

Herbert A. Wenner, M.D. Pediatric Infectious Diseases Summer Research Fellowship

An infectious disease summer research fellowship is available at Children's Mercy Kansas City. Students are eligible to apply for the program if they have completed their first year of study in medical school. If accepted, the student will spend 8 weeks in the ID Research laboratory to complete a scholarly project.

Specific goals and objectives

The student selected for the fellowship would be expected to acquire

- 1) knowledge of the range of clinical problems faced by the academic pediatric infectious diseases physician and the implications for research
- 2) laboratory skills utilized to study infectious disease
- 3) an understanding of the application of research as it relates to clinical thought processes used to develop differential diagnoses and treatment options

Scholarly product

The fellowship would involve laboratory based study in the ID research laboratory headed by Dr. Rangaraj Selvarangan. Dr. Jennifer Schuster will provide student mentorship and oversight, set up additional student opportunities in the division, assist with data analysis, and develop the work product with the student.

The student will have specific didactic assignments relative to the research project and would be expected to attend presentations at research conference, and attend the weekly ID clinical case conference. Ultimately the development of an abstract for presentation at a national forum would be the final scholarly product of the student's experience.

Funding

Students will receive a stipend in recognition of the fact that there are competing programs (such as summer research programs) and employment opportunities for these students during the summer. It is estimated that an additional stipend will be provided to cover the use of laboratory expendables that will be utilized in the research project.

About Dr. Wenner

Dr. Wenner received his medical training at Rochester Medical School in New York, completed an internship at Yale Medical School and was a fellow at Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine. He served as professor of pediatrics at Kansas University Medical Center from 1946 to 1969. In 1969, he was appointed Joyce C. Hall distinguished professor of pediatrics at Children's Mercy Hospital where he directed the Clinical Virology Department until 1983. Dr. Wenner is recognized as one of the preeminent virus researchers for his work in the characterization of enteroviruses. He was one of a core team of researchers who actively investigated poliomyelitis outbreaks in the 1940's and 1950's and was an instrumental member of the team that developed polio vaccine. He was the author of over 200 publications and the recipient of the

National Institutes of Health Research Career Award, the United States Presidential Award, the England Royal Society of Health Award, the Wisdom Hall of Fame Award and recognized by Who's Who in America and Notable Americans of the Bicentennial Era.

Process

Students from around the country would have the opportunity to apply for the ID research fellowship. Applications would be accepted in the spring of each year and decided upon by a panel of mentors from the ID section who demonstrate dedication to and experience in clinical pediatric infectious diseases, evidence of teaching excellence, and who exemplify the depth and breadth of the clinical experience at the institution.

Contact

If you have questions about the fellowship or eligibility, please contact Rangaraj Selvarangan, PhD (rselvarangan@cmh.edu) or Mary Anne Jackson, MD (mjackson@cmh.edu) in the Division of Infectious Diseases at Children's Mercy.