
Internship at a Cutting Edge CIRM-funded Stem Cell Research Facility

Grant Award Details

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Grant Type: Creativity Awards

Grant Number: TC1-06070

Project Objective: As with other funded Programs under this RFA, UCD would need to fill in 10 requested slots for high school interns carrying full time summer research at a host lab on a stem cell science topic, while pursuing a 2nd discipline.

Investigator:

Name:	Gerhard Bauer
Institution:	University of California, Davis
Type:	PI

Award Value: \$250,064

Status: Closed

Grant Application Details

Application Title: Internship at a Cutting Edge CIRM-funded Stem Cell Research Facility

Public Abstract: The CIRM Creativity Program is a novel internship program for high school students in cutting edge stem cell research facilities. It is a motivating, stimulating and successful program encouraging young people from California to enter the field of stem cell biology and research. We conducted a previous successful summer internship program where motivated and talented students from [REDACTED] CA high schools were selected from the winners of our University's well-established high school student award program in the field of biotechnology and regenerative medicine. This program was highly rewarding for both students and mentors. We now propose to expand this program to include more students. They will participate in a lab project guided by a mentor, and can choose to intern in one of 29 laboratories involved in developing cutting edge stem cell therapies for injury and diseases that currently have few other options for treatment. Students will participate in a formal theoretical and practical class in stem cell biology and stem cell manufacturing practices, earn a certificate of training in how stem cell treatments are produced, and will prepare and present, in front of their peers and CIRM officers, a poster about their project. They will also participate in an additional project to stimulate creative thinking. These high school students will soon become a vital part of our future research community and will contribute highly to life saving, cutting edge stem cell research.

Statement of Benefit to California: The CIRM Creativity Program, a novel internship program for high school students in stem cell research facilities is a motivating, stimulating and successful program encouraging young people from the State of California to enter the field of stem cell biology and research. A pilot program conducted with 4 high school students last year at our institution showed that the summer spent at a cutting edge stem cell research facility was not only a highly educational experience for the students, but also helped them shape their intentions for a future career in science and possibly stem cell research in the State of California. Our previous experience and the expanded program planned for the coming year highlights the following areas of benefit to the State of California: Highly motivated and also talented students are selected from the pool of applicants who may become California's future leaders in biotechnology and stem cell biology. Interested and motivated high school students are of highly diverse backgrounds and may be of underserved status; they are shown a career path that may not have been available to them otherwise. A pool of excellent researchers and highly skilled biotechnology laboratory personnel will be needed in the near and extended future to manufacture stem cell treatments in California which are currently developed and moved into the clinic by CIRM funded stem cell research laboratories. These young people are the future of California's health and economy.

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