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Undergraduate Summer Student Research Award in Diffuse Intrinsic Pontine Glioma

Description

Joshua's Wish is dedicated to supporting biomedical research toward a cure for Diffuse Intrinsic Pontine Glioma (DIPG). In order to encourage undergraduate students to pursue a career in biomedical research on this devastating disease, we are offering **two \$5,000 summer internship awards for 2019**. The award is open to students from institutions across the United States and Canada. The research project may be basic, translational or clinical in nature but must have direct relevance to DIPG.

What is DIPG?

DIPG is a primary brain tumor of the brainstem and represents approximately 5-10% of pediatric brain tumors. DIPGs are aggressive lesions that are not amenable to surgical resection. Prognosis for these tumors has remained dismal with a median survival of one year; less than 20% of patients survive to two years after diagnosis. The current standard of care is focal irradiation. Indeed, radiation therapy has been the only treatment thus far that has led to clinical improvement and a delay in tumor progression in patients. While many advances in our understanding of the biology of this disease have occurred in the last several years, this has yet to lead to novel therapeutic options or improved outcomes for children with DIPG. Clearly more research is necessary.

Eligibility

Students will be enrolled full-time in an undergraduate program at an accredited postsecondary institution in the US or Canada and will not graduate before July 1, 2019. The research will take place in the US or Canada under the supervision of a faculty mentor but need not be in the institution where the candidate is enrolled. The student will be engaged in research full-time for a period of not less than 10 weeks to take place in 2019 between the end of the spring term and the start of the fall term at the candidate's home institution.

Application Deadline

The deadline for receipt of all application material is **May 17, 2019 at midnight EST**.

Submission

Application should be single-spaced in 12-point type with a minimum one inch margin and consists of the following components:

- 1) A **cover page** to be completed by the candidate and signed by the research mentor.
- 2) A personal statement to be completed by the candidate which should indicate the student's motivations and qualifications for biomedical research and state how this award will help the student achieve his/her future goals (**one page**).

- 3) The project summary which should include the following information: brief background, hypothesis, aim of study, methods, and relevance to DIPG (**one page**). If the proposal involves work with animal and/or human subjects, a statement indicating the appropriate Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) and/or Institutional Review Board (IRB) approval should be included. References can be on a separate page.
 - 4) A lay summary on a separate page (**maximum 250 words**).
 - 5) A copy of the student's academic transcript (scanned PDF is acceptable).
 - 6) An NIH-style biosketch of the research mentor (**four page maximum**).
- Assemble all components of the application as a single PDF file and e-mail to chowl@childrensdayton.org.

Evaluation Criteria

All applications will be evaluated by the Medical Advisory Board (see <http://www.joshuaswish.org>) according to the following criteria:

Candidate: While previous research experience on the part of the candidate is not required, the potential for a future career in research is essential.

Proposal: Proposals will be evaluated according to scientific merit, relevance to DIPG and potential for completion in the time allotted.

Mentor: Mentors of all levels are accepted however in the case of otherwise comparable applications, junior faculty (Assistant Professor) will be favored.

The Committee provides a recommendation to the Board of Directors, with whom the final decision rests.

Conditions of Award

All grant applications will be treated as confidential information and decisions by the Board are final. Applicants and mentors will be notified of the decision by e-mail. The names of the awardees/mentors and the lay summary provided in the application may be used for promotional purposes by Joshua's Wish. Any presentation or publication resulting from the research should acknowledge support from Joshua's Wish. A summary of the student's experiences during the summer internship (**maximum 250 words**) will be submitted to Bethany Bresnen within 30 days of completing the research period. This report may detail scientific findings of the research or inspirations/ideas for the student's future career gained from the internship. This report will not be used for promotional purposes by Joshua's Wish without the express written consent of the student and research mentor.

Information

For further information, contact Lionel Chow at chowl@childrensdayton.org.