



## 2017 Baltimore HIV/AIDS Scholars Program Application

The Johns Hopkins University Center for AIDS Research (CFAR) is committed to developing the next generation of diverse HIV/AIDS investigators to conduct clinical, behavioral and implementation research.

### Program Overview

The Baltimore HIV/AIDS Scholars Program was established in 2012 to promote the development of promising undergraduate students into HIV/AIDS investigators. Students conduct research under the direct mentorship of established Johns Hopkins researchers with the purpose of advancing science in the fields of HIV prevention and treatment that are specifically of relevance to the HIV epidemic in Baltimore City. Mentors are drawn from the Johns Hopkins Schools of Medicine, Nursing and Bloomberg School of Public Health.

The ten week program runs from the beginning of June through the first week of August. During this time, interns work with faculty on research projects in their field of interest. In addition, interns will attend HIV/AIDS oriented seminars and professional development sessions. CFAR Students are paid hourly, \$16.00 per hour and work between 30- 40 hours per week. All monies earned are subject to tax.

Applicants will include current sophomores and juniors. Seniors graduating in May 2017 are not eligible to apply. Students from underrepresented ethnic minority groups and those from economically disadvantaged backgrounds who are interested in careers in science, public health or medicine are strongly encouraged to apply. The program is open to all undergraduate majors. Housing is not provided; however it is available to those admitted on the undergraduate campus. The University has a shuttle service that provides convenient transportation between the Johns Hopkins Medical Institutions and the Homewood campus.

Your specific research project will depend largely on research areas of our faculty. Overall, you can expect an experience similar to that of a first-year graduate student who does a three-month rotation in a laboratory or out in the community to become acquainted with the project, techniques, and people working in that area. On arrival each intern typically receives several papers related to his or her specific research project. The goal of the project and its relationship to other work in the area will be discussed, and you will be instructed in the techniques necessary to conduct the research. As each technique is mastered, the responsibilities for seeing the procedure through will rest increasingly with you. Besides daily interactions with others at the project site, most groups have a more formal meeting once or twice a week to discuss research problems, and progress and developments reported in the literature. While the style and character of each research site varies considerably, all are composed of very dedicated and hardworking individuals who are more than willing to help others who are similarly committed to learning. The program culminates with the development of a scientific abstract and poster presentation. The posters are presented to CFAR at the conclusion of the program and to the university community in the fall semester.

This summer internship program requires a full-time commitment. CFAR advises students not to take academic classes or hold primary employment during the internship.

We ask that interested students fill out an application describing relevant course work, research experience and future plans regarding a career in science or health (application attached). **Applications are due by Friday, March 17 2017.** We anticipate that 10 internships will be available for the summer of 2017. Applicants will be informed of their status by March 24, 2017.

## **2017 Baltimore HIV/AIDS Scholars Internships**

### **BESURE – National HIV Behavioral Surveillance Study Internship**

Primary Mentor: Danielle German, PhD

Affiliation: Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health- Department of Health, Behavior and Society  
Interns will assist with the implementation of HIV behavioral surveillance among injection drug users and venue-based HIV testing among communities at high risk for HIV in the city of Baltimore. Tasks will include data collection, outreach, and dissemination activities. Interns may be involved in formative research interviews and focus groups, individual interviews, and venue based HIV testing outreach, and will have the opportunity to analyze data and produce reports from existing BESURE study data across LGBTQ study populations. Proficiency with Microsoft Office required and experience with SAS or STATA helpful.

### **Generation Tomorrow Field Experience Internship**

Primary Mentor: Risha Irvin, MD, MPH

Affiliation: Johns Hopkins School of Medicine - Department of Infectious Diseases

Generation Tomorrow is a unique training and field experience for students in Baltimore. Launched in October 2013 by the Hopkins Center for AIDS Research, the program is designed to increase awareness and detection of HIV and Hepatitis C Virus (HCV) infections in Baltimore. The intern's tasks will include HIV and HCV outreach, protocol development for HIV/HCV testing and linkage, analysis of data from the first two cohorts of program participants, literature reviews, and other tasks related to ongoing program activities.

### **Her PrEP Her Way – HIV and IPV Prevention Research Internship**

Primary Mentor: Kamila A. Alexander, PhD, MPH, RN

Affiliation: Johns Hopkins School of Nursing – Department of Community-Public Health

Interns will assist with two ongoing research projects that investigate the intersection of intimate partner violence and HIV prevention. Tasks will include assistance with qualitative and quantitative data collection, analysis, and dissemination activities. Data collection activities could include conducting interviews and administering surveys. Data analysis activities could include team-based coding of transcripts and social network analyses. Proficiency with Microsoft Office required. Experience with qualitative analysis and SPSS preferred.

### **HIV Biological Repository Internship**

Primary mentor: Homayoon Farzadegan, PhD

Affiliation: Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health- Department of Epidemiology

Established in 1984, JHBR consists of 1,500 square feet of biosafety level 2 laboratories on the 6th floor of the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health (JHSPH), as well as 6,000 square feet in an off site facility (3 miles from JHSPH) to house 60 liquid nitrogen vapor phase cryogenic units. These units recently replaced biological specimen storage in -80 degree C and -150 degree C mechanical freezers as part of JHSPH's "Greening the Lab" initiative. JHBR manages more than two million biological specimens using a robust specimen management system, Freezerworks™, for freezer inventory, specimen labeling and tracking for the large repository. Additionally, JHBR is certified by the Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendment (CLIA) to perform HIV-1 viral load RT-PCR, HCV and HBV serological tests, and maintains participation in proficiency programs through College of American Pathology (CAP), American Association of Bioanalysts (AAB), and Virology Quality Assurance Program (VQA) for all expert testing services. Currently, a fully

automated platform for DNA and RNA isolation and quantification system is now in place to support the growing number of epigenetic studies.

### **HIV Organ Policy Equity Project Internship**

Primary Mentor: Christine Durand, M.D and Macey Henderson, Ph.D

Affiliation: Johns Hopkins School of Medicine - Department of Infectious Diseases

The HIV Organ Policy Equity (HOPE) Act allows people living with HIV (PLWH) to be organ donors to other PLWH who need an organ transplant. Our projects aim to address ethical questions surrounding these transplants. Students interested in working with the Epidemiology Research Group in Organ Transplantation would have the opportunity to participate in surveying PLWH to better understand their opinions on organ donation. They would also have the chance to interview PLWH who receive HIV+ organs learn more about their experiences with these types of transplants.

### **Molecular and Comparative Pathobiology Internship**

Primary Mentor: Kenneth Witwer PhD

Affiliation: Johns Hopkins School of Medicine - Department of Molecular and Comparative Pathobiology

The internship will involve the use of molecular and cellular biology techniques to research host responses to retroviral infection and determinants of pathogenesis. Tasks may include isolation, culture, and experimental treatment of blood cell subtypes; measurement and characterization of submicron-sized particles in blood and other biofluids by nanoparticle tracking analysis; and quantitation of coding and non-coding RNA molecules by real-time quantitative polymerase chain reaction. Interns will have the opportunity to analyze data, participate in and contribute to weekly lab meetings and journal clubs, and report internally and externally on the outcomes of their research. Interns should have basic computer skills, including an ability to use Excel and Word to prepare graphs and reports. Previous laboratory experience is preferred but not required.

### **RESTORE—HIV Behavioral Research and Outreach Internship**

Primary Mentor: Jennifer Stewart, PhD, RN

Affiliation: Johns Hopkins University School of Nursing - Department of Community-Public Health

Interns will assist with several studies focused on HIV behavioral risk reduction interventions in African American churches across the city of Baltimore. This will include a focus on HIV prevention, testing, and linkage to care as well as work with young adult women and adolescents. Tasks will include data collection, outreach, and dissemination activities. Interns may be involved in recruitment, interviews, focus groups or survey administration as well as analysis of data and production or reports. Must be able to work well within a team as well as independently. Strong communication skills necessary and strong writing skills a plus. Proficiency with Microsoft Office required and experience with SPSS or STATA helpful.

### **Safe Spaces and Places Study Internship**

Primary mentor: Errol Fields, MD PhD

Affiliation: Johns Hopkins School of Medicine, Department of Pediatrics

Interns will assist with the development and testing of strategies to reach/access gay, bisexual and other MSM at high risk for HIV - especially young Black MSM (YBMSM) - on geo-social networking (GSN) apps (e.g. Jack'd, Grindr). The study involves in-depth interviews and focus groups with YBMSM, key informant interviews with health departments, beta testing of advertisement messages on apps, field based surveys, and mobile HIV testing using GSN app outreach in Baltimore city. Interns may be tasked with literature reviews, data collection and analysis, manuscript preparation, field work and other study related tasks. Proficiency with Microsoft Office required. Experience and familiarity with public health/medical literature databases and qualitative research helpful.

## **SHINE- Understanding Hepatitis C in Networks of People Who Inject Drugs (PWID) Internship**

Primary Mentor: Seun Falade-Nwulia, MBBS, MPH

Affiliation: Johns Hopkins School of Medicine-Department of Infectious Diseases

Interns will assist with the implementation of a social network study to assess patterns of hepatitis C transmission among people who inject drugs in Baltimore. Interns will be trained to and assist with administration of a network survey to PWID in Baltimore city. Other tasks will include recruiting, screening, and consenting participants, pre and post-test counseling for HIV and hepatitis C testing, HIV/HCV testing, data collection, and health care navigation support. Interns may be involved in assisting with other hepatitis C research activities such as literature reviews, analyzing preliminary data, and producing progress reports. Proficiency with Microsoft Excel and general computer knowledge required, experience with marginalized populations helpful.

## **Young Men's Sexual Health Internship**

Primary Mentor: Renata Sanders, MD

Affiliation: Johns Hopkins School of Medicine– Department of Pediatrics

The male relationship study is a study of Black adolescent young men ages 15-24 years old. The focus is on how first same-sex sexual experiences impact sexual health trajectories and subsequent risk in current relationships. It also focuses on how youth understand and utilize comprehensive sexual health services such as pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP). Students will be involved in assisting with background research, data cleaning, analysis, and manuscript preparation.

**If you have questions about any of the internships please email Jordan White, [jjwhite@jhu.edu](mailto:jjwhite@jhu.edu). If needed, Jordan will put you in touch with the appropriate staff or faculty member to assist you.**

## **Contact**

**Jordan J. White, MS**

**Baltimore HIV Collaboratory Coordinator**

**Johns Hopkins Center for AIDS Research**

**615 North Wolfe Street – E6534, Baltimore, MD 21205**

**[jjwhite@jhu.edu](mailto:jjwhite@jhu.edu) | 410.502.2039**

**INTERNSHIP PREFERENCE**

- 1. \_\_\_\_\_
- 2. \_\_\_\_\_

**CONTACT INFORMATION**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Current Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zipcode: \_\_\_\_\_  
Permanent Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zipcode: \_\_\_\_\_  
Current Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ Permanent Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

**EDUCATIONAL INFORMATION**

High School GPA: \_\_\_\_\_ SAT I score: \_\_\_\_\_  
Year/Level: \_\_\_\_\_ Major: \_\_\_\_\_  
GPA: \_\_\_\_\_  
JHU Advisor's Name / Email: \_\_\_\_\_  
Department: \_\_\_\_\_  
Have you applied to JHU School of Medicine, Nursing or Bloomberg School of Public Health: \_\_\_\_\_

**SKILLS**

\_\_\_\_ WORD      \_\_\_\_ SPSS      \_\_\_\_ STATA      \_\_\_\_ ENDNOTE      \_\_\_\_ REWORKS  
\_\_\_\_ EXCEL      \_\_\_\_ NVIVO      \_\_\_\_ SPSS      \_\_\_\_ GIS  
\_\_\_\_ ADOBE PHOTOSHOP

**HEALTH AND EMERGENCY INFORMATION**

Do you currently have health insurance? \_\_\_\_\_  
Health Insurance Carrier: \_\_\_\_\_  
Policy Number: \_\_\_\_\_  
Emergency Contact Name & Telephone:  
\_\_\_\_\_

## DEMOGRAPHIC INFORMATION

The following questions relate to the University's voluntary efforts to enhance diversity in keeping with its education and research missions. They provide important data for assessment of our diversity initiatives and assist us in matching program applicants with appropriate funding sources. This information is not used in making any admission decision. All information is confidential.

Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_ Sex:  Male  Female

Citizenship: \_\_\_\_\_

Please indicate the group(s) listed below to which you belong:

Ethnic:  Hispanic or Latino  Not Hispanic or Latino

Racial Identifiers:

<input type="checkbox"/> Alaskan Native	<input type="checkbox"/> Indian/Pakistani	<input type="checkbox"/> Other Pacific Islander
<input type="checkbox"/> American Indian	<input type="checkbox"/> Japanese	<input type="checkbox"/> Puerto Rican (Mainland)
<input type="checkbox"/> Black/African American	<input type="checkbox"/> Korean	<input type="checkbox"/> Puerto Rican (Commonwealth)
<input type="checkbox"/> Chinese	<input type="checkbox"/> Mexican American/Chicano	<input type="checkbox"/> Southeast Asian
<input type="checkbox"/> Filipino	<input type="checkbox"/> Native Hawaiian	<input type="checkbox"/> White/Caucasian
<input type="checkbox"/> Hispanic/Other (including Cuban)	<input type="checkbox"/> Other Asian	

Disadvantaged Groups:

First Generation College  Low/moderate Income

Baltimore City Affiliation:

Born in Baltimore City  Attended/Graduate of Baltimore City Public High School  
 Attended Private School in Baltimore City  
 JHU Baltimore Scholar

## PERSONAL STATEMENT

Using a separate sheet, please describe your interest in the Baltimore HIV/AIDS Scholars Program, including your academic and research background, accomplishments and future science career plans and goals. *Two Page Limit. Please be sure to include your name on each page of your application.*

## ACTIVITIES

Using a separate sheet, please send resume that includes a list significant extracurricular activities in which you have been involved. Include specific events or accomplishment in areas such as publication, student government, music, sports, church or community activities. List the Activity, Year of Participation, and Position Held and/or Honors Won. *One Page Limit.*

## TRANSCRIPT & RECOMMENDATION

The Recommendation Form should be submitted by March 17 and signed by the recommender. Letters may be brought to the School of Public Health or scanned signed copies may be sent to [jjwhite@jhu.edu](mailto:jjwhite@jhu.edu). An unofficial transcript from the registrar is required with the application. We will contact your department advisor to sort out any discrepancies.