CIRM COMPASS – Paid Internship Program for Regenerative Medicine Research at UCSB

The CIRM COMPASS Program is a robust, two-year research internship that aims to train undergraduate scholars in stem cell biology and engineering, with the goal of preparing the next generation of diverse leaders in regenerative medicine. Areas of research include stem cell biology, cellular and tissue engineering, regenerative medicine, and gene therapy. The COMPASS program will span twenty-four (24) consecutive months during the student’s junior and senior years.

Stipend & Research Funds Provided by COMPASS

- Trainee Stipend – Up to $18,000 per year (to the student)
- Tuition and Fees – Up to $9,600 (to the institution)
- Research Related Funds – Up to $2,200 for research project costs (to the internship host laboratory)
- Program Related Travel expenses – Up to $1,000

Eligibility Requirements

- Commitment to complete the program requirements within two (2) years
- Ability to dedicate an appropriate amount of time to the internship and program-related activities
  - > 10hrs/week/quarter during the academic year
  - > 40hrs/week during the summer
- Current UCSB undergraduates or transfer students starting their junior year in good academic standing
- Interest in a career in biotech or regenerative medicine, whether research or clinical application
- Strong interest in project research and readiness to train and succeed in a laboratory setting
- Students from backgrounds historically underrepresented in STEM are especially encouraged to apply. These include but are not limited to: 1st generation college student, veterans, single mothers, amputees, students with disabilities, under-represented ethnicities, gender preferences, etc.

Program Requirements Once the Student is Accepted

- Two years (24 consecutive months) of hands-on research in the laboratory
- Completion of required coursework
  - Stem Cell Biology – MCDB 146
  - Stem Cell Ethics – MCDB 147
  - Responsible Conduct of Research – Seminar Course
  - Translational Research and Drug Design – Chem 162
  - Electives – select from a variety of courses in Oncology, Developmental Biology, Bioengineering, Computational Biology, and Quantitative Biology
- Participation in professional growth and development workshops
- Present a formal lecture to finalize the trainee’s Capstone Project in the spring quarter of senior year
- Present status updates of research project during the quarterly COMPASS Conferences
- Participation in Patient, Healthcare, & Community Engagement and Outreach Activities
- Engage in regular meetings with a team of mentors from academia and industry
- Participation in science communication activities through UCSB

Application Materials

- An application form
- CV
- Two (2) letters of recommendation on letterhead (submitted confidentially)
  - See the COMPASS Application Form regarding topics that the recommender should address
- Submit all application materials by 11:59pm August 27, 2023 to Dr. Britney Pennington at bop@ucsb.edu with the email subject heading: “COMPASS 2023 Application – <applicant’s full name>”. Candidates will be notified by September 15, and they will begin the COMPASS program remotely on September 18, and in-person on September 25, 2023.