

SPARK Research Scholar Award Application 2018

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 11th to August 3rd**. 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 **2-day CIRM-SPARK Trainee Meeting in mid-August 2018 (days and times TBA)**.

Important Dates

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

- **February 1, 2018 – TBC Registration Lists Due from Sponsor Teachers** (*Only TBC2018 student participants submitting “judging quality” websites to their sponsor teachers and included on this registration list may submit SPARK Research Scholar applications on February 22nd. Note: Research Scholar applicants do not have to be selected by sponsor teachers as Final Entrants in the TBC2018 contest in order to apply.*)
- **February 22, 2018 – SPARK Research Scholar Award Applications Due** via email to dsjamison@ucdavis.edu. An online UCDMC Volunteer Services Application should be completed by this date, as well (<https://secure.ucdmc.ucdavis.edu/giving/time/application/>).
- **March 22, 2018 – TBC Final Entries Due**
- **April 12, 2018 – SPARK Research Scholar Awards Announced**
- **Late April thru Early June (exact dates TBA) – Mandatory UCDMC Volunteer Services Orientation Meeting/Information Session for selected SPARK Research Scholars** ****Plan to attend one of the meeting dates, which will be announced with the awards. Awarded students who do not attend a UCDMC Volunteer Services Orientation meeting will not be able to participate in the summer research program and will forfeit their award.****
- **May 7, 2018 – Teen Biotech Challenge Winners Announced Online**
- **May 21, 2018 – Teen Biotech Challenge Awards Banquet & Symposium**
- **June 11, 2018 – Research Scholar Orientation and Biosafety Training**, UC Davis Institute for Regenerative Cures, UCDMC (9am-5pm) ****mandatory attendance****
- **June 11th – August 3rd SPARK Research Scholar Program** ****mandatory M-F, 8am-5pm****
- **Mid-August (exact dates and location TBA) – CIRM-SPARK Trainee Meeting (2 days)** ****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” TBC2018 website and abide by all contest submission deadlines, including the February 1st 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 TBC2018 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 must be 16 years of age by the start of the program on June 11, 2018**), 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 (Get started on the TB test ASAP, as it is the most common reason for a delay/inability to participate!!! Note – medical documentation requirements may be updated for 2017):**
 - 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 require 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)
- 4) attend a mandatory **UCDMC Volunteer Services Orientation** meeting sometime in late April, May or early June (exact dates TBA – sign up for one of the announced 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 11, 2018, 8am-5pm**
- 6) have availability ~8am-5pm (M-F) for the duration of the research experience (June 12th to August 4th), participating in all related research, coursework, training and group activities, including the **CIRM SPARK Trainee Meeting** (2 days in mid-August, exact dates & 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 11th to August 3rd

“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.”

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 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 student 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 2-day (overnight) CIRM SPARK Trainee Meeting 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 (Statement of Intent and pdf of the signed UCDMC Waiver of Liability form submit via email to dsjamison@ucdavis.edu; UCDMC Volunteer Services application submit online) **by 5pm on Thursday, February 22, 2018**. Research Scholar Awards will be announced via email on April 12th. 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 award email). Questions about the application process may be directed to Dr. Denneal Jamison-McClung at dsjamison@ucdavis.edu.