2015 Summer Research Assistantship in Biomedical/Basic Science (SRA)

We are seeking faculty who are interested in sponsoring a Brown PLME undergraduate student for a 2015 Summer Research Assistantship in Biomedical/Basic Science (SRA). If you are a campus-based or hospital-based Brown University faculty member, please consider taking part in this program. Students whose applications for an assistantship are successful will carry out their biomedical/basic science research project during a 10-week period from June through August 2015.

Student Mentorship is an essential part of the SRA

The SRA provides an excellent opportunity for faculty–student mentorship.

- The SRA Committee expects that the student and faculty member will 
  meet a minimum of once per week
  so that there are structured opportunities to discuss the ongoing work.
- Applications must show evidence of collaboration between student and faculty. Contact between the student and faculty must be structured into the project. Students should not be expected to work independently for long stretches without adequate mentoring.
- Establishing a positive mentoring relationship is very much like establishing other valued human relationships in a number of respects. Both parties usually have a genuine desire to understand the values and expectations of the other person, and to respect and become sensitive to one another's feelings and needs.
- At the same time, mentoring relationships differ in an important way from other personal relationships because they are professional in nature. Mentors are responsible for conveying and upholding the standards, norms, and values of the profession. They are responsible for offering support and challenge to the recipient of their mentoring while the recipient strives to fulfill the profession's expectations.
- Healthy mentoring relationships are evolutionary rather than static in nature. They change because the purpose of the relationship is to enable the recipient to acquire new knowledge, skill, and standards of professional competence. The perceptions of both members of the relationship evolve as the recipient's performance evolves to new levels of competence under the mentor’s guidance and support.

The goal of this preliminary communication is to identify SRA biomedical/basic science research opportunities. If you are interested in sponsoring a student please submit your proposed project. Your proposal should be conceived and designed so as to allow the student to exercise their creativity, initiative and independence to the fullest extent possible within the context of a summer project. Faculty will be expected to provide the committee with details of a plan for meetings with the student (how often to meet, when, and where.)
If you are interested in serving as an SRA biomedical/basic science sponsor and mentor, please submit the following:

1. A title for the proposed student project
2. The student’s desired previous experience and academic qualifications
3. Your academic department, address, phone number, and email address
4. Specify your plans for mentoring the student

Please forward your response to Hilary_Sweigart@Brown.edu by 5 PM October 17, 2014.
Additional information on the SRA Program is available at http://brown.edu/academics/medical/plme/current-students/enrichment-activities/research-opportunities/summer-research-assistantship-biomedic.

A list of available research projects will be communicated to students in late October. Students will be encouraged to first contact the faculty member about their interest in a possible biomedical/basic science project prior to submitting a proposal by 5 PM, February 2, 2015. Assistantships will be available on a competitive basis.

Thank you for considering the opportunity to supervise and mentor a PLME undergraduate student interested in a summer biomedical/basic science research experience. We look forward to hearing from you and welcome your questions about the program.

NOTE: PLME students wishing to conduct social or behavioral science projects should also apply to the UTRA program coordinated by the Dean of the College Office.

Anne Cushing-Brescia, MD
Director, Summer Research Assistantship Program