**Purpose**: To interest and challenge registered undergraduates, pre-med and current medical school students to pursue biomedical and clinical research as it relates to cancer. Participants are offered an opportunity to perform research supervised by faculty at the Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center (LSUHSC), Stanley S. Scott Cancer Center (SSSCC), Ochsner Medical Center, Children’s Hospital New Orleans, and Mary Bird Perkins Cancer Center. The program entails an 8-week summer internship. Opportunities for long-term involvement with research are also available through the program. A concomitant 8-week track with emphasis on cancer disparities is offered to selected minority students from Dillard University. It is hoped that the experience will encourage participants to make career choices, which may ultimately benefit cancer patients, contribute to the eradication of this disease, and increase ethnic and racial minority health care workers in the field of cancer.

**Time**: ***Friday, June 5th thru Friday, July 31st, 2015***

**Eligibility**: Must be a registered undergraduate, graduate student, and/or medical school student in good standing with interest in science or health related field with a GPA average of 3.0 or higher.

**Application**: Students desiring to take part in the program are requested to complete the attached application form.

**Deadline**: ***Friday, March 12th, 2015*** is the deadline for applying to this year's program. **A completed application and all supporting documents** must be sent and received to the following address.

Email: ***jestra@lsuhsc.edu*** ***AND*** ***isaeed@lsuhsc.edu***

Mail***: John J. Estrada, MD, Program Director***

***Attention: Imran Saeed***

***Louisiana Research Cancer Center***

***1700 Tulane Ave. RM 913***

***New Orleans, LA 70112***

**Selection**: The Cancer Education Committee of LSUHSC, Stanley S. Scott Cancer Center reviews and ranks the applicants. **Only the highest-ranking applicants who have completed the application form, and have sent all supporting documents by the deadline will be considered for an interview.** Selected applicants will be contacted *March 13th* to set up an interview. These interviews will take place between *March 19th and 20th****.***

Notices of acceptance will be sent on or before *Friday, March 25th, 2015*. Those not chosen will also receive notice to that effect on this date.

**Participation**: Research projects are under the supervision of the Basic Sciences/Clinical Research Faculty of LSUHSC, Ochsner Medical Center, Children’s Hospital New Orleans, and Mary Bird Perkins Cancer Center. Research involves the basic (laboratory based), clinical (prevention, clinical research, and clinical trials), and/or epidemiological aspects of cancer. Students are required to work at least forty (40) hours per week, attend weekly seminars on cancer-related topics, and make presentations of their research. By signing this application, prospective candidates agree to these terms.

 **Short-Term Research Activities**

**Meet Your**

**Mentor: *Wednesday, June 3rd thru Friday, June 5th.*** During this time, students will have an opportunity to meet with your mentor. Mentor appointment will be done according to the field of interest of each student. Meeting with your mentor during this time is **optional**.

**Orientation: *June 5, 2015* is Orientation Day (mandatory attendance).** Students will meet at 8:00am in the 9th Floor Conference Room at the Louisiana Cancer Research Center (LCRC), 1700 Tulane Ave.; New Orleans, LA 70112. During Orientation, students will be required to complete paperwork for parking and for their stipend. Students will also receive a picture ID and will also take the web-based CITI training course (ethics in research training). The orientation will last approximately ½ day. Students may use the time after orientation to meet with their mentor (**optional**).

**Research**

**Project Title**: Mentor and mentee shall discuss the research project and decide on a title. All research project titles should be given to the coordinator no later than ***Friday, June 12th***. Issues/Problems with the mentor-mentee matching should be brought up to the attention of the program director *before Thursday, June 11th*.

**Open House: *July 7, 2015***. 9:00am, LCRC, 1st floor **A**uditorium. Students will be responsible for a one-slide PowerPoint presentation of your research project, targeted to the general public. Parents and other family members will be invited to attend.

**Closing Day: *July 31, 2015*.** 8:00am, LCRC, 9th floor Conference Room. Closing activities of the Program will include a 4-hour poster presentation, judging, and an award ceremony at 1:30 pm. Three faculty members will judge the posters and presentations. There may be three prize categories – undergraduate student, medical student, and overall category – which are subject to be changed by the judges, according to the breath of the presented research.

 The overall winner will be awarded an all-expense paid trip to attend the 57th National Student Research Forum, in April of 2016 in Galveston, TX. The mentor of the winning student will also receive a monetary prize of $500 to be applied toward expenses to attend a scientific meeting or to buy supplies for his/her research.

 On closing day, students are required to complete an evaluation of the director, coordinator, mentors, and Program. Additionally, all mentors are required to submit an evaluation of their students and the Program.

**Credit/grade:** This research experience can be offered for credit. A grade will be given if required by your school.

**Stipend**: The stipend is $3,500.00 for all students for the entire 8-weeks experience. There is no overtime payment beyond the required 40 hours per week of work. The stipend is paid in two installments during the 8-weeks of work, the first being after the 4th week.

**Personal**

**needs:** Housing, transportation, meals, personal health insurance, and other personal needs rest solely with each student.

**Parking:** Students are charged $35 per month to park in the LSUHSC garage (fee subject to change). Daily pay parking is also available at the garage or on the street.

**Information**: John J. Estrada, MD at jestra@lsuhsc.edu and/or Imran Saeed at isaeed@lsuhsc.edu