

# Summer Research Opportunities

...beyond the department

# Overview

- Approaching Summer Research
- NSERC USRAs
- Life Science Awards
- Other awards
- Other departmental programs
- RTC Summer Research Program
- Sick Kids Summer Research Program
- Research Opportunity Program
- General Tips for your Application

# Approaching Summer Research

- Numerous options
  - Can go through departmental programs, which may have specific awards or funds
  - Can find a specific supervisor and apply for various awards
  - Can also volunteer or do coursework
- Good place to start is to look at departmental/hospital research pages to find interesting supervisors, then find out what programs/awards are available

# NSERC USRAs

- Allotted to numerous departments (e.g., Physiology, Chemistry)
- Award is \$4500 from NSERC, plus additional contribution from supervisor (at least \$1125)
- Must fill out Form 202 from [www.nserc-crsng.gc.ca](http://www.nserc-crsng.gc.ca) or departmental application form
- Departments may have additional requirements
- Deadline varies by department
- Program requirements vary by department

# Life Science Awards

- Provide funding for LMP Summer Student Program
- Offered by various departments, sometimes via summer program
- Award is \$2400 from Life Sciences Committee, with at least \$2400 more from the department
- Deadline varies by department, as does application process

# Other Awards

- Too many to list
  - Some well-known ones include: Schultz Science Student Scholarship from the Heart and Stroke Foundation, various corporate or endowed awards available by department
- Check departmental research websites for more

# Other Departmental Programs

- Biochemistry
  - ~\$4800 over 3 months
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> year students, with at least one introductory BCH course
  - Deadline is Jan. 29
  - Application available online
- Immunology
  - Stipend, over 3 months
  - Deadline is Jan. 7
  - Application available online
- Molecular Genetics & Microbiology
  - External funding by LSA and NSERC USRA
  - Directly contact PIs you like
  - Once they've agreed, fill out application and submit CV
  - Deadline is Feb. 13
  - Application available online
- Physiology
  - Directly contact PIs you like
  - List of available awards (e.g., USRA, LSA, Schultz) and necessary forms available online
  - Deadlines indicated online

# Other Departmental Programs

- Nutritional Sciences
  - Directly contact Pis
  - Awards from NSERC and UROP
  - Application links available online
- Medical Biophysics
  - \$1600/mo. for 2<sup>nd</sup> years, \$1700/mo. for 3<sup>rd</sup> years
  - Application available online
  - 2 references required (via online reference request)
  - Faculty select you

# RTC Summer Research Program

- At Lunenfeld Research Institute (Mt. Sinai)
- 15 weeks
- 2<sup>nd</sup> year or higher
- Application available online
- Indicate desired PI on application
- Mandatory seminar series and poster day
- Deadline is March 23

# Sick Kids Summer Research Program

- 12 weeks
- Award is \$4800
- Application available online (mid- to late-Dec.)
- Contact PIs before submitting application
- Mandatory seminar series and poster day
- Deadline not yet posted

# Research Opportunity Program

- Research course earns you 1 FCE
- Runs during the summer and the year
- Profiles for participating PIs available online
- Application form available online
- Specify desired PIs on application
- Poster/write-up required at end of course
- Individual PIs may have different requirements for course work
- Deadline not yet posted – usually in March

# General Tips for Your Application

## **Getting the position**

- Apply early!!!
- If interested in a PI but not sure you qualify for an award, ask anyway
- PIs often less interested in prior lab experience than genuine interest and quick learning
- If you aren't worried about money and aren't getting the awards, consider volunteering or taking the ROP to gain experience
- Many PIs have overlapping affiliations – look at different avenues, or if you have an interested PI, ask for their advice

## **Choosing your lab**

- Consider not only the research but the PI and the lab environment
- Keep in mind - some awards have specific requirements of faculty (e.g., NSERC)

# Useful Websites

- [http://www.biochemistry.utoronto.ca/undergraduates/summer\\_student\\_program/](http://www.biochemistry.utoronto.ca/undergraduates/summer_student_program/)
- <http://biochemistry.utoronto.ca/research/index.html>
- <http://www.immunology.utoronto.ca/undergraduate/research.htm>
- <http://www.immunology.utoronto.ca/research/facrsch.htm>
- <http://www.moleculargenetics.utoronto.ca/mgy/summerresearch.html>
- <http://www.moleculargenetics.utoronto.ca/facultyresearch.htm>
- [http://www.utoronto.ca/nutrisci/research\\_opportunities.html](http://www.utoronto.ca/nutrisci/research_opportunities.html)
- <http://www.utoronto.ca/nutrisci/research.html>
- <http://medbio.utoronto.ca/summer/index.html>
- <http://medbio.utoronto.ca/faculty/faculty.alphabetical.html>
- <http://research.lunenfeld.ca/RTC/?page=Summer%20Students>
- <http://www.lunenfeld.ca/researchers>
- <http://www.sickkids.ca/Research/StudentandFellowResources/The-SickKids-Summer-Research-Program/index.html>
- <http://www.sickkids.ca/Research/AbouttheInstitute/scientific-staff-list/index.html>
- <http://www.artsci.utoronto.ca/current/undergraduate/course/rop>