TO: University of Illinois College of Medicine Rockford Class of 2026 Students

and all University of Illinois College of Medicine Rockford Faculty

FROM: Weihai Zhan, PhD – Director of Student Research, Office of Research

RE: College of Medicine Student Summer Research Fellowship Program

DATE: December 20, 2022

The Office of Research at the University of Illinois College of Medicine Rockford is pleased to announce the 38th Annual College of Medicine Student Summer Research Fellowship Program (a.k.a. The Walter Rice Craig Fellowship). This competitive program provides an exciting opportunity for actively registered medical students in good academic standing who are interested in research (regardless of previous research experience) to conduct projects under the guidance of a research mentor. Research can enrich a student’s medical education by providing an understanding not only of results, but also the methods to better inform clinical decisions. Research can also create career opportunities and may reveal new areas of interest.

Medical students who wish to be considered for this program must identify a research mentor and collaborate with that mentor to develop a proposed project. NOTE: Even if a proposed project is related to an existing research project, it must be a unique project capable of standing on its own. Additionally, a Craig Fellowship project cannot be funded by more than one source. For 2023, mentors are not required to have University of Illinois faculty appointment, but priority may be given to students whose mentors have a College of Medicine Rockford faculty appointment.

Stipends of $3,000 are provided for the student. This year the program will run from June 26, 2023 through August 18, 2023. Acknowledging that the research may be difficult to complete within this timeframe, any time commitment beyond the compensated time should be discussed and negotiated between the student applicant and the researcher.

Actively registered students in good academic standing who wish to be considered for this summer program must submit the attached application, a project proposal and a current CV. All student applications must be submitted to Daliah Brown ([dzbrown@uic.edu](mailto:dzbrown@uic.edu)) in the Office of Research, preferably via email, by **March 10, 2023**. We anticipate award announcements will be made by March 31, 2023.

The following review criteria will be used to judge proposals and a minimum of 70 points will be required to be considered for funding:

a. Clear and testable hypothesis (max 15 pts)

b. Design adequate to answer hypothesis (max 30 pts)

c. Completed project will be publishable or suitable for presentation at a professional meeting (max 15 pts)

d. Tasks at appropriate level for M2 student (max 10 pts)

e. Project can be completed within the timeframe of the program (max 10 pts)

f. Project provides a “learning experience” for the student (max 20 pts)

We hope that you consider this wonderful opportunity. If you have ANY questions or concerns, feel free to contact me at (815) 395-5639 or by email at [whzhan@uic.edu](mailto:whzhan@uic.edu).

**WALTER RICE CRAIG STUDENT SUMMER RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM**

**UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS COLLEGE OF MEDICINE ROCKFORD**

**SUMMARY**

**Eligibility**: Actively registered and academically eligible UICOMR M1 medical students

**Application Deadline**: March 10, 2023

**Appointment Period**: June 26, 2023 through August 18, 2023

**Appointment Status**: Pre-doctoral Research Fellow

**Stipend**: $3,000

**Anticipated Fellowship Announcement**: by March 31, 2023

**Submission requirements:**

1. Completed application (next page)

2. Project Proposal – **written by student**. Limit to two pages, single spaced.

* Describe student role in the proposed research project.
* Identify the faculty member under whose supervision student will be working.
* Include in discussion details the following topics:

– Title of Project

– Aim of the Research Project (the question the research is supposed to answer)

– Describe the Research Methods; provide specific experimental protocols; and state explicitly the portion of planned research to be completed by the applicant over the two summer months.

– Clinical and/or basic science significance of anticipated outcome; interpretation of anticipated results.

* Attach a bibliography list (not included in page limit).

**Future Requirements:**

**Mid-Fellowship Progress Report:** Awardees are required to submit a mid-fellowship progress report to the Research Coordinator in the Office of Research or to [dzbrown@uic.edu](mailto:dzbrown@uic.edu) by **July 26, 2023**. This report should describe progress made on the project thus far and any challenges encountered.

**Final Report:** Awardees are required to submit a final report to the Research Coordinator in the Office of Research or to [dzbrown@uic.edu](mailto:dzbrown@uic.edu) by **October 27, 2023**. The report, in no more than two pages, should summarize the status of the project including anticipated completion date (if not completed), note significant findings or lack of results and/or incomplete research, and identify any abstracts or publications that may result.

Format for final reports:

1. Student name, faculty sponsor’s name, the title of the project.
2. Research question addressed and the significance of this question.
3. Methods used and the results obtained.
4. Conclusions drawn from these results and their significance.
5. Plan for Research Day submission.
6. Signature of faculty sponsor.

NOTE: If project is not complete when submitting the October 27th report, a final report will be required no later than March 31, 2024.

**Research Day:** All awardees are **required** to submit a first-author abstract for the Rockford campus Research Day in Spring 2024. Craig Fellows whose projects are incomplete must contact the Research Coordinator in the Office of Research or to [dzbrown@uic.edu](mailto:dzbrown@uic.edu), documenting their reason for not participating in Research Day.

**IMPORTANT: Failure to submit reports and/or participate in Research Day will result in no mention of the student’s participation in this program on the student’s Medical Student Performance Evaluation (MSPE) for residency applications.WALTER RICE CRAIG STUDENT SUMMER RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM**

**UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS COLLEGE OF MEDICINE ROCKFORD**

**APPLICATION**

**Applications must be typewritten or legibly printed. Parts I and II must be completed by the student and their faculty advisor, respectively, then the application, project proposal and student CV (preferably as one PDF document) are submitted to the Office of Research as instructed below.**

**(Part I)** **Student Information**

Name:**Click or tap here to enter text.** Phone:**Click or tap here to enter text.**

E-mail:**Click or tap here to enter text.**

I have reviewed the Walter Rice Craig Student Summer Research Fellowship Program information and intend to satisfy all requirements to the best of my ability.

Signature: Date:**Click or tap to enter a date.**

**==============================================================================**

**(Part II)** **Faculty Sponsor’s Statement**

I have reviewed the attached proposal and consider it feasible and worthwhile. I will supervise the student on the project during the summer months, help the student to prepare for the Rockford campus Research Day, and ensure that the student fulfills all requirements of this fellowship.

Name:**Click or tap here to enter text.** E-mail:**Click or tap here to enter text.**

Institution/Department:**Click or tap here to enter text.** Phone:**Click or tap here to enter text.**

Signature: Date:**Click or tap to enter a date.**

**STOP**

**HERE**

**SUBMIT APPLICATION, PROJECT PROPOSAL AND STUDENT CV TO:**

**DALIAH BROWN** [dzbrown@uic.edu](mailto:dzbrown@uic.edu)

**OFFICE OF RESEARCH**

**1601 PARKVIEW AVE, ROCKFORD, IL 61107**

**==============================================================================**

**(Part III) COMPLETED BY OFFICE OF STUDENT AFFAIRS**

* Students who fail courses which require make-ups are not eligible.
* Students required to complete summer remediation exams are not eligible.
* Students may only participate in one summer fellowship program.
* Students must be active and not on a leave of absence.

The above named student: ❑ IS academically eligible. ❑ IS NOT academically eligible.

Signature: Assistant Dean for Student Affairs Date