

L1/L2 Summer Experiences

This document has been compiled by current L2s & L3s to provide some insight into the variety of activities available during the summer months between first year and second year. The students listed have provided the information because they have volunteered to give any advice or answer any questions on this topic so please feel free to contact them. Green indicates that the student is now an L3 & purple indicates that the student is a current L2. If you are looking for a faculty mentor, please check out the Protégés website as well.

<http://www.medschool.lsuhs.edu/mentors/protoges.aspx>

NAME	CONTACT INFO	RESEARCH/ACTIVITY
Holly Martin	Hmart1@lsuhsc.edu or (985) 778-1407	I traveled to Haiti over my Christmas break between 1 st and 2 nd semester of 1 st year, and I participated in a week long medical mission trip providing health care to the people of the small village of Jacsonville, Haiti. I went with 2 other then L1s and 4 then L2s. The team sends mission teams every 3-4 months.
Vilija Vaitaitis	vvaita@lsuhsc.edu	Mentor: Dr. Judy Crabtree Department: Genetics Research Focus: I looked at the role of micro RNAs in the tumor syndrome, Multiple Endocrine Neoplasia, type I (MEN1).
Natalie Halapin	nhalap@lsuhsc.edu or 724-422-4333	Mentor: Dr. Daniel Kapusta, Pharmacology Research: The lab, in general, focuses on central control of blood pressure. My research focuses on kidney damage & potential protective agents in hemorrhagic shock (and possibly later, radiocontrast-induced ATN)
Sarah Frischhertz	sfrisc@lsuhsc.edu 225-955-4341	Mentor: Mandi Lopez, DVM, MS, PhD, Veterinary Surgeon Department/Lab: Laboratory for Equine and Comparative Orthopedic Research (LECOR) at the LSU School of Veterinary Medicine; http://equine.vetmed.lsu.edu/lecor.html Research Focus: Effects of Chronic Alcohol Abuse on Bone (in a primate model)
Raeanna Simcoe	rpoplu@lsuhsc.edu	Mentor: Dr. Mandi J. Lopez DVM, MS, PhD Department: Laboratory for Equine and Comparative Orthopedic Research, Veterinary Clinical Sciences, LSU School of Veterinary Medicine Research Focus: Studied cellular changes that occur during equine laminitis, a devastating condition affecting a significant number of horses. Used qRT-PCR and immunohistochemistry to observe differences in expression of stem cell and keratinocyte markers in laminitic hooves versus normal hooves. Found changes that may give insight into the cellular cause of laminitis as well as human diseases of the epidermal-dermal junction including epidermolysis bullosa and pemphigus foliaceus.
Hannah Albritton	halbri@lsuhsc.edu	Mentor: Dr. Alison Quayle in MIP Research Focus: Her lab looks at the immunological response to <i>Chlamydia</i> infections. I worked with how <i>Chlamydia</i> modulates macrophage response to infections (all in vitro; she doesn't use the animal models).
Daniel Punecky	dpunek@lsuhsc.edu	Mentor: Patricia Molina, MD PhD Department: Physiology Research Focus: Use of Endocannabinoid antagonists in treatment of traumatic brain injury
Manu Mysore	mmysor@lsuhsc.edu	Mentor: Dr. Agnes Fogo Institution: Vanderbilt Department/Lab: Pathology (Fogo Lab) Research Focus: Reversal and regression of glomerulosclerosis Overall View of Experience: It was a great experience to be able to do research in a field that I've had very little experience in. My PI was very accommodating towards my skill level and expertise to put me on a project that was a great learning experience as well as something that was publishable. The program was sponsored by the NIDDK and the Vanderbilt S RTP program, and I would highly recommend it for those interested in diabetes and kidney-related research.
Ally Darga	adarga@lsuhsc.edu	Summer Activity: Lived in Northern Wisconsin, played on the lake in the boat by day and bartended by night. Overall View of Experience: I realized this was probably going to be my last summer so I took full advantage of it. As an out-of-state student, I knew I wanted to spend my summer in Wisconsin. At first, I looked into doing research with my PI from undergrad, but ultimately, I just wanted to go back into school as refreshed and energized as possible. For me that meant living at my cabin, playing on the lakes and only working four nights per week. I will forever be happy about my decision. When I came back to LA, I was really ready to start the hardest year of medical school.

Ethan Rault	erault@lsuhsc.edu	<p>Summer Activity: AHEC. Through this program, I was paired up with a doctor in Mandeville for 4 weeks. The experience involved taking patient histories, doing physical exams, and sometimes participating in suturing.</p> <p>Overall View of Experience: Overall, it was a good experience. I got some practice doing H&Ps and getting to suture was pretty cool. However, I would recommend being more specific when requesting the type of setting in which you would like to do your AHEC. I was placed at a Redi-Med, which had its advantages due to their being a high patient load, but I know that that isn't the setting in which I would want to work. Also, I wish I had done some research over the summer, because I am now involved in research and wish I had had the summer to get a lot of that work done.</p>
Amanda Glinky	aglink@lsuhsc.edu	<p>Mentor: Dr. Pinki Prasad Institution: Children's Hospital (via Dr. Gregory's summer research program) Department/Lab: Hematology & Oncology Research Focus: Adolescent and Young Adult Cancer Patient Survival Rates Overall View of Experience: Great experience with a great group of people and I still had time for a restful summer!</p>
Sydney LeGuyader	mleguy@lsuhsc.edu	<p>Mentor: Dr. Guy Orangio Institution: LSUHSC Department/Lab: Surgery Research Focus: Colorectal cancer (clinical) Overall View of Experience: Awesome experience! I learned a lot about general surgical/heme onc medical care as well as got to know some really key people in the surgery and oncology departments at both LSU and Tulane. I would highly recommend doing research in the surgery department.</p>
April Lao	plao1@lsuhsc.edu	<p>Mentor: Dr. Jorgelina Calandria/Dr. Nicolas Bazan Institution: LSUHSC Department/Lab: Neuroscience Research Focus: Investigated expression of Aβ by RPE cells under oxidative stress (this process is thought to be involved in age related macular degeneration) Overall View of Experience: Overall, I learned a lot working in the lab and felt like I did a lot of productive and meaningful lab work. However, I do think that a summer is too short to make very much progress on a bench project. I really enjoyed working in the lab over the summer, so I'm planning on continuing my research throughout the year in the honors program.</p>
Christine Dozier	cdozie@lsuhsc.edu	<p>Summer Activity: 4 week Vascular Surgery clinical experience in Germany Overall View of Experience: It was awesome! I had interesting clinical experiences on the wards and in the OR, met some great people, and saw how healthcare works in another country. It was important to me to take the opportunity to travel while I had the time, since I never had been abroad before. And by the way, I was able to do this even though I don't speak German.</p>
Jeffrey Wang	jwang4@lsuhsc.edu	<p>Mentor: Dr. Hamid Boulares Institution: LSUHSC Department/Lab: Pharmacology and Experimental Therapeutics Research Focus: Asthma Overall View of Experience: It was awesome, non-stressful and had great mentors.</p>
Spandu Induru	sindur@lsuhsc.edu	<p>Summer Activity: AHEC - 4 week preceptorship with a pediatrician/neonatologist Overall View of Experience: I shadowed Dr. Harish Anand of Pediatric KidMed at Oschner Westbank for 4 weeks over the summer. I highly recommend a preceptorship through AHEC because it is like doing a third year rotation with less pressure. You are able to participate in History and Physical Exam taking to hone those skills you learn during the first year and it is a great ice breaker experience in patient interaction. My preceptor worked in both the clinic and the hospital so I was able to see two sides of medicine as well as get great advice from him and the other physicians in his practice. I was also able to build good rapport with nurses and staff. Because I was working at the hospital and clinic for 4 weeks I actually was able to have a sense of continuity of care as patients came to the clinic for post-hospital visit follow-ups. The AHEC program gives you a lot of scheduling freedom with the 3 different available blocks and also will work to pair you with your specialty of interest.</p>
Thu Ha Nguyen	tngu32@lsuhsc.edu	<p>Summer Activity: Guatemala medical trip. 10 days with 5 day clinic/5 days touring. In a 2 peer group, we interviewed, examined, diagnosed, and treated/prescribed medications on our own. We had a group of 35 students and saw 1200 patients in the one week. We saw a lot of parasites, chronic conditions, GI symptoms, and even some malignancies. It was very hands on and independent work. It is very gratifying and humbling when a patient is so thankful and hugs you for a simple prescription. But, you're the best "doctors" these villagers will ever be</p>

		<p>able to see in a year. After the toll of a long work week, it's great to see what Guatemala has to offer. We went volcano climbing, stayed at a black-sand beach, took a boat trip, visited coffee plantations, zip-lining, shopping, bar-hopping, dancing, and the FOOD IS PHENOMENAL. It's also planned genius-ly after Camp Tiger and before all the AHEC or research begins.</p> <p>Overall View of Experience: Great clinical, traveling, and class cohesive experience</p>
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