

Eugene and Ruth Roberts Summer Student Academy

This competitive 10-week intensive program **launches students' careers as researchers** in professional science laboratories.

California State University, Los Angeles, and City of Hope Cancer Collaborative

A unique alliance, the program seeks to **increase participation of minority students and faculty in cancer research** and reveal how the disease touches minority populations differently.

\$4,000 SUMMER STIPEND
10 WEEKS OF RESEARCH
48 ACADEMY GRADUATES IN 2010



EUGENE AND RUTH ROBERTS SUMMER ACADEMY STUDENTS HAVE HAD THEIR NAMES INCLUDED ON RESEARCH PUBLICATIONS • SOME HAVE PATENTED AND SOLD INVENTIONS DEVELOPED WITH THEIR MENTORS

COLLEGE OFFERINGS

Training college students in real research

Textbooks and lectures in vast college classrooms can teach students about biology, but direct experience in the lab makes science come alive. Students find these opportunities at City of Hope.

Every year, City of Hope's Eugene and Ruth Roberts Summer Student Academy selects a group of promising undergraduates and advanced high school students for an immersive, summer-long experience working in a professional laboratory and doing biomedical research.

The academy often serves as a first rung on the ladder toward a successful scientific or medical career. Today, many prominent scientists in academia and industry and physicians at top hospitals or medical schools are alumni, including City of Hope Chief Medical Officer Alexandra Levine, M.D., M.A.C.P.

As the program has grown, so has student interest. Every year, City of Hope reviews more than 1,000 applications for about 50 openings, each with a \$4,000 stipend. Candidates with a strong sense of curiosity are preferred, because researchers must be ready to pursue problems with elusive answers. Academy students are always in demand at City of Hope, and faculty take part in the selection process to identify a good fit between projects and student interests.



Because diversity is an important part of the summer program, students of all ages and levels participate together in all aspects of the program. In addition to carrying out research full time, students attend weekly meetings with distinguished speakers, as well as other professional and social activities. Their research may be a part of a larger investigation, or completely novel projects: When Shiuan Chen, Ph.D., director of the Division of Tumor Cell Biology, wanted to study anticancer properties of natural products, a summer student was tasked with sourcing materials. The student's contributions helped Chen launch a new line of inquiry for his laboratory, attracting additional research funding.

City of Hope also reaches out to students who are underrepresented in the sciences. A collaborative program with California State University, Los Angeles, funded by the National Cancer Institute, trains minority students in laboratory research for 10 weeks. In addition to working alongside experienced investigators, participants take part in general science and research preparedness activities, cancer-related courses, seminars, journal clubs and symposia. Interested trainees receive special consideration for admission to the graduate school.

"At the academy, I learned firsthand how to conduct research. I found out what my strengths are, and what I want to do for the rest of my life. The program gave me an insight into the many fields of science I could go into, so when I get to college I'll be on the right path."

Renee Estephan, graduate of the Eugene and Ruth Roberts Summer Student Academy