Toronto Transplant Institute Summer Student Program

About The University of Toronto Transplant Institute

The program brings together, into one organizational structure, clinical and academic transplant programs in kidney, heart, lung and liver at 4 hospital sites: The Toronto General Hospital; The Toronto Western Hospital; St. Michael’s Hospital and the Hospital for Sick Children.

The Toronto Transplant Institute offers unparalleled academic and clinical opportunities including the ability to:

- Develop new innovative national and international education programs such as a collaborative graduate program in Transplantation and Regenerative Medicine.
- Advance research by developing more effective partnerships with members of the basic science Department of Immunology, Department of Laboratory Medicine and Pathobiology and the Institute of Biomaterials and Biomedical Engineering and Clinical Departments including Medicine, Surgery and Pediatrics within the Faculty of Medicine, the Faculties of Nursing and Pharmacy, the Joint Centre for Bioethics and fully affiliated hospitals (University Health Network, Hospital for Sick Children, Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre and St. Michael's Hospital) to achieve international stature as a the “World’s foremost Transplant Program”.
- Recruit and retain the brightest and the best faculty and students
- Advance, commercialize and translate scientific discoveries through MaRS Innovation and our industrial partners.
- Increase fundraising through private sector partnerships.
- Partner with the Ministries of Health of Ontario and Canada to develop health care policy for significantly enhanced delivery of transplantation services both provincially and nationally.

ABOUT THE SUMMER PROGRAM

The TTISP is a student training program that would provide education and research exposure to both undergraduates and medical students working under the supervision of principal investigators affiliated the Toronto Transplant Network. The objectives of the TTISP 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.

SUMMER AWARD STIPEND

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

ELIGIBILITY

Candidates must first secure a Supervisor/Mentor prior to completing a registration package for the TTISP.

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
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 (3 student maximum per PI).

**REGISTRATION**

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

Completed application packages must be received no later than **March 24, 2017**

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 SP 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 April and trainees and supervisors will be notified by email.

**PROGRAM DETAILS**

The TTISP will be offered from June 1, 2017 – August 3, 2017 on Thursdays from 8:00am – 10:00am. Unless otherwise noted, the location is Toronto General Hospital, Munk Elevators, 11th floor, PMB 190 (Astellas Conference Room). The program components are listed along with a preliminary schedule.

1. **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.

2. **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, and Ethics. This will be included as three (3) sessions.

3. **Career Panel**
   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.

4. **Workshop Series**
   **A. 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 be presented in two (2) segments: Part (1) teaches students how to write effectively, concisely, and clearly and part (2)
takes them through the preparation of an actual scientific manuscript or grant via the critiquing of sample writings. At the end of the sessions, trainees will be able to prepare an abstract, letter of intent (for grants) or manuscript preparation.

B. 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.

C. 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.

5. Introductory Research in Progress Meeting
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.

6. Annual TTI 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.

Instructions for Completion of Application Form
Checklist for Application Package

Components should be sent electronically via email to Anna Cocco as a PDF file unless otherwise noted.
Please ensure you keep 1 (one) copy for your own files.

✓ 1) Personal Data Form
✓ 2) Part 1: Application Form
✓ 3) Part 2: Research Project Outline (2 pages)
✓ 4) Part 3: Supervisor Reference
✓ 5) Applicant’s CV
✓ 6) Transcripts (Electronic copy)
(a) It is important that the instructions for completing the form be followed precisely.

(b) Application package includes completed Personal Data form, Application form including; an up-to-date CV, up-to-date electronic transcript, supervisor reference, and research project outline.

Applications to be addressed to:
Toronto Transplant Institute Summer Program C/O Anna Cocco
585 University Avenue, Munk Building, 11PMB182, Toronto, ON M5G 2N2