The Center for Reproductive Medicine

The Center for Reproductive Medicine is a part of the Glickman Urological and Kidney Institute of the Cleveland Clinic. The Department of Urology is ranked as the No. 2 Urology program in the nation by U.S. News & World Report.

The Center for Reproductive Medicine enjoys an international reputation for excellence and innovation in human infertility research and is dedicated to disseminating its results. Research papers from the Center staff are selected regularly for publication in distinguished medical journals. The Center’s website has been ranked No. 1 for research in reproductive medicine and andrology since 2001 by all top five international search engines, including Google, Yahoo and Ask.com. It has attracted over 840,000 visitors from all over the world.

More than 500 physicians and scientists from more than 50 countries have received their training at the Center for Reproductive Medicine during the past 20 years. Nearly 100 students in majors ranging from biology to English to the musical arts have participated in summer internships at our Center.
The Summer Internship in the Center for Reproductive Medicine delivers a unique, intensive bench research experience that will give you a lifelong foundation of skills — and look great on your resume! As a Summer Intern, you will select a research project to work on from a list of several bench experiments in reproductive biology. Sample projects from recent years have included:

- Validation of five major proteins in immature and mature human sperm by Western blot,
- Oxidative stress and alterations in major sperm proteins in infertile men — a proteomic approach,
- A controlled trial to access the efficacy of freezing protocols in preserving sperm function and DNA integrity in normozoospermic and oligozoospermic samples,
- Evaluation of the effect of silicone vaginal lubricant on sperm function, and many more.

To view the Internship Manual each intern receives during orientation, click here. The manual contains a thorough description of all planned bench projects available for selection.

You will work on a research project alongside a team of other Summer Interns under the direction of a reproductive biologist. At the end of the program, you will prepare and deliver a presentation on your research project to your fellow interns and medical staff.

Never worked in a scientific research laboratory before? Our staff will teach you everything you need to know to have a successful research experience, from sample preparation to data recording. This invaluable experience will give you a competitive edge whether you are planning to apply to medical school, pursue a career in research, or just want to excel in your college science labs.

Learn How to Write It Right

Being able to write a sound scientific paper is a specialized skill that can help you succeed in your future plans. As part of your Summer Intern experience, you will select a subject to write about from a list of about two dozen exciting topics. In the past years, interns have had the opportunity to write on topics such as:

- Lifestyle factors and reproductive health: taking control of your fertility,
- Spindle and chromosomal alterations in metaphase II oocytes,
- Ovarian endometrioma: guidelines for selection of cases for surgical treatment or expectant management,
- Role of reactive nitrogen species in male infertility
- Assessment of oxidative stress in sperm and semen, and many more.

You will learn the tools and techniques of scientific writing from a Cleveland Clinic expert, then apply what you’ve learned to create a research article or book chapter. With the assistance of your staff mentor, you will go through all the steps of preparing an article or chapter for submission to a prestigious medical journal or book. When your manuscript is ready, you will actually participate in the submission process — and your name will appear as a co-author on the finished piece!

To view research publications from past interns, please visit our publications page.
Here’s what our intern alumni had to say about their summer experience …

“While at Cleveland Clinic I had the opportunity to work on a review paper about research in adolescent PCOS; research on current trends in blastocyst vitrification and blastocyst biopsy and work on a lab experiment involving sperm and glutathione. The schedule provided an excellent balance of lectures and work time. I highly recommend this internship to other students looking for this type of experience.”

- Dinah Chen, Princeton University | 2008 Best Intern Award, 1st Place

“The summer internship was extremely helpful in advancing my scientific knowledge and skills. It significantly improved my public speaking skills and my confidence in being able to write a high-quality research article. The daily mentoring and supervision from the staff members were excellent. I would highly recommend this program.”

- Kathryn O’Flynn O’Brien, University of Pennsylvania | 2008 Best Presentation Award, 1st Place

“The program included an impressive amount of opportunities, including writing research paper(s); attending more than 100 lectures, lab tours and demonstrations, shadowing physicians and scientists, and observing bench research. Most importantly, the program provided me the opportunity to write a review article and have it published in a prominent journal. The support and encouragement from everyone was beyond my expectations. The research experience has me considering the possibility of future research in clinical medicine and becoming a writer, something I never considered because I did not believe I had the necessary skills.”

- Kim Ly, University of North Texas | 2009 Best Intern Award, 1st Place

“Cleveland Clinic’s Center for Reproductive Medicine Research Summer Internship was an insightful and invaluable experience. I enjoyed learning from world-renowned scientists, researchers and physicians, and I appreciated their dedicated, helpful and caring attitude towards each student. This one-on-one aspect defined the outstanding nature of this experience. The program dramatically helped increase my knowledge in regards to fertility, reproduction, urology and medical research, heightening my interest in these fields. From working closely with the staff to the exceptional research opportunities, it was an amazing learning experience. The staff and prestigious name of the Cleveland Clinic make it an invaluable opportunity that should be experienced by any aspiring medical professional.”

- Brandon JD Rein, Ohio University College of Osteopathic Medicine | 2009 Best Presentation Award, 1st Place

“The Center for Reproductive Medicine program is unrivaled in terms of quality and intensity of research, amicable environment and professionalism. The program offers experience in writing research papers, attending insightful lectures, observing lab tours and demonstrations, shadowing physicians and scientists and participating in bench research. The support and encouragement from the entire staff and visiting mentors exceeded my expectations and contributed significantly to my motivation to become actively involved. The skills and knowledge gained at Cleveland Clinic has provided me with the experience needed for future research in clinical medicine as an academician, physician and writer.”

- Anthony Kashou, Binghamton University | 2010 Best Intern Award, 1st place

“I was fortunate to find this internship with the help of career services at our university. While glancing at the description of the internship, I was truly surprised and impressed at the breadth of experiences that his program offers. After completing this internship, I can wholeheartedly say that it was one of the best experiences that I have ever had. Not only did this internship offer the opportunity to learn about Reproductive Medicine from renowned faculty, but it also allowed me to gain firsthand experience in conducting scientific research, writing scientific articles and learning about bench research techniques. I am convinced that the experience and knowledge that I gained in this internship will prove to be invaluable in my future endeavors.”

- Karishma Khullar, University of Pennsylvania | 2011 Most Dedicated Intern Award

“My experience with the Center for Reproductive Medicine Summer Internship Course was truly invaluable. With a plethora of mentors, medical experts, and other talented and brilliant students at my fingertips, I had an impressive arsenal of resources to conduct both laboratory and literature research. Not only did the extensive exposure to these research opportunities prepare me for a potential career in medicine, but they also strengthened my collaboration, communication, and dedication skills - assets that are pertinent for any future career. I highly recommend this program, and this is truly a one-of-a-kind opportunity that you don’t want to pass up!”

- Ethan Vargo, Miami University, OH | 2012 Best Presentation Award, 1st Place

“The skills I have learned both on the bench and as a scientific writer from the summer internship program have already helped me immensely in my classes this semester. My professors are just as impressed with how comfortable I am to be working in the lab! The mentoring I received this past summer is by far the best and most intensive I have received up to this point in my career. Through your guidance and the guidance of the other mentors, I now feel more prepared for my future plans in medicine.”

- Alexandra Below, University of Notre Dame | 2011 Best Intern Award, 2nd place

“Thank you for the opportunity to be a part of the best internship ever. I will always cherish all the best times I had with other interns and mentors. I completely enjoyed working with world-renowned scientists. It was not only helpful in advancing my scientific knowledge and skills but it significantly boosted my confidence in public speaking and improved my writing skills. The support and encouragement from interns and mentors were beyond my expectations. It was truly the best experience of my life – an insightful and invaluable experience. I wish the internship could have lasted longer.”

- Gurpreya Virk, Monash University, Melbourne, Australia | 2013 Mentor Choice Award for Bench Project and Award of Excellence for Professionalism

Scholarship in Teaching Award Reintegrating Faculty Educators 2011

Presented to

Ashok Agarwal, PhD
Program in the Center for Reproductive Medicine CRMD

For making a positive impact on medical education and the careers of students, and for being a role model for the School of Medicine’s legacy of educational excellence.

Thursday, March 22, 2012

“2008 Best Intern Award, 1st Place

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2013 Mentor Choice Award for Bench Project and Award of Excellence for Professionalism

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Reviewed October 11, 2013