



Pittsburgh Tissue Engineering Initiative 2010 Summer Internship Program

(10-week program, June 1, 2010 through August 6, 2010)

Deadline for Application: February 5, 2010

Sponsoring Institution: Pittsburgh Tissue Engineering Initiative
(web address is: www.ptei.org)

Synopsis: With the goal to expose young people to the high level of biomedical research being conducted throughout the PTEI affiliate network, PTEI developed and sponsors an annual undergraduate summer internship Program (SIP) to showcase the many exciting new opportunities within the field of tissue engineering and regenerative medicine throughout the Pittsburgh region and beyond. Since the program began in 1997, 221 students have taken part in the 10-week summer research program that typically runs from early June to mid-August. During the 2009 Summer Internship Program, a total of 25 PTEI summer interns participated in Pittsburgh-based summer research wherein they were exposed to many areas of primarily musculoskeletal tissue engineering research with leading and world renowned scientists and engineers.

The SIP -- one of PTEI's oldest and most successful educational programs -- provides the invaluable opportunity for undergraduate college and university students pursuing careers in medicine, research, bioengineering, chemistry, biology, engineering, materials science, computer science, the natural sciences or related fields to relate their growing skills and educational experiences to one of today's most exciting and promising areas of biomedical research, the field of tissue engineering and regenerative medicine.

Supervised by research mentors at PTEI's affiliated universities and academic health centers, PTEI summer interns perform their own research and data analysis, and present their findings at a formal scientific poster session at the conclusion of the program. PTEI also organizes social and professional development activities throughout the summer. Through the program, the students gain valuable research experience, and make invaluable contacts for future employment in the region and beyond. As the SIP students graduate from college, PTEI continues to track their career and educational progress, focusing on whether the SIP experience increased students' interest in biotechnology, in general, and tissue engineering, specifically. As well, attention is given to the impact on the region's rate of retention of this intellectual capital. The Pittsburgh Tissue Engineering Initiative (PTEI) is also engaged in other activities aimed at promoting the development of the regional biotechnology industry through seed grant funding of tissue engineering research and through a broad range of educational programs that heighten the region's awareness of the scientific, clinical, and economic significance of tissue engineering. The Initiative focuses on biomedical and related technologies associated with engineered tissues, including cell culturing, gene therapy, organ transplantation and regeneration, biomaterials, tissue manufacturing processes and computer-assisted analysis and design. Internships are awarded with researchers in the PTEI network, including researchers at Allegheny General Hospital, Carnegie Mellon University, Duquesne University, University of Pittsburgh, the UPMC Health System, and the Windber Research Institute.

*PTEI is committed to extending High School and Undergraduate research experiences, and Postdoctoral Fellowship positions to students who are members of groups currently underrepresented in science, technology and engineering fields to include: African American, Asian, Latino/Hispanic, Native American, Pacific Islander descent, and disabled individuals.

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