

Summer Scholars Research Program FAQs

Mentors

1. Who are the mentors?

SSRP mentors are Winship faculty members who are actively participating in clinical or scientific research. In previous years, this has included Winship physicians and lab-based scientists.

2. What is the difference between a basic scientist and clinical researcher?

A clinical researcher is a medical doctor who conducts clinical trials and retrospective studies using clinical data to discover better treatment options for patients. Students working with a clinical researcher will have the opportunity to shadow their mentors in clinic and participate in research involving patient data and outcomes.

A basic scientist conducts experiments in a Winship laboratory to learn more about how cancer works and to discover new therapeutic options for patients. Students assigned a basic scientist will work with post-doctoral researchers and graduate students in a laboratory, learning important skills and techniques, and conducting experiments.

3. How are student/mentor pairings selected?

Student/mentor pairings are selected by the program directors. Students are not able to request a specific mentor; however, the program directors will consider information provided in the student's application regarding their preference for a specific disease site (lung cancer, breast cancer, gastrointestinal cancers, etc.) or type of research (lab-based versus clinical research). Ultimately, there are no guarantees that a student will be matched with a mentor according to their preference.

4. Who are representatives?

Some mentors designate representatives (includes lab managers, graduate students, post-docs, nurses etc.) who may be a student's point-of-contact for their project during the program. This person may also be more involved in the student's day-to-day activities such as shadowing in the clinic or conducting experiments in the lab. This gives the student more supervision and more opportunities to ask questions during the day.

5. What should I expect out of my mentor?

Mentor's (or combination of mentor and representative) will create their student's daily work schedule outside of programmatic events, lectures, and field-trips. Your mentor will develop your research project and timeline for the duration of the program and provide appropriate direction on your final poster and PowerPoint presentation. They will provide sufficient background information about their research area such that you understand how your project fits into the overall goals of the field of study.

6. Where will my mentor and I be working?

Most mentors work at the Winship Cancer Institute on the Emory Clifton campus, however, some mentors may spend time at other locations for their clinic or to attend meetings. Your mentor will let you know if you need to meet them at other locations. Emory's shuttles go to Emory Midtown, Grady Hospital and the VA Medical Center. All Winship labs are on the Clifton campus.

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7. When will I know who I am paired with?

The student/mentor pairings are released a few weeks before the program begins. Mentors will be instructed to reach out to their students to introduce themselves, provide details on their daily work schedule, and let their student know where he or she will be working.

8. How will I communicate with my mentor?

Before the program begins you will receive an Emory Healthcare e-mail address that you will use to communicate with your mentor. All communications for the program should be done using your Emory Healthcare e-mail address.