

Overview

The University of Toronto Transplant Institute's summer program provides education and research exposure to both undergraduates and medical students working under the supervision of principal investigators (PI) affiliated with the Toronto Transplant Institute. **Summer students who are working with a PI during 2020 summer months at the UHN Transplant Centre, SickKids Transplant Centre, or at St. Michael's Hospital Renal Program are encouraged to apply.** Interested students should discuss with their PI if not already encouraged to participate.

The objectives of the TTI summer program are (1) to promote on-going coalitions between academic and healthcare institutions by engaging student trainees, clinicians and researchers in the development of the area of organ transplantation and (2) to foster the development of collaborative relationships between trainees and their mentors to enable trainees to gain practical research experience while increasing the research productivity of their mentors.

Eligibility

Candidates will secure a Supervisor (Mentor) prior to completing a registration package for the TTI summer program. And in addition, meet one of the following criteria to be eligible to apply:

- Registered in a Canadian-based undergraduate degree program in the sciences or health-related field
- Registered in a MD program, and who may also hold a graduate degree
- Participate for the entire duration of the summer program

Supervisors/Mentors sponsoring candidates to this program must have a record of productive research and sufficient funding to ensure the satisfactory conduct of the research. A separate research project must be submitted for each student. Thus, the supervisor must be prepared to provide direct and continuous supervision during the term of the program.

The program will accept a maximum of 25 students (2 student maximum per PI).

Summer Awards

There will be a total of three **(3) summer awards available of \$1,000 each available.** Review and awards selection will be based on attendance, quality of work, and abstract ranking (in competition). Awards will be payable at the end of the program to the Supervisor of the trainee.

There will be **two (2) summer studentship awards* available at \$2,500** each to provide support to summer students who clearly demonstrate trainee potential, innovation, scope, and potential impact.

** Apart of the student's academic record, preference will be given to early career investigators i.e. investigators who are been appointed to their academic institution for less than 5 years. The award should be portrayed as a means to support young investigators who may have limited sources for research funding to carry out their on-going work.*

Program Details

The TTI summer program will be offered from June 4, 2020 – August 7, 2020 on Thursdays from 8:00 am – 10:00 am. The location is at the Toronto General Hospital, Munk Elevators, 11th floor, PMB 190 (Astellas Conference Room). A map can be found [here](#).

The program components are listed along with a preliminary schedule.

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Introduction to the Summer Program

An introduction to the University of Toronto Transplant Institute and the summer program will be included and trainees will also have a chance to introduce themselves, and their research work to other trainees in the summer program.

Journal Club Sessions

Journal club sessions are designed to provide summer trainees the opportunity to utilize their scientific literature analysis skills to present an accurate summary of a published scientific finding. Journal articles for presentation will be provided to summer trainees two weeks before the session and will be focused on Basic Science, Bench to Bedside, Ethics, and Data development in research. This will be included as four (4) sessions.

Introductory Research in Progress

Designed to provide summer trainees the opportunity to present their proposed research project to a broad scientific audience. It also allows summer trainees to obtain feedback on their experimental proposal which may lead to new research directions.

Career Seminar

The career panel is for trainees to learn and explore career opportunities from academia, government, and industry. This will include a career discussion panel and an opportunity to network with professionals.

Scientific Writing: Principles & Application

In science, writing is the most important means of communicating research findings. In most cases, scientists report the results of their research activities in scientific journals. This workshop will teach the fundamentals of effective scientific writing. Instruction will focus primarily on the process of writing and publishing scientific manuscripts but grant writing will also be addressed. The workshop will teach students how to write effectively, concisely, and clearly and take them through the preparation of an actual scientific manuscript or grant via the critiquing of sample writings. At the end of the session, trainees will be able to prepare an abstract, letter of intent (for grants) or manuscript preparation.

Data Management and Statistical Training

These introductory workshops are designed for research trainees to have hands-on experience using a number of statistical software packages for data management, preliminary analytics and graphics. The skills gained here may be applied to their individual research projects. They are especially useful for students who aspire to pursue epidemiology postgraduate studies. This will be covered in two (2) sessions – the first will be a hybrid made up of didactic/online components followed by hands-on training. Trainees should ensure that they have one of the following statistical packages installed on their working laptop prior to the session – SPSS, STATA® or R.

Presentation Skills

In both the academic and industrial fields, presentations are a common method of presenting and highlighting scientific results. This seminar will examine the two main components of scientific presentations including the design of the presentation and the act of giving the presentation. Examples of both poor and superior presentation techniques will be provided.

Annual Transplant Summer Research Day

This event is a summer trainee research day where summer trainees will be given the chance to present their research project following a scientific conference format. A call for abstracts will be announced and 6 abstracts will be chosen to present. There will be a Best Presentation Award given based on polling by the audience. Mentors will be invited to attend.

Registration

Interested trainees are to complete the TTI summer application form and email to noted contact.

Completed application packages must be received no later than **April 15, 2020**

Applications that are incomplete, or in which the required information is not provided in the manner requested, will not be considered.

In evaluation of each application, the TTI summer program will look for evidence that: 1) the candidate has an excellent academic record; 2) the relevance and details of the transplant research project; 3) the supervisor is conducting a productive research program in an area relevant to the objectives of the TTI.

Results will be available in May and trainees and supervisors will be notified by email.

DATE	TIME	LECTURE
June 4, 2020	8:00AM –8:30AM 8:30AM - 10:00AM	Introduction Basic Research in Transplant
June 11, 2020	8:00AM – 10:00AM	Introductory Research in Progress
June 18, 2020	8:00AM – 9:00AM 9:00AM – 10:00AM	Principles of Scientific writing Writing activity
June 25, 2020	8:00AM – 10:00AM	Fundamentals of Data Development in Research Journal Club
July 2, 2020	8:00AM – 10:00AM	Making an impact: Developing great presentation skills
July 9, 2020	8:00AM – 10:00AM	Bench to Bedside Journal Club
July 16, 2020	8:00AM – 10:00AM	Ethics and Society Journal Club
July 23, 2020	8:00AM – 10:00AM	Statistical Data Training – Application
July 30, 2020	8:00AM – 10:00AM	Career Seminar
August 6, 2020	8:00AM – 1:00PM	Annual Transplant Summer Research Day