UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH PROGRAM
FACULTY OF DENTISTRY, UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

PROGRAM COORDINATOR: DR. BORIS HINZ
PROGRAM ASSISTANT: MS. LEAH RAZ,
LEAH.RAZ@DENTISTRY.UTORONTO.CA
https://www.dentistry.utoronto.ca/research/internal-resources

Call for projects for the Summer Research Program (SRP) 2021 – Information for Supervisors

The Faculty of Dentistry provides opportunities for summer students to gain experience in laboratory and clinical research. The quality of work produced by students in the past has been of very high calibre and several students present their award-winning projects at top international meetings every year. I invite you to consider taking on a student next summer - but first read the pandemic note. Changes in the program from 2020 are highlighted in red.

Note on COVID-19 and possible implications

We are preparing the SRP with the assumption that research in the faculty will be fully functional in Summer 2021 but need to be realistic and continuously assess the situation. The SRP will follow recommendations and rules established by the Faculty of Dentistry, University of Toronto, and the Canadian Government.

We will do our very best to adapt to the conditions in Summer 2021 and help you to provide students with a memorable research experience. However, in case of a complete shutdown of wet labs in Summer 2021, as it happened in 2020, we will likely cancel the program and related student funding.

Please pay particular attention to page 2 of your application form that you will need to acknowledge.

Next steps:

- **Now:**
    - Identify a research project in your lab that is suitable for an undergraduate student.
    - Match your project with a student. The SRP is open to undergraduate students of the Faculty of Dentistry at U of T, institutes associated with the Faculty, and other Dental Faculties in Canada. There will be few spots for non-dental undergraduate students.

- **By January 29, 2021:**
    - Describe the research project on maximum **1 page** according to CIHR formatting rules:
        - Times New Roman, 12 pt, black type, maximum six lines per inch, no condensed/narrow fonts.
        - Margin of 2 cm (3/4 inch) – minimum – around the page for main document text.
        - Indicate in header (1 cm from top page margin): PI name, short project title, fit on one line.
    - COVID-19 addition: On the same page, briefly describe contingency measures if wet lab work should not be possible due to pandemic restrictions. If your project does not involve wet lab research, please indicate '*100% remote work possible*'. If there are no meaningful alternatives, just note: '*Must be done in the faculty's research facilities*'.
    - Fill the form: "2021_SRP_Application.pdf", available for download under: https://www.dentistry.utoronto.ca/research/summer-research-program.
    - Submit your application to the SRP as one PDF, including:
      (1) Application form completed by supervisor and student;
      (2) project description on one page;
      (3) Unofficial student transcripts;
      (4) Student CV on two pages.

Benefit and funding chances:

- Typically, 10-15 projects out of 20-30 submissions are funded per year.
- A motivated student with good academic marks, often with previous research experience.
- Support for your research, leading to a possible abstract or other publication.
- The possibility to train and "test" a student for a possible subsequent Master Project.
- Funds from the Faculty of Dentistry of $750/month to match your contribution.

Supervisor contribution and requirements:

- The project supervisor must have demonstrated expertise or access to expertise for executing the project. Each student is under the direct supervision of a faculty member.
- Preference will be given to projects in laboratories or clinics with an active research program. Existing or applied for external peer-review grant support is considered a positive factor.
- Project duration: 3 months for 1st/2nd year DDS and external students; 2 months for 3rd year DDS students.
- The SRP requests a matching contribution from the supervisor of at least $750/month. The Program will not be able to support projects without supervisor's matching portion.
- The supervisor contribution is to be paid to the program and not directly to the student.
- The program will provide the student with the full stipend of $1,500/month.
- The SRP cannot provide support for students that already receive stipends from other funding agencies (e.g., CIHR, NSERC). If fellowships are awarded after application to the program, the program director must be informed. Students can of course follow the program's activities.
- Students cannot take part in additional summer programs (e.g., IBBME).

Summary of Timeline:

January 29, 2021:   Submission deadline for PI/student joint application.

Mid-January 2021:   *Check for CIHR Undergraduate Summer Studentship Award–Institute Community Support*

End of April 2021:   Funded projects will be announced. The time of funding announcements depends on the time of external funding decisions for the SRP and may be later than April.

May-August 2021:   In this period, summer students are typically working on the project.

August 20, 2021:   The results of all summer student projects **must** be presented and **must** be summarized in an IADR abstract format. Supervisors will have to make themselves available for the presentation date (or a qualified substitute). The presented research projects will be ranked and may receive additional travel support depending on availability of funds.

February 2022:   Projects **must** be presented at the Faculty's Research Day as a poster.

Note: SRP students will be eligible for Pynn Family, CDA Dentsply and OKU Alumni awards, when available.

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For information and submissions (e-mail only) please contact Leah Raz, leah.raz@dentistry.utoronto.ca.

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*CIHR Undergraduate (non) Funding Update

The CIHR Institute of Musculoskeletal Health and Arthritis has held competitions for Summer Studentship Awards until 2019, with submission deadline **in mid-January** and an award of $5,000 for four months.

There was no competition in 2020 (not COVID-related) and is unclear whether this program will be resumed. You are encouraged to frequently check the CIHR funding opportunities.

Application for CIHR-IMHA Undergraduate Funding (if offered)

This document is intended to help you with the CIHR undergraduate competition and has been established to the best of our knowledge. Changes may occur from year to year and you will be responsible to check actual CIHR requirements. Link for the 2019 competition:

https://www.researchnet-recherchenet.ca/rnr16/vwOpprtntyDtls.do?prog=2980&view=search&incArc=true&launchMonth=11&launchYear=2018&type=EXACT&resultCount=25&next=1

General:

- Fellowships, if offered, are announced around November/December.
- Typically IMHA offers undergrad fellowship funding under the opportunity name: „*Undergraduate: Summer Studentship Award – Institute Community Support (year)*"
- Application deadline is around Mid-January every year. **In 2019, the deadline was January 24**.

Checklist:

1. Students must register on ResearchNet with their own profile:
   a. In their own profile, they enter their own information as Main applicant.
   b. In their own profile, they need to enter a Supervisor.
   c. It is sometimes simpler if the students communicate their login details to the supervisor if you want to check for completeness.

2. Supervisor (your) tasks:
   a. Send CIHR PIN number to student to identify you as co-applicant.
   b. Provide student with a title of project (needed early to produce signature page).
   c. Create Common CV (CIHR **Project Biosketch**), send registration number to student.
   d. Write support letter (2 pages, free format, PDF document).
   e. Write research proposal (2 pages not including references, figures and tables), PDF document.
   f. Write lay summary (1/2 page, to be pasted into respective web-form field).
   g. Write and attach under "Other" an explanation of how the objective(s) of your proposed activity/project aligns with the mandate and strategic research priorities of IMHA (max. 1 page).
   h. Create new My Research Online application (MRA, U of T) and upload the Signature page (see point 4). Supervisor must sign on page 2, first signature line.
   i. Amount to enter in the MRA application is $5,000, no indirect costs; duration: May 1 – August 31.

3. Student tasks:
   a. Enter all requested information and upload all supervisor documents.
   b. You must upload the most recent official transcripts. If official transcripts are not yet available, student must provide a letter of the grad office as proof that they are enrolled in a program.
   c. Produce a PDF of the signature pages (3 pages, must include title, student info, and supervisor info). Students do not need to sign; submission by primary applicant (student) counts as signature.
   d. A PDF scan of the supervisor-signed signature page needs to be uploaded to the MRA.

4. U of T actions (signature page) and submission:
   a. Once the MRA has been submitted, Research Services will sign twice on page 3 of the signature page and return the executed form to the supervisor and student.
   b. Supervisor may want to contact U of T research office to expedite the process. Contact person in 2019 was: Mx. Rocket Ship Weir (rs.weir@utoronto.ca); address with they/them.
   c. Student uploads the fully executed signature page and submits full application.