Description

The SF BUILD is a partnership between UCSF and San Francisco State University (SF State) to increase the diversity of the biomedical research workforce. SF BUILD is unique in its goal of mitigating stereotype threat and desire to create affirming and inclusive research and teaching environments. The Student Training Program is a pipeline/pathway program to support underrepresented undergraduate students in a research internship for 1-2 years, until they graduate from SF State. Each year, 10-15 trainees or “BUILD Scholars” are selected and begin the program with an 8-week summer virtual research experience where they were introduced to coding in R, data analysis and statistics.

Placement in a research group

Each student is interested in pursuing graduate study (most PhD-Bound). SF BUILD scholars are juniors or seniors who will graduate in 1-2 years. During this time, they will be paid through the SF BUILD program to work in a lab/research team like yours for 15 hours per week during Fall and Spring and 40 hours/week during the summer and academic intermissions. The goal is for the Scholar to acquire research skills and work toward completion of an independent project, like a poster or publication, during the time with the research group.

Logistics

Each Scholar has an academic appointment with UCSF as a “Visiting Undergraduate Scholar” which includes a UCSF E-mail, UCSF ID and other privileges such as a UCSF MyAccess account. The Scholar’s department is listed as Epidemiology and Biostatistics (home of the parent grant) and will continue in that department until the student completes their first year, at which they will complete their academic appointment toward their next step (e.g. hired by department, go on to graduate school) or have their appointment renewed to complete the second year. Room or other badge access can be granted via the UCSF People Connect.

Other notes

- Each scholar is asked to complete a Scholar Development Plan (similar to an IDP) and request it to be reviewed with the mentor(s) at least twice per year
- Mentorship can come in many forms, but in working with undergraduates, we recommend discussion of individual research group expectations, setting up regular meeting times, and possibility of a team-model for mentorship when available. For example, the Principal Investigator may co-mentor with a postdoc, graduate student or other research staff.

Thank you in advance for your time and dedication to your Scholar and support of SF BUILD.

Please feel free to reach out to us at any point to answer any questions.

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