to give 25 premedical students deeper

insights into the field of medicine, with a focus on conditions that greatly affect the health of traditionally underserved groups. Through engaging in laboratory or clinical research under the supervision of a faculty member, the student learns how one investigates a specific research question, thus providing an early education into the investigative techniques that could later be applied in various areas of medicine. A lecture series explores topics in cardiovascular physiology, exposing the students to basic science concepts relevant to hypertension and cardiovascular disease, both of which are major problems in minority communities. The summer fellows attend a series of presentations by minority physicians about various medical specialties, addressing issues of concern in the daily work of these physicians, in addition to orientation to the overarching issues of healthcare delivery to minority communities.

Opportunities to shadow physicians provide further exposure to the many facets of clinical medicine. Students in the TSRF also receive information pertaining to the medical school admissions process, financial planning for medical school, and how to critically appraise a financial aid package.

Dr. Joy Howell is a longstanding faculty member at WCM. A committed clinician educator, Dr. Howell served as the Program Director for the Pediatric Critical Care Medicine Fellowship from 2005 until her recent appointment as Assistant Dean of Diversity and Student Life. Over the years, her learners have included students, residents, and fellows in various courses and contexts, and she has received awards for teaching excellence. Additionally, since 2017 she has served as the Vice Chair for Diversity in Pediatrics and is now committed to advancing inclusion and belonging within the student body at WCM.



Attending lectures on health care

Students eligible for the program:

- must be at least in their junior year of college
- must be declared premed students who have completed two semesters of biology, general chemistry, organic chemistry, and one semester of physics. Preference is given to students with a grade point average of B or above
- must have a demonstrated commitment to working on issues with underserved populations within the USA
- must be from one or more of the following groups that are underrepresented in medicine:
 - Individuals from racial and ethnic groups shown to be underrepresented in biomedical research: Blacks or African Americans, Hispanics or Latinos, American Indians or Alaska Natives, Native Hawaiians and other Pacific Islanders
 - Individuals from socioeconomically disadvantaged backgrounds
 - Individuals with disabilities (those with a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities)
- must be a U.S. Citizen or permanent resident

Last summer's fellows came from a wide range of institutions:

Albright College
Amherst College
Arizona State University
Boston University
Cornell University
Florida Institute of Technology
Fordham University
Howard University
Johns Hopkins University
Loyola Marymount University
Pitzer College
Pomona College
Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey at New Brunswick
Saint John's University
State University of New York at Buffalo
University of Georgia
University of Illinois – Urbana/Champaign
University of Maryland at College Park
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
Wesleyan University

Students receive a \$140.00 a week cost-of-living allowance and are housed rent-free in the dormitory for medical students, but are required to pay for their meals and other living expenses. Travel expenses are paid for students that live some distance from New York.