The Hispanic Center of Excellence (HCOE) at Albert Einstein College of Medicine (Einstein) was the first of its kind in New York State. Initially federally funded, the program’s mission is to catalyze and operationalize Einstein’s institutional commitment to underrepresented minorities in the Bronx and to provide leadership in research and education in Hispanic health issues. The Center shall develop innovative methods to strengthen and enhance academic performance by minority students, improve education in diversity and cultural competency for all students and faculty, and foster minority faculty development and promotion.

THE SUMMER UNDERGRADUATE MENTORSHIP PROGRAM

The Summer Undergraduate Mentorship Program (SUMP) of the Hispanic Center of Excellence at the Albert Einstein College of Medicine is a six-week program that offers students from underrepresented groups in medicine and/or economically disadvantaged background a unique opportunity to become exposed to the nuances of the medical profession through a “shadowing” experience with a physician and a comprehensive curriculum, including medical lectures, hands-on workshops and research experience under the supervision of a research mentor and the medical librarians at Einstein.

SUMP is a six-week summer program that requires full time commitment (Monday-Friday). The curriculum includes four core components: 1) clinical shadowing, 2) clinical didactics, 3) research and medical informatics, and 4) studying skills, as detailed below. The program is comprised of a six to eight-hour per week shadowing experience with an assigned physician mentor and fourteen hours per week of workshops and lectures. The remaining time is devoted to a research project on healthcare disparities, guided by a research mentor and the medical librarians at Einstein.

In addition, parental participation is encouraged to our evening parental workshop on financial aid and navigating the medical school admissions process.

DATES
Program orientation is June 16, 2016 and the program dates are June 21 to August 4, 2016

CLINICAL SHADOWING EXPERIENCE

The student will be expected to spend the equivalent of two, three-hour blocks shadowing their assigned mentor. Every effort will be made to match students with mentors in the areas of their specified interest. Clinical mentors will have the ability to tailor the shadowing experience according to individual student skill level, motivation and interest. Mentor site assignments will range from outpatient ambulatory care to in-patient hospital based, or clinical research settings. Students will be given hands-on experience and encouraged to focus on the patient and physician dynamic. Clinical research opportunities will be limited to eligible students.

WORKSHOPS and LECTURES

The lecture and workshop series will be presented three times per week during the first six weeks of the program. These lectures will be given by Einstein/HCOE faculty members and special guests. Sessions will cover a wide range of topics including patient interview, the medical school application
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clinical research design. Included in the lecture series will be a weekly informal “rap session”. These “rap sessions” will take place once per week, and are designed to be a forum for informal discussion and networking, as well as an opportunity for students to gain insight into the nuances of a career in the medical field.

RESEARCH and MEDICAL INFORMATICS:

Students are also expected to become familiar with medical informatics and conduct a research project while in the program, guided by a research mentor and the medical librarians at Einstein. Upon completion of the six weeks, the students will submit a written paper and give an oral presentation on their topic. The topics are expected to be based on either the student’s experience with their clinical mentor and/or on topics discussed during one of the core curriculum components with particular attention to its significance on Hispanic and minority health status. The oral presentation will be given at the conclusion of the program to fellow students, family members, mentors and AECOM faculty. Students will have the support and guidance of their mentors and HCOE faculty for these activities. The last week of the program will be dedicated to the research project refinement and presentation rehearsal and feedback.

STUDYING SKILLS and OTHER ACTIVITIES

The program will include test taking strategies and MCAT preparation techniques.

Other activities will include community field trips and tours of clinical facilities. Students will have the opportunity to establish relationships and ask questions in an informal, relaxed setting during the weekly rap sessions with medical students, residents and HCOE faculty.

STIPENDS/HOUSING

Upon completion of the six weeks, students will be awarded a $1,000 stipend and a certificate of completion. An award ceremony will be given at the end of the program, where all students, parents, and HCOE faculty and mentors will be invited to attend. Transportation vouchers will be provided for participation in lectures and mentoring experience. Breakfast and/or lunch will also be provided during scheduled lectures.

Students should live in the Bronx or Metropolitan area. Student housing is not provided.

MEDICAL CLEARANCE

All students are expected to have had medical clearance before their start date (By Orientation June 16th). A medical clearance form is included in the application packet. Should any questions/issues arise regarding this matter, please contact Natalia Rodriguez, HCOE administrator, at either nataliarodriguez0629@gmail.com or HCOE@einstein.yu.edu
GOALS OF THE PROGRAM

1. To enhance students’ awareness regarding the field of medicine, by exposing them to a health care setting in which they can observe the daily routines of practicing physicians.

2. To introduce student’s to the patient-doctor relationship and the practice of patient interviewing.

3. To increase student’s awareness of the importance of cultural sensitivity and competence in medicine.

4. To expand student’s knowledge of medical topics and options within the field of medicine by providing them with various workshops and didactic sessions.

5. To engage students in conducting health disparities research with the assistance of a research mentor

6. To provide students with the necessary research tools, leadership skills, and health care professionals network that will facilitate and enforce their future goals.

7. To strengthen student’s decisions to enter the medical field by fostering a long term relationship with their mentors and by providing practical helpful information on the medical school entrance process.

We hope that these goals will serve to motivate students to pursue their future medical career endeavors, build confidence, advance leadership skills, foster working mentorship relationships, and encourage further research on health disparities.

TROUBLESHOOTING

If you are unclear about the application process, you should contact the Summer Undergraduate Mentorship Program, please contact Natalia Rodriguez, HCOE Administrator, at nataliarodriguez0629@gmail.com or hcoe@einstein.yu.edu.