Mentor Research Application for Summer 2020 (June 1 - August 7)

Welcome to the UTHealth - Cancer Prevention & Research Institute of Texas (CPRIT) Fellowship in Innovation for Cancer Prevention Research - UTHealth’s training program for undergraduates, pre- and post-doctoral fellowships in cancer prevention.

This program goes beyond being a quality cancer education and career development program to focus on helping those seeking a career in cancer prevention and control research to learn to ask the important research questions, apply cutting-edge methods, and move the field of cancer forward.

We appreciate your willingness to take on the mentorship of one of our undergraduate trainees. This application will help orient you with the goals and expectations of our summer mentors and trainees.

All applications must be submitted by 11:59 PM on Friday, January 3, 2020.

Faculty Mentor Information

Q1. First name

Jennifer

Q2. Last name

Walker

Q11. Phone number

713-500-5428

Q12. E-mail address

jennifer-n-walker@uth.tmc.edu

Q4. School/Campus Affiliation

- UTHealth School of Public Health- Houston
- UTHealth School of Biomedical Informatics
- UTHealth School of Dentistry
Q13. **Research Projects**

Each fellow is expected to spend an average of 40 hours/week on his/her research project, organized seminars and innovation generation course.

*Applicants will click on the titles of projects they are interested in to see the description. Give your project an inviting name! Acceptable projects do not need to be externally funded.*

Q15. **Project title**

- Defining the host-bacterial factors that influence breast implant infections following post-mastectomy reconstruction due to cancer

Q14. Lay summary of the project (100 words maximum). Examples of project descriptions can be found [here](#).

If pasting or deleting text into this field, please make sure to press the space bar after the last word in order to see your accurate word count.

This opportunity is primarily research focused. Trainees interested in gaining experience in microbiology would benefit from this position. **The goal of this program is to understand how bacteria infect breast implants during reconstruction following mastectomy to inform the development of prevention or treatment strategies.** This research uses basic science, model systems, and patient samples to identify factors that can be used as biomarkers or targeted for the development of novel therapies. **Student will learn to design and implement experiments that assess: 1) bacterial attachment to implants, 2) the host-bacterial interactions facilitating biofilm formation, 3) how bacteria resist the immune system.**
Q16. Project will require contact with:

- [ ] Public
- [ ] Patients
- [ ] Biological samples
- [ ] Animals
- [x] None of these

Q17. Does the project require IRB approval?

- [ ] Yes
- [x] No

Q18. If yes, please provide the IRB number below.

*This question was not displayed to the respondent.*

Q19. Does the project have a Laboratory Safety Protocol?

- [ ] Yes
- [ ] No

Q20. If yes, please provide the Protocol Number below.

*This question was not displayed to the respondent.*

Q21. Will the summer fellow be added to the protocol?

- [ ] Yes
- [ ] No

Q22. **End Products of Summer Fellowship**

Q23. **End products for all Fellows:**
1. Complete a project explicitly using the tools of innovative thinking.
2. Prepare and present a research poster on their project, including how you applied tools for innovative thinking.
3. Participate in the 90-second elevator speech competition.

Q25. **Project-specific end products (determined by Mentor):**
Examples:
1. GIS map to track whether and other environmental conditions for day laborer “corners” throughout Houston
2. Design for a social network platform for follow-up with research participants, manuscript on xxx to be submitted for publication
3. Abstract on yyy to be submitted to a scientific meeting
1. Determine how planktonic and community-associated bacteria, such as biofilms, provide tolerance to prophylactic antibiotics administered during breast implant based reconstruction. 2. Provide in vitro data for the manuscript entitled "Bacterial community formation provides recalcitrance to commonly used prophylactic antibiotics."

Q27.
Fellows' Activities

Q28. Activities for all fellows:
1. Complete the Massive Open Online Course (MOOC) on Innovation Generation
2. Participate in weekly MOOC reviews and occasional cancer-related seminars in Houston and/or remotely via ITV
3. Apply the tools of innovative thinking in project discussions
4. Participate in two elevator speech workshops
5. Provide mid-course and final evaluation feedback
6. Meet with the preceptor or representative to discuss the training experience, progress, and challenges
7. Prepare and present a poster on the summer research
8. Present a 90-second elevator speech

Q29. Project-specific Trainee Activities (determined by Mentor):
Example: Fellow will commit to the design and analysis of a mini project YYY as part of a larger project

Fellow will learn to design and implement experiments that test the antibiotic susceptibilities of various bacterial strains and the communities they form, including biofilms, aggregates, and agglutinates, as part of a larger project that assesses how bacteria resist prophylactic antibiotic treatment to cause breast implant infections in cancer patients.

Q31. Learning Objectives:
By the end of the summer experience, the following objectives should be achieved.

Q32. Objectives for all fellows:
1. Describe and apply the tools of innovative thinking to increase creativity
2. Develop communication and presentation skills

Q33. Project-specific Learning Objectives (determined by Mentor):
Examples:
1. Fellow will be able to write instructions for low literacy audiences
2. Fellow will design a mini project with supervision

Learn how to design and perform hypothesis-driven research Develop skills to share the results from those experiments to various audiences via written and oral communication
Q34. Are there any special fellow characteristics that would be desirable?
Examples: major, interests, language, or culture

Microbiology majors or applicants who are interested in infectious diseases, infectious causes of cancer, or reducing infection rates in cancer patients would be good fit for this position.

Q35. **Mentor Responsibilities**
1. Attend the closing ceremony (elevator speech competition and poster presentation) on August 7, 2020.
2. Provide feedback on the program experience to the program coordinator.
3. Meet with the fellow weekly to discuss training experience, progress, and challenges.
4. Encourage the use of the tools for innovative thinking.
5. Notify Dr. Mullen if the intern is not meeting the agreed upon responsibilities as early as possible to allow problem-solving.
6. Complete an evaluation of the fellow at mid-course and end of the program.

Q36. If you plan to delegate some of the supervision to another lab member, please list their name and contact information so that we can copy them on all correspondence.

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<th>Full name</th>
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Q37. Will you be out of lab for more than 2 weeks during the training period (June 1, 2020 - August 7, 2020)?

- [ ] Yes
- [ ] No