DEAN’S SUMMER RESEARCH SCHOLARS PROGRAM
School of Optometry, Indiana University
SUMMER 2012

I am pleased to announce the Dean’s Summer Research Scholars Program for 2012. This program funds optometry students to pursue a research project for 2 months (can be extend to 3 months contingent upon funding availability) in the laboratory of a vision scientist during the summer. Each Dean’s Research Scholar will work in the laboratory of a faculty mentor who is a vision scientist in the School of Optometry.

Typically eight students will be selected based upon academic excellence, prior research experience and interest in research. Acceptance of more students into the program is dependent on availability of funds. The program begins on May 14th and will end on July 13th (and may be extended till August 13th contingent upon funding availability for an extra month). Dean’s Scholars are expected to participate for the equivalent of 40 hours/week.

The goal is to work on a research project in a way that will lead to a published paper and a presentation at a scientific meeting. Dean’s Research Scholars have the opportunity to present their research at meetings of the American Academy of Optometry and the Association for Research in Vision and Ophthalmology (ARVO). They receive financial support of $3600 for the 2 months of participation in the program (or $5400 for 3 months of participation contingent upon funding availability). If selected for participation in this program, the students need to register for the following two courses during the first summer session. V792 – Ethical Issues in Scientific Research (1 credit), and V793 – Critical Evaluation of Peer Reviewed Publications in Vision Science (1 credit). We will meet 2 hours a week for V792 and another 2 hours a week for V793. The four hours spent each week in these courses will account towards the 40 hours/week required for the program participation. The Dean’s scholars registered for these courses will receive a tuition waiver but will be responsible for the mandatory fees of around $330.

Friday, February 10th, 2012, 8 am -12 pm is Research Tour Day. On this occasion first year students will tour the research laboratories in the school of Optometry. If you are interested in applying to the program this is a good time to be thinking about a potential mentor. If you are not interested in applying for the program this will still be a good opportunity to be thinking about a potential research mentor for your OD research project.

Applications to the program should state why you are interested in this research award, and whether you have any prior research experience. You should select a faculty member in whose lab you would like to work, and also the names of two backup mentors, in case your first choice is not available. Please meet with the faculty members before you list their names in the application. The application should be submitted to Dr. Viswanathan by March 2nd, 2012. A committee will review applications, and decisions will be announced by March 19th, 2012.

If you have questions you can contact me by e-mail. I look forward to hearing from you.

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