55 years of excellence

Weill Cornell Medicine
Medical College

The Travelers Summer Research Fellowship Program

For Premedical Students

2023

TRAVELERS

"Of all the forms of inequality, injustice in healthcare is the most shocking and inhumane."

It was in March of 1966 that the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King ma de this statement. Over 55 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, disadvantaged 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 meaningful insights into the field of medicine, with a focus on conditions that greatly affect the health of traditionally underserved populations. By engaging in laboratory or clinical research, under the supervision of a faculty member, the TSRF participants learns how to investigate a specific

T-SRF 2022 Participants and Program Assistants

research question. Participants are thereby provided with a research training experience allowing them to acquire investigative techniques that can be later applied as they pursue their medical education. The didactic curriculum has several themes. There is content delivery around common public health issues including healthcare for the under and uninsured; healthcare disparities; research basics; a financial aid presentation and practical advice from medical students on the medical school application process and preparing for the MCAT. In addition to these, participants engage with a wide variety of physicians in career panel discussions including primary care, pediatrics, psychiatry, neurology, ophthalmology, obstetrics and gynecology, surgery, radiology emergency medicine and internal medicine. The highlight of the curriculum is a panel discussion populated by five diversity and admissions deans from NY/NJ medical schools addressing the question "What are medical schools looking for?"

With the resumption of in-person program in 2022, the program also provides participants with the opportunity to shadow a physician thereby provide some exposure and insight into the many facets of clinical medicine.

Dr. Howell is a longstanding faculty member at WCM. As committed clinician educator she served as the Program Director for the Pediatric Critical Care Medicine Fellowship from 2005 through 2020 when she appointed as Assistant Dean of Diversity and Student Life. She is deeply committed to advancing the diversification of the US healthcare workforce.

Weill Cornell Medicine

PROGRAM DATES: JUNE 20, 2023 - AUGUST 4, 2023

How to Apply:

1. Go to our website at https://bit.ly/T-SRF
2. Download the T-SRF 2023 Application Instructions PDF and follow the instructions (http://weill.cornell.edu/education/programs/tra_sum_res.html)

Basic science research

Attending lectures on health care

Questions?

Joy D. Howell, M.D., FAAP, FCCM

Professor of Clinical Pediatrics
Vice Chair for Diversity in Pediatrics
Assistant Dean of Diversity and Student Life
Director, Travelers Summer Research Fellowship Program

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

Students eligible for the program:

- must be at least in their junior year of college (third year in college rather than by credits earned)
- 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 addressing needs of 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 disability (those with a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities)
- must be a U.S. Citizen or hold a Permanent Resident Visa status

Students receive a $3,000 cost-of-living allowance and are housed, at no cost, in a medical student dormitory, Olin Hall. Participants are responsible for their meals and other living expenses. Travel expenses are subsidized for students living beyond the NY/NJ/CT tristate area.

APPLICATION DEADLINE: FEBRUARY 1, 2023

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

Amherst College
Arizona State University
Bakersfield College
College of New Jersey
Cornell University
George Mason University
Harvard University
Hunter College, City University of New York
Mount Holyoke College
New York University
Orange Coast College
Pitzer College
Quinnipiac University
Saint Francis College
Sonoma State University
Southern Illinois University at Carbondale
University of California at Berkeley
University of Illinois at Urbana/Champaign
University of New Mexico at Albuquerque
University of North Carolina at Pembroke
University of Puerto Rico at Mayaguez
University of Puerto Rico at Rio Piedras
University of Washington
University of Wisconsin at Madison
Valencia College
Vanderbilt University

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