

2014 Atlanta Sickle Cell Summer Research Training Program

The Atlanta Sickle Cell Summer Research Training Program, sponsored by the Excellence in Hemoglobinopathies Research Award from the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute (NHLBI) of the National Institutes of Health (NIH), and in collaboration with the Vivien Thomas Summer Research Program at Morehouse School of Medicine, is an outstanding science training opportunity for high school students. The program is designed to involve young people in cutting-edge scientific research conducted in an academic medical center and to cultivate a continued interest in research related to sickle cell disease.

Program Details

This eight-week program offers a chance to learn, explore, and gain hands-on experience in a medical center research laboratory environment for up to three students each summer. Each student will be assigned to a faculty mentor and work in his or her laboratory. Faculty mentors are located at Emory University, Morehouse School of Medicine, and Georgia Institute of Technology. Students will be assigned mini-research projects or work with laboratory staff on ongoing research. Those students who complete sufficient research in one or more summers will be encouraged to present at local or national scientific meetings and may contribute to papers published in peer-reviewed scientific journals. Participants may earn a stipend based on the number of hours they spend in the laboratory. Fellowships begin with an orientation in early June 2014 and will last for eight weeks.

Eligibility and Selection Criteria

Rising high school juniors and seniors may apply. While students from outside the greater Atlanta area may apply, we are unable to provide or assist with housing, meals, or transportation for the program. Applicants should have a record of strong academic achievement and demonstrated interest in the sciences.

Selection of students will be based on the following criteria:

- Overall academic achievement, as evidenced by the transcript and GPA, and success in rigorous science coursework (such as AP laboratory science classes or the equivalent)
- Letters of recommendation from teachers and/or counselors
- Interest in, aptitude for, and commitment to the sciences, as evidenced by extracurricular involvement, the application essay, and letters of recommendation

Approximately 10 finalists will be invited for 30-minute interviews with program faculty in April – early May.

Application Process

1. Complete the on-line application for the Morehouse School of Medicine Vivien Thomas Summer Research Program by clicking on the link for Atlanta Sickle Cell Summer Research Training Program at:
(http://www.msm.edu/prospective_students/admissions/PipelinePrograms/VivienThomas.aspx), essay, and journal article review by the on-line application deadline. **We are unable to accept hand-delivered applications.**

2. Request two confidential recommendations from teachers and/or a counselor, including at least one from a science teacher. Recommendations must be submitted directly by the recommender or your high school office by the April 5, 2014 postmark deadline in a sealed envelope signed across the flap by the recommender. We prefer that transcripts and recommendations be mailed together if possible.

Please complete the first part of each recommendation form for your recommenders. They may complete the form or attach a separate letter. Be sure to let them know if they should return the recommendation to the school office or mail it themselves. Please provide them with an envelope (stamped and addressed if they will mail directly; otherwise, please label with your name and the program name).

3. Arrange for an official transcript to be mailed by the April 5, 2014 postmark deadline. We prefer that the recommendations and transcript be mailed together if possible.

4. Approximately 10 applicants will be invited for 30-minute personal interviews in April – early May.

5. Successful applicants will be notified by May 5, 2014.

Send all application materials to the attention of Wanda Harvey via e-mail, VTSRP@msm.edu, or U. S. mail: Morehouse School of Medicine, 720 Westview Dr., Gloster 158, Atlanta, GA 30310

Essay

On a separate sheet, please submit a typed essay (maximum length: 400 words) that explains why you wish to participate in the program and addresses one or more of the following topics:

Experiences that have contributed to or shaped your interest in science

Your goals for your summer in the program

The strengths as a scientist and/or as a person you would bring to the program

Your future educational and/or career plans

Be sure that your name appears at the top of the essay.

Postmark deadline:

To be completed by the applicant

Name of Applicant: _____, _____, _____
Last First MI

Name and Title of Recommender:

To the recommender: please either complete this form or attach a separate letter that addresses the questions below.

1. How long and in what context have you known the applicant? (If applicable, please include courses in which you have taught the applicant, the grade level, and the grade earned.)

2. The number and rigor of science courses taken by the applicant are an important selection criterion for the program. Please briefly explain any limitations on the number and type of science courses students at your school may take and, to the extent that you are able, compare the applicant's science coursework to what is typical for similar students.

3. In what ways might you distinguish this student's academic strengths and performance from that of other students you have taught?

4. What do you like best about this student? In what ways has the student made an impact in your class, the school, and/or the community?

5. Are there any factors that might interfere with the applicant's performance and/or ability to work effectively with others in this program?

6. Please rate the applicant in the following categories:

	No Basis for Judgment	Below Average	Good	Excellent (Top 10%)	Outstanding (Top 5%)
Initiative and motivation					
Intellectual curiosity					
Oral communication					
Written communication					
Creativity					
Energy					
Self-confidence					
Leadership skills					
Responsibility					
Integrity					
Concern for others					
Warmth of personality					
Sense of humor					
Emotional maturity					

7. Is there anything else we should know in evaluating this applicant?

8. Please provide a summary evaluation of the applicant:

	Below Average	Average	Good (Above Average)	Outstanding (Top 5%)	Top Few of My Career
Academic					
Personal					
Overall					

Signature:

Date: _____

Telephone Number: _____

E-mail Address: _____

Postmark deadline:

To be completed by the applicant:

Name of applicant: _____, _____
Last First MI

Name and Title of Recommender:

To the recommender: please either complete this form or attach a separate letter that addresses the questions below.

1. How long and in what context have you known the applicant? (If applicable, please include courses in which you have taught the applicant, the grade level, and the grade earned.)
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3. In what ways might you distinguish this student's academic strengths and performance from those of other students you have taught?
4. What do you like best about this student? In what ways has the student made an impact in your class, the school, and/or the community?

5. Are there any factors that might interfere with the applicant's performance and/or ability to work effectively with others in this program?

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8. Please provide a summary evaluation of the applicant:

	Below Average	Average	Good (Above Average)	Outstanding (Top 5%)	Top Few of My Career
Academic					
Personal					
Overall					

Signature:

Date: _____

Telephone Number: _____

E-mail Address: _____