

## 2012 Student Intern Program May 21 – July 27

### Purpose

The Cardiopulmonary Research Science & Technology Institute (CRSTI) Student Intern Program is designed to introduce college and medical school students to the clinical research medical environment. The program includes concepts and applications of clinical research, basic scientific principles, clinical outcomes, data collection and management, medical education and training programs, and the administrative support of these activities relative to a medical research organization. Interns are given a research project, assigned at the beginning of the internship, with work continuing throughout the program. Projects involve data collection, critical thinking, analysis and a written abstract. CRSTI physicians are recognized nationally and internationally as pioneers in the field of cardiovascular medicine.

### Method

During the ten week program (May 21– July 27) students will rotate through several areas of concentration within the clinical research medical environment. Rotations are staggered and students follow an individualized rotation schedule including each of the following components:

- ◆ One week is spent introducing the student to the fundamentals of clinical research including research design and good clinical practices. Students will learn to conduct background and literature searches into their project and become more familiar with the disease state being studied and methods of clinical research.
- ◆ Three weeks are spent observing Clinical Research. They will follow the course of a research study gaining experience in patient screening and enrollment, study randomizations, and patient follow-ups. Students will learn about institutional review boards, consent forms, protocol development, and clinical research design.
- ◆ Two weeks are spent in learning the fundamentals of data collection, data entry, analysis, and statistical review that are utilized for improving the delivery of patient care. Students will learn data element definitions as well as participate in database queries and reporting. CRSTI is nationally recognized as a pioneer in the advancement of clinical quality and research outcomes.
- ◆ One week is spent in concentrated clinical experience, shadowing several different physicians and health care professionals. Shadowing opportunities include: cardiac surgeons, thoracic surgeons, invasive cardiologist, non-invasive cardiologist, anesthesiologist, physician assistant, cardiac catheterization laboratory, and emergency room. Students may also create an additional shadow experience based on their special interest at the time of the program.
- ◆ Finally, three weeks are dedicated to the completion of the individual research project. Interns are given a research project, assigned at the beginning of the internship, with work continuing throughout the program. Projects involve data collection, critical thinking, analysis and a written abstract. Findings and abstract are presented through an oral and written presentation to the research group at the conclusion of the program.

The Internship Program is conducted at the CRSTI office in Dallas, Texas.

CRSTI  
7777 Forest Lane C-742  
Dallas, Texas 75230

Intern Hours will be from 8:30am to 5:00pm Monday through Friday. However, hours may be modified at the discretion of the Intern Program Director to accommodate meetings, surgeries, etc. Surgical procedures are observed throughout the 10 week program based on scheduling and patient consent.

7777 Forest Lane  
Ste C-742  
Dallas, Texas 75230  
P: 972.566.6820  
F: 972.566.8524  
www.crsti.org

## **Housing and Transportation**

Housing and Transportation are the responsibility of the Intern.

## **Qualifications**

Students must possess a minimum grade point average of 3.2 (4.0 scale), an interest in medicine and research, and commit to the Internship schedule. Applicants must be college students or medical school students at the time of application. Applications from international students currently enrolled in US educational institutions are accepted with a valid student visa.

## **Application Process**

Applications will be accepted from December 20, 2011 – January 20, 2012. All applications must be complete and received in the CRSTI office by 5:00 pm, January 20. Late or incomplete applications will not be reviewed.

Applicants must provide the following:

- Typed, double-spaced essay, 3-5 pages in length:  
The essay should address why the student is interested in the medical field, what qualities/experiences would make them a good intern candidate, and what they hope to gain/accomplish from this experience.
- Two (2) letters of recommendation (at least one letter should be from a teacher, professor, or advisor). Letters should be sealed and signed across the flap.
- Transcript
- Application (available online at <http://crsti.org/internapp.pdf>)

Select candidates will be interviewed; first round interviews occur in February and second round interviews in March. Interviews are conducted in person or via telephone during CRSTI business hours (CST). Applicants will be notified of their status no later than March 30, 2012.

Completed applications should be mailed to:  
CRSTI - Intern Program Director  
7777 Forest Lane C-742  
Dallas, Texas 75230

## **Stipend**

Interns will receive a certification and a stipend of \$3000 upon successful completion of the program.

Students wishing to participate in the program for course credit may do so and waive their stipend. The Intern Program Coordinator Director will work with the student's professor or academic advisor.

## **Research Project Details**

- Interns are matched to a physician mentor, staff mentor and a research project based on ability, skills and level of education. Interns are responsible for completing the project during the ten week program. Projects are selected based on several criteria including the ability of the question to be answered in ten weeks; the relevance of the question, and the impact the research question has on current practice and the likelihood of patient outcome improvement. Although students have access to both a physician and staff mentor, they are expected to work independently. The ideal student will demonstrate a high level of motivation and self-initiative. Students will not share the same project unless required by the scope of the project. Work on the research project could result in publication in a medical journal, or presentation of research at a medical symposium.