Summer Internship at the Department of Urology - Leading the Way in Medical Research and Education

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The summer internship program offered by the Center for Reproductive Medicine is a unique, well-structured and highly integrated research internship for premed and medical students. The program is now in its fourth year. The eight-week-long, highly sought-after program introduces the fundamentals of clinical research to college and medical students from around the world.

The interns receive rigorous training and ample opportunities for scientific education, research and writing. They receive personal coaching by a team of mentors to write and publish high-quality scientific articles in high-impact journals, an experience that distinguishes this program from any other internship. In the past four years, 100 interns from across the U.S. and around the world have completed the program. These features make this program among the most unique of its kind in the world.

The course faculty is drawn from many medical specialties. The faculty delivers lectures on important topics related to scientific writing, reproductive medicine, bioethics, laboratory medicine, endocrinology, public speaking and more. Summer interns work alongside reproductive scientists and staff clinicians on interesting research projects in real laboratory environments. The interns have opportunities to interact with infertility specialists - reproductive endocrinologists (gynecologists) or male infertility specialists (urologists) - and observe those specialists in clinics or in surgery.

Interns participate in writing research articles, reviews and invited book chapters in reproductive biology and human infertility. Each year since 2008, there has been a steady increase in publications. Eighteen articles and reviews were published in 2008; 25 were published in 2009; and in 2010, interns published more than 30 articles, with some still in the works. The students attend weekly research meetings, lectures and group discussions. The internship faculty guides the interns in conducting cutting-edge bench research projects. In 2010, five bench projects were conducted; four projects were conducted thus far this year.

Program Goals:
• Encourage students to consider a career in medicine
• Provide a wide range of high-quality research experiences
• Allow participation in research programs in a real laboratory setting
• Facilitate close interaction with reproductive endocrinologists, gynecologists, urologists and male infertility specialists.

Rewards of Summer Internship:
• Interns have the opportunity to obtain six research credits through the University of South Alabama, transferable to any major college or university upon completion of the course.
• Students from previous classes have joined highly competitive medical schools.
• The majority of interns have authored research articles that were published in peer-reviewed journals or in a medical textbook.

The summer internship offers a unique opportunity for students interested in acquiring research experience in human fertility and reproductive biology. Students gain the opportunity to work with world-renowned physicians, scientists and researchers.

For more information about the internship program, please email the editor.