Aurora Research Institute Summer Student Internship Program

Students gain valuable insights to different research components and, in turn, offer support on a variety of initiatives through the Aurora Research Institute Summer Student Internship Program.

Led by David Krum and Mary Groce, the program offers promising future researchers opportunities that will give them an edge as they pursue careers in medicine and other health care professions.

During the 10-week program, students contribute to laboratory, translational, clinical and administrative research initiatives at Aurora Sinai and Aurora St. Luke’s Medical Centers. The program includes a weekly grand rounds seminar and several shadow opportunities. At the end of the experience, interns present their capstone projects.

The program is financially supported by Aurora Research Institute with help from generous donors to Aurora Health Care Foundation.

Aurora Metro Medical Staff Summer Research Fellowship Program

Aurora Research Institute researchers mentor students through the Aurora Metro Medical Staff Summer Research Fellowship Program, which has been supported by generous donors to Aurora Health Care Foundation since the early 1990s.

The 10-week opportunity, led by Hammad Haider-Shah, MD, and Hershel Raff, PhD, provides hands-on, biomedical research experience at Aurora Sinai and Aurora St. Luke’s Medical Centers to students from around the country.

On the cover: Interns learn about neuroscience research in the Neuroanatomy Laboratory.
Aurora Research Institute team members support interns with research interests at Aurora BayCare Medical Center in Green Bay, Wisconsin. The Aurora BayCare Medical Center Research Internship Program is led by Annette Paul.

4 interns who participated in this intensive summer internship experience in 2019
KRISTA BRACKMAN
Intern Program: Aurora Research Institute Summer Student Internship Program
Year/University: senior/University of Minnesota-Twin Cities, Minneapolis
Mentor: Sammy Khalili, MD, Kristen Murdoch, DNP
Project: Microorganism Trends of the Nasal Cavity in Southeastern Wisconsin

GRETA BOSCO
Intern Program: Aurora BayCare Medical Center Research Internship Program
Year/University: junior/Creighton University, Omaha, Nebraska
Mentor: Alex Albers
Project: Supporting Various Research Studies

JULIA BOSCO (Year-round intern)
Intern Program: Aurora BayCare Medical Center Research Internship Program
Year/University: post-graduate/Hillsdale College, Hillsdale, Michigan
Mentor: Taylor Romdenne
Project: Supporting Various Research Studies

Center for Urban Population Health interns and mentors collaborate.
JOHN BYRNE
Intern Program: Aurora Research Institute Summer Student Internship Program
Year/University: senior/Northwestern University, Evanston, Illinois
Mentor: Sammy Khalili, MD, Kristen Murdoch, DNP
Project: Sino-Nasal Outcomes and the Expanded Endonasal Approach: A Retrospective Review

HELOISE CHERUVALATH
Intern Program: Aurora Research Institute Summer Student Internship Program
Year/University: senior/Smith College, Northampton, Massachusetts
Mentor: Richard Rovin, MD
Project: The Relationship Between Greenspace and Stroke

JOSH COOLEY
Intern Program: Aurora Metro Medical Staff Summer Research Fellowship Program
Year/University: senior/University of Rochester, New York
Mentor: Farhan Rizvi, PhD, Larisa Emelyanova, PhD
Project: Mitochondrial Dysfunction Associated with Fibrosis in Atrial Fibrillation

KIERSTI DAVIS (Year-round intern)
Intern Program: Aurora Research Institute Summer Student Internship Program
Year/University: senior/Milwaukee School of Engineering
Mentor: Katie Richter, Maggie Wallendal
Project: Confidentiality Disclosure Agreement Negotiations/Medicare Coverage Analysis Conversions for OnCore/Vault Project

EMILY DEN BRAVEN
Intern Program: Aurora Research Institute Summer Student Internship Program
Year/University: junior/Xavier University, Cincinnati
Mentor: Kristin Ciezki, PhD
Project: The Effectiveness of Cologuard Stool DNA Test as a Colorectal Cancer Screening Strategy in Real Clinical Practice

COLIN DOUGHERTY
Intern Program: Aurora Research Institute Summer Student Internship Program
Year/University: sophomore/Marquette University, Milwaukee
Mentor: Kathleen Princer
Project: Heart Simulation
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<td>Aurora Research Institute Summer Student Internship Program</td>
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<td>sophomore/Marquette University, Milwaukee</td>
<td>Kourosh Ravvaz, MD, PhD</td>
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<td>post-graduate/St. Norbert College, Green Bay, Wisconsin</td>
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OCTAV PACURAR  (Year-round intern)
Intern Program: Aurora BayCare Medical Center Research Internship Program
Year/University: post-graduate/Beloit College, Wisconsin
Mentor: Laura Thoreson
Project: Supporting Various Research Studies

MITCHELL PIACSEK
Intern Program: Aurora Research Institute Summer Student Internship Program
Year/University: post-graduate/Marquette University, Milwaukee
Mentor: Jun Yin, PhD
Project: TGM2 Regulates Stress Fiber Formation and Focal Adhesion in Triple-Negative Breast Cancer Cells

DAN RAYMOND
Intern Program: Aurora Research Institute Summer Student Internship Program
Year/University: post-graduate/Northern Michigan University, Marquette
Mentor: Parvez Akhtar, PhD
Project: Evaluating sAXL as a Biomarker for Glioblastoma

SHIVA SALEHI
Intern Program: Aurora Research Institute Summer Student Internship Program
Year/University: post-graduate/University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee
Mentor: Kourosh Ravvaz, MD, PhD
Project: A comparative analysis of the safety and efficacy profiles for direct oral anticoagulants (DOACs) across a large Advocate Aurora Health patient population
ALYSIA SANTAMARIA  
**Intern Program:** Aurora Research Institute Summer Student Internship Program  
**Year/University:** senior/Marquette University, Milwaukee  
**Mentor:** Natalie Polinske, Brittany Last  
**Project:** Archived Block and Slide Repository

MATTHEW SCHULGIT  
**Intern Program:** Aurora Metro Medical Staff Summer Research Fellowship Program  
**Year/University:** junior/University of Wisconsin-Whitewater  
**Mentor:** Hershel Raff, PhD, Ashley Gehrand  
**Project:** Application of a Novel Glucocorticoid Receptor Antagonist to the Study of Neonatal Stress

UFAIRA SHAIK  
**Intern Program:** Aurora Research Institute Summer Student Internship Program  
**Year/University:** senior/University of Wisconsin-Madison  
**Mentor:** Tonga Nfor, MD, Muhammad Jan, MD, Suhail Allaqaband, MD  
**Project:** A Review of the Recommended Therapeutic Dose for Bridging Patients Undergoing Surgery with Cangrelor

HANA SIDDQUI  
**Intern Program:** Aurora Metro Medical Staff Summer Research Fellowship Program  
**Year/University:** sophomore/University of Wisconsin-Madison  
**Mentor:** Hershel Raff, PhD, Ashley Gehrand  
**Project:** Application of a Novel Glucocorticoid Receptor Antagonist to the Study of Neonatal Stress

*Interns from the Aurora BayCare Medical Center Research Internship Program discuss study results with a mentor.*
Mentors oversee lab work being done by the interns in Discovery Laboratory.

JACOB SKATTEBO
Intern Program: Aurora Research Institute Summer Student Internship Program
Year/University: sophomore/Milwaukee School of Engineering
Mentor: Kathleen Princer
Project: Development of a Mock Loop to Test Ventricular Assist Devices

KRISTEN SPORTIELLO
Intern Program: Aurora Metro Medical Staff Summer Research Fellowship Program
Year/University: senior/University of Evansville, Indiana
Mentor: Jun Yin, PhD
Project: The Role of AFAP1-Dependent TGM2 Regulation in Driving Triple-Negative Breast Cancer Metastasis

CAROLINE TOBERNA
Intern Program: Aurora Research Institute Summer Student Internship Program
Year/University: senior/University of Wisconsin-Madison
Mentor: Dennis Baumgardner, MD, Jessica Kram
Project: Attempted Isolation of Cryptococcus Species from Human Oral Cavities

HANNAH ULATOWSKI
Intern Program: Aurora Metro Medical Staff Summer Research Fellowship Program
Year/University: junior/Tulane University, New Orleans
Mentor: Santhi Konduri, PhD, Bindu Nair, PhD
Project: Disulfram in Combination with Trichostatin A Inhibits Breast Cancer Cell Growth by Inhibiting ERα Expression
We express great appreciation to all the mentors for providing various research experiences through the different internship programs.

Special thanks to the grand rounds speakers and all those who provided shadowing opportunities.

Coordination of the internship programs would not have been possible without the assistance of David Krum, manager of translational research, and Mary Groce, senior administrative assistant.

We also extend our gratitude to the generous donors to Aurora Health Care Foundation, which makes the Aurora Metro Medical Staff Summer Research Fellowship Program possible and partially supports cardiovascular initiatives through the Aurora Research Institute Summer Student Internship Program.

In addition, thanks to Aurora BayCare Medical Center leadership for generously providing research experiences to interns interested in pursuing medicine and other health care professions.

Lastly, to the students, we appreciate all the assistance you provided and wish you well in your future endeavors.

Randall Lambrecht, PhD
President, Aurora Research Institute
System Vice President, Advocate Aurora Health
About Aurora Research Institute

Aurora Health Care has emerged as a national destination for patient-centered bench, translational and clinical research. Aurora Research Institute unifies the innovative research efforts throughout the health system. Aurora researchers focus on rapidly translating new discoveries from the scientist’s bench and the patient’s bedside to improve options and outcomes that not only change the lives of individuals but also transform the health of populations.

INTERN OPPORTUNITIES

Aurora Research Institute coordinates three internship programs:

• Aurora Research Institute Summer Student Internship Program
• Aurora Metro Medical Staff Summer Research Fellowship Program
• Aurora BayCare Medical Center Research Internship Program

Clinical, laboratory-based and professional opportunities are available. Look for the job posting in December or sign up for job notifications at aurora.org/careers.