

SPARK Research Scholar Award Application 2016

What is a SPARK Research Scholar Award?

SPARK Research Scholar Awards will allow students to take part in an eight-week, mentored research project at the UC Davis Institute for Regenerative Cures, including a certificated course in stem cell biology and exposure to clinical medicine. The training program will take place at the UC Davis Institute for Regenerative Cures from **June 13th to August 5th**. Support for the program is provided by a California Institute for Regenerative Medicine (CIRM) SPARK Award to PI Gerhard Bauer, lead program instructor for the training. Trainees will present their stem cell biology research projects at the CIRM SPARK Award Poster Day in mid-August 2016 (day and time TBA).

Important Dates

Note the following important dates for students interested in applying for the SPARK Research Scholar program:

- **January 29th TBC Registration Lists Due from Sponsor Teachers** (*Only TBC2016 student participants submitting "judging quality" websites to their sponsor teachers and included on this registration list may submit SPARK Research Scholar applications on March 29th. Note: Research Scholar applicants do not have to be selected by sponsor teachers as Final Entrants in the TBC2016 contest in order to apply.*)
- **March 18th TBC Final Entries Due**
- **March 29th SPARK Research Scholar Award Applications Due** via email to dsjamison@ucdavis.edu with a cc to jacphillips@ucdavis.edu. An online UCDMC Volunteer Services Application should be completed by this date, as well (<https://secure.ucdmc.ucdavis.edu/giving/time/application/>).
- **April 5th SPARK Research Scholar Awards Announced**
- **May 17th or June 7th – Mandatory UCDMC Volunteer Services Orientation Meeting/Information Session for selected Research Scholars** ****Plan to attend one of these meeting dates. Students that miss the meeting will not be able to participate in the summer research program****
- **May 2nd Teen Biotech Challenge Winners Announced Online**
- **May 20th Teen Biotech Challenge Awards Banquet & Symposium**
- **June 13th Research Scholar Orientation and Biosafety Training**, UC Davis Institute for Regenerative Cures, UCDMC (9am-5pm)
- **June 13th – August 5th SPARK Research Scholar Program** ****mandatory M-F, 8am-5pm****
- **Mid-August (exact date and location TBA) - CIRM SPARK Award Poster Day**
****mandatory attendance****

Who may receive a SPARK Research Scholar Award?

Five SPARK Research Scholar Awards will be made to TBC Participants that meet the following **eligibility criteria:**

- 1) complete a “judging quality” TBC2016 website and abide by all contest submission deadlines, including the January 29th Sponsor Teacher submission of the TBC Registration List. **Note: Research Scholar applicants do not have to be selected by sponsor teachers as Final Entrants in the TBC2016 contest in order to apply.**
- 2) submit a competitive SPARK Research Scholar Award application, including a letter from the TBC sponsor teacher (details on the next page)
- 3) meet eligibility requirements for Volunteer Services at the UC Davis Medical Center, including the volunteer age requirement (participants preferred to be **16 years of age** by the start of the program on June 13, 2016, and may not be younger than 15 years of age), signing of a confidentiality waiver, photo taking for the ID badge, completion of all forms, and **if selected to participate as a SPARK Research Scholar, UCDMC Volunteer Services will require timely submission of the following medical documentation (Note – these requirements may be updated for 2016 and any additional items will be announced on or after March 31st):**
 - a. **MMR** - 2 dates for MMR (Rubella, Rubeola & Mumps)
 - b. **TB test** (PPD Version) - TWO STEP PROCESS, 1st test within the 12 months, and 2nd test within 3 months of the volunteer start date (June 13th). Or, a TB Quantiferon Gold blood draw within 12 months. If you test positive for TB you are required to do additional steps (please inquire with Volunteer Services).
 - c. **VARICELLA (chicken pox)** - 2 dates for Varicella or documentation from a physician stating you have had a serology showing immunity to the virus.
 - d. **Flu vaccination** (during flu season only)

“If a selected Research Scholar does not have insurance coverage, they will be asked to call the Volunteer Services office (916-734-2401) for further details. Volunteer Services will determine the next step in the process and move forward with the necessary documentation. If lab work is needed, it may take up to 10 working days to complete.”

- 4) attend a mandatory **UCDMC Volunteer Services Orientation** meeting on May 17th or June 7th (sign up for one of these dates with UCDMC and notify the TBC organizers)
- 5) attend the mandatory **UC Davis Institute for Regenerative Cures Program Orientation and Biosafety Training** meeting on **Monday, June 13, 2016, 8am-5pm**
- 6) have availability ~8am-5pm (M-F) for the duration of the research experience (June 13th to August 5th), participating in all related research, coursework, training and group activities, including the **CIRM SPARK Award Poster Day** (mid-August, exact date & location TBA, transportation will be provided from UCDMC to the event location)
- 7) have transportation to and from the UCDMC research site in Sacramento for the duration of the program, June 13th to August 5th

What does a complete SPARK Research Scholar Award application include?

SPARK Research Scholar Awards will be made based on completion of a judging quality TBC website (which does not have to be one of the final seven websites submitted by the Sponsor Teacher for judging) and review of emailed application materials, including:

- 1) Statement of Intent with Three Sections
 - a. Contact Information: List your name, name of parents/guardians, name of sponsor teacher and high school, contact phone numbers and email addresses for each person.
 - b. Learning Section: What do you hope to learn through the Research Scholar experience? What strengths will you bring to the program? How will this research experience further your academic and career goals? (250 words or less)
 - c. Logistics Section: Do you live close enough to the UC Davis Medical Center in Sacramento, CA, to fully participate in mandatory meetings, eight weeks of full-time training (8am-5pm, M-F) and to attend the CIRM SPARK Award Poster Day in mid-August? Describe any hardships (transportation, financial, personal) that you may experience if selected to participate in the program. (250 words or less)
- 2) Letter of Recommendation from TBC Sponsor Teacher with assessment of:
 - a. TBC participant's academic qualifications
 - b. TBC participant's ability to work as a member of a research team
 - c. Potential of the SPARK Research Scholar experience to positively impact the TBC participant's academic and career goals
 - d. Challenges or hardships that would prevent the TBC participant from securing a similar research opportunity in the near future
- 3) UCDMC Volunteer Services online forms
 - a. Volunteer Services Application
<https://secure.ucdmc.ucdavis.edu/giving/time/application/>
 - b. Waiver of Liability, Assumption of Risk, and Indemnity Agreement (pdf file – print, fill out and scan to pdf for emailing back)

Please submit all three components of the SPARK Research Scholar Award Application (including a pdf of the signed UCDMC Waiver of Liability form) via email to dsjamison@ucdavis.edu by **5pm on Tuesday, March 29th** and cc Jacqueline Phillips (jacphillips@ucdavis.edu). The online UCDMC volunteer application should be filled out by March 29th, as well. Research Scholar Awards will be announced via email on **Tuesday, April 5th**. Selected participants will be instructed to contact UCDMC Volunteer Services immediately, in order to sign up for the mandatory orientation meetings (meeting dates will be announced in the email). Please direct any questions about the application process to Dr. Denneal Jamison-McClung at dsjamison@ucdavis.edu.