Summer Research Opportunities

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Gonzaga University
Why apply for a summer research experience?

**The Academic**
- **Increase** your scientific curiosity
- **Participate** in national/international quality research
- **Expose** you to different scientific and health-career experiences

**The Realist**
- Make some summer **cash**
- Looks good on grad school **applications**
- **Travel** opportunities
- Get a **letter of rec**
What’s Involved?

• 6-10 weeks in duration
  • Late May – Early August
• Variety of research environments
• A paid stipend (pre-determined amount)
  • Travel expenses – sometimes
• Curricular and Extracurricular Events
  • Social events
  • Seminars and other experiences
• Access to many different academics and health care providers
• Life experiences
The Application Timeline

- **October – February**: Programs are accepting applications
- **December – February**: Program application windows are closing
- **March – May**: Selection of candidates and notification
- **May – August**: Research internships take place

*Each program is slightly different. Pay attention to individual deadlines and application requirements and plan ahead.*
# National and Regional Programs

## National Programs
- Government or private agencies
  - National Institutes of Health
  - American Physiological Society
- Need to contact a host researcher from list
  - Show interest or enthusiasm for their research

## Regional Programs
- Most Medical/Graduate Health Centers
  - Oregon Health Science Center
  - Oklahoma Health Science Center
- Many programs across the country
- Need to contact a host researcher from list
# The APS Summer Internship

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The Application Materials

- A **great** personal statement
  - But not fake or disingenuous
- Two **strong** letters of recommendation
  - Needs to be from:
    - Someone who can speak to your academic or work ethics
    - The host researcher/academic you will work with
  - Letters from professors where you received a good grade in their class are **weak**
- A **solid** resume or transcript
- A **coherent** description of your research project
  - Demonstrate you understand the science behind the project
  - Develop this with your host researcher
The Do’s and Don’ts When Applying

**DO!**
- Research info about the program and aims
- Contact a host early and show enthusiasm for their research
- Request letters with appropriate time frame
- Speak to the application requirements
- Emphasize your enthusiasm for science, learning, research, health etc
- Get help with your application
  - Advisor
  - Writing Center
  - Campus Resources

**DON’T!**
- Wait to the last minute to apply
- Request letters last minute
  - Less than 3 weeks is not good
- Tell your host, or review committee, you are NOT interested in a research career
  - Be open to possibilities
- Don’t write a poor personal statement or research proposal
- Get letters from people who cannot speak to your skills or strengths
National Program Examples

- **The American Physiological Society**
  - Two former HPHY students participated
  - I review applications for this program

- **National Science Foundation**
  - Wide variety of STEM opportunities

- **National Institutes of Health**
  - Federal program oversees public research funds

- Many others…..
Regional Program Examples

- **Swedish Summer Biomedical Internship**
  - Previous HPHY students
  - Upperclassmen mostly

- **Oregon Health and Science Center**
  - Wide variety of opportunities
  - Minority student emphasis

- **Gonzaga Biology Department**
  - On and off campus opportunities
  - Links to a variety of programs nation-wide

- Graduate/Medical Centers
  - Feeder programs for applicants to grad/professional school

- **Large pharmaceutical companies**
  - AMGEN

- **Private Research Foundations**
  - Fred Hutchinson Cancer Center - Seattle
Questions?