Summer Research Position – Wayne State University

We are currently accepting applications to participate in laboratory biomedical research with members of the faculty in the Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences during the summer of 2013. Our Summer Undergraduate Research Fellows (SURF) program provides students with the opportunity to gain direct experience conducting research in the laboratory of a departmental faculty member. In addition, fellows will be exposed to a variety of elements important in the conduct of such research. Enclosed you will find a description of the program and directions for applying.

The stipend for this Summer Research Fellowship is $4500; the 2013 SURF application is attached, as is a more detailed description of the 2013 SURF Program.

We hope you will consider submitting an application to our Summer Undergraduate Research Fellows Program. The deadline for receipt of application materials is Friday, March 1, 2013.

Sincerely,

Randall L. Commissaris, Ph.D.
Associate Professor
2013 SURF Program Coordinator
The Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences at Wayne State University invites talented undergraduate students to discover the excitement of conducting research in our laboratories during a 12-week summer intern program. Openings are available in Medicinal Chemistry, Pharmacology & Toxicology, and Pharmaceutics (drug delivery) laboratories. **We provide a stipend of approximately $4,500 for this program. Please complete the following application and return to the indicated address.**

Name: __________________________________________________________

Campus address: __________________________________________________

Home address: ____________________________________________________

Telephone No: ___________________________ Cell: _______________________

Email Address(es): ________________________________________________

Current College/University: _________________________________________

Anticipated Graduation (Month/Year): ____________ Major: ________________

GPA: __________________ SAT Score: ______________ ACT Score: __________

Career Plan After Undergraduate Education: __________________________

**Candidate’s Statement:** Please provide a brief statement (200-300 words) describing why you are interested in this program and what your anticipated career plans are after graduation; also provide any exceptional aspects/features that should be considered in the evaluation of your application.

**References:** Please provide two letters of recommendation; please have letters sent directly to Dr. Randall Commissaris (Commissaris@wayne.edu):

**Application Deadline:** Friday, March 1, 2013

Return application by mail, FAX or email to:

Randall L. Commissaris, Ph.D.
Summer Undergraduate Research Fellows Program
Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences
Applebaum College of Pharmacy & Health Sciences
Wayne State University
Detroit, MI 48202

Email: Commissaris@wayne.edu; FAX: 313-577-2033
Summer Undergraduate Research Fellows (SURF) Program

Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences
Applebaum College of Pharmacy & Health Sciences
Wayne State University

Summer – 2013

Objective:

The objective of the Summer Undergraduate Research Fellows (SURF) program within the Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences is to provide undergraduate students with an intensive research experience in the pharmaceutical sciences. This will be accomplished primarily via direct research experiences in NIH-funded faculty research laboratories. This hands-on research experience will be augmented by a variety of additional experiences, including special topic seminars, a weekly ‘Meet the Mentors’ program, journal clubs and laboratory group meetings.

Start and End Dates for SURF Program:

The SURF program runs for 12 weeks and will pay a stipend of approximately $4,500. The SURF program will start on Monday, May 13, 2013 and will end on Friday, August 2, 2013. Later start dates often can be accommodated. If the mentor can provide support for the student and the project, the SURF student and mentor are welcome to continue the project beyond the official end date.

Schedule for the SURF 2013 Program:

March/April: Selection of Fellows and Assignment of Mentors:
The deadline for receiving SURF 2013 application is Friday March 1, 2013. Students will be selected and notified by email on or before Friday, March 15, 2013. Mentor selection will be based in part upon the research interests described by the SURF applicant, with available space and resources in the laboratory used as additional factors in the assignment decision.

May 13, 2013 - SURF 2013 Day 1:
SURF students will initiate paperwork for ID cards, payment and will register for all necessary training and certification programs.

Weeks 1-2 – Orientation, Training and Certification:
In the first few days of the program, SURF students will receive training and certification in all areas pertinent to their research projects. All SURF students will attend University-sponsored classes on Laboratory Safety and Hazardous Waste Management. Depending upon the nature of their individual research project, additional SURF Students training may include Blood Borne
Pathogens, Use and Handling of Small Animals, and Radiation Safety. In addition all SURF students will attend a Special Topics Seminar on Record Keeping in Biomedical Research. **Note that SURF students will complete all pertinent training prior to beginning work in a laboratory.**

**Weeks 2-12 – Typical Schedule Monday thru Thursday – laboratory work:**
Monday thru Thursday the SURF Students will work on a research project within the laboratory of their Research Mentor. Typically SURF student projects are separate projects within the larger scope of the Mentor’s laboratory goals. SURF students work with the close supervision and guidance of the SURF Mentor and/or senior personnel within the Mentor’s laboratory. SURF students also participate in laboratory meetings and journal clubs within personnel from the Mentor’s laboratory. The Research Mentor will determine the format, content and schedule for laboratory meetings and journal clubs.

**Weeks 2-12 – Fridays:**

**Friday Morning Special Topics Seminars:** Throughout the program, SURF students will attend a weekly Special Topics Seminar presented by a pharmaceutical sciences faculty member. The topics of these seminars (some topics will require more than one week) include Training for a Research Career, Hypothesis Formulation and Testing, Funding of Biomedical Research, Publication of Research Results, Bibliographic Searching Techniques, Scientific Integrity and Intellectual Property, Literature Evaluation and Careers in the Pharmaceutical Industry.

**Friday Midday “Meet the Mentors” Lunches:** All SURF Students participants will meet weekly as a group for a series of lunch outings called the “Meet the Mentors” program. These lunch meetings typically are outings at local restaurants where all of the SURF students spend time with an individual faculty member. Over the course of the summer, all program mentors (as well as departmental faculty members who are not serving as mentors in the summer) will host one of these “Meet the Mentors” lunches. At these lunches, the Mentors will provide a brief (10-15 minute) autobiography, followed by a question and answer period.

**Friday Afternoon “Mini-Rotations”:** Throughout the program, SURF students will visit other SURF laboratories for a brief into the overall research interests of the laboratory, an overview of the individual SURF student’s project and a demonstration of some of the research techniques used within that particular laboratory. SURF students will lead these mini-rotations, with assistance from the SURF’s Mentor and/or other supervisory personnel.

**Week 12 – SURF Program Ends:**
The SURF 2013 program officially ends on Friday, August 2, 2013. If the mentor can provide continuing support for the student and the project, the SURF student and mentor are welcome to continue the project beyond the official end date.
Special Events – Summer 2013

- **Detroit Red Wings Stanley Cup Parade/Reception**: On those occasions when the Detroit Red Wings have been Stanley Cup Champions (most recently 2008), several SURF students attended the Parade and Reception at Hart Plaza downtown. The Red Wings seem to be in a ‘rebuilding’ process this year, but with an abbreviated season, who knows what might happen?

- **International Freedom Festival Fireworks**: Although not coordinated by the Department, many SURF students attend the International Freedom Festival Fireworks on the Detroit River.

- **Cedar Point Outing**: For those SURF students who are interested, often there has been a day trip to the Cedar Point Amusement Park. SURF students pay their own way for this outing.

- **Detroit Tigers Baseball**: The Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences arranges for a department-wide outing to Comerica Park to see the Tigers, typically on a Thursday afternoon. The ballpark is less than a 10-minute walk from the Applebaum Building. Last year’s Tigers baseball outing was July 19, 2013, when the Tigers hosted the Los Angeles Angels of Anaheim, and won !!! SURF students receive complimentary admission, courtesy of their Research Mentors.

- **College-Wide Research Symposium**: Early in the fall 2013 semester, there will be a college-wide Research Symposium. All SURF students receive complimentary registration for this meeting and are encouraged to present their research findings in a poster discussion session with other College faculty and staff.