

57 years of
excellence



Weill Cornell
Medicine
Medical College

The Travelers Summer Research Fellowship Program

For Premedical
Students

2025

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 made this statement. More than 57 years later, disparities in healthcare and health outcomes continue to plague communities of color. Disparate impacts of the COVID 19 pandemic highlight the fact that insufficient progress has been made addressing longstanding healthcare inequities. 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 Treatment”](#), exploring the contributors to these healthcare disparities, and offering mitigation strategies. Among the recommendations was diversification of the US healthcare workforce. In fact, considering 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. The National Institutes of Health (NIH) defines these populations to include A) individuals from underrepresented racial and ethnic groups, B) individuals with disabilities, and C) individuals from disadvantaged backgrounds. 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 with a serious commitment to addressing the healthcare needs of the underserved is critical to remedying longstanding healthcare disparities. We strive to be inclusive and make every effort to include among our medical student

body individuals from underrepresented populations, students with a diverse range of lived experiences, and a demonstrable engagement in organizations and/or activities addressing the needs of underserved communities within the US population.



The Travelers Summer Research Fellowship Program is designed to provide 25-27 premedical students with experiential research training, meaningful insights into the field of medicine, and enhanced knowledge of the conditions and policies impacting the health of traditionally underserved populations. We welcome applications from talented individuals of all backgrounds, including applications from students who are members of underrepresented minority groups, have disabilities, or are from disadvantaged backgrounds. Applicants should be in their junior (third) year of college, should have completed two semesters of biology, general chemistry, organic chemistry and one semester of physics, and should be declared premedical students. Additionally, applicants should hold legal status in the US (such as citizens, permanent residency status).

With the resumption of in-person program in 2022, the program also provides each participant with an opportunity to shadow a physician. As research training is the primary mission of the program, shadowing opportunities are limited.

Dr. Howell is a longstanding faculty member at WCM and a committed clinician educator. She served as the Program Director for the Pediatric Critical Care Medicine Fellowship from 2005 through 2020 when she was appointed as Assistant Dean of Diversity and Student Life. Developing future generations of physicians has been an enduring theme of her career and she is passionate about advancing the diversification of the US healthcare workforce.

**PROGRAM DATES:
JUNE 16, 2025 – AUG 1, 2025**

How to Apply:

1. Go to our website at <https://bit.ly/T-SRF>
2. Download the T-SRF 2025 Application Instructions PDF and follow them (http://weill.cornell.edu/education/programs/tra_sum_res.html)



Program Contents:

- **Experiential basic science or clinical research training, under the supervision of a WCM faculty member, allowing participants to acquire investigative techniques that can be later applied as they pursue their medical education.**
- **Didactic curriculum focused on common public health issues including healthcare for the under and uninsured; healthcare disparities; research basics; and practical information surrounding the medical school application process including financing medical education, and preparation for the MCAT.**
- **Professional Development opportunities including career panel discussions crossing a variety of medical specialties (primary care, pediatrics, psychiatry, neurology, ophthalmology, obstetrics and gynecology, surgery, radiology emergency medicine and internal medicine).**
- **Opportunity to learn from several diversity and admissions deans from NY/NJ medical schools participating in a panel discussion that addresses the question "What are medical schools looking for?"**

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.



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

Weill Cornell Medicine
445 East 69th Street, Room 110
New York, NY 10021
646-962-4938
tsrf@med.cornell.edu

**APPLICATION DEADLINE:
FEBRUARY 1, 2025**

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

Antillean University	Seton Hall University
Cornell University	Spelman College
Brooklyn College, City University of New York	The University of Texas at Austin
Delaware State University	The University of Texas at San Antonio
Duke University	Towson University
Fordham University	University of Nevada at Las Vegas
Howard University	University of Puerto Rico at Arecibo
Iowa State University	University of Puerto Rico at Rio Piedras
Johns Hopkins University	Washington University in Saint Louis
New York University	Xavier University of Louisiana
Reed College	Yeshiva University
Rhodes College	
Rochester Institute of Technology	



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