

# Translational Clinical Research

Scripps Research Translational Institute (SRTI) conducts innovative studies at the forefront of precision medicine, in the areas of digital health, clinical genomics, and community engagement. We welcome medical student researchers to join our investigational teams for an exciting summer of patient-centered research. Eight weeks at our institute will include designing and conducting a unique research project, translational science seminars, summer intern journal club, faculty round table chats, and clinical experiences with a physician scientist mentor. A stipend is provided and travel expenses are reimbursed.

## Available Projects: The following mentors welcome medical student summer researchers for summer 2024.

**Jake New, MD PhD** – Scripps Research Translational Institute has observed changes in sleep patterns and activity levels to be predictive of the onset of viral illness. Based on these observations, Dr. Jacob New, an oncology fellow in our research scholars track, will recruit patients into a study combining wearable sleep and activity data to predict graft-versus-host disease, which results in significant morbidity and mortality to patients undergoing bone marrow transplant. Additionally, we will test the effect of an educational sleep and activity intervention in improving recovery from bone marrow transplant.

**Stuti Jaiswal, MD PhD** – Getting too little sleep is a common problem in today's society, and can have an impact on many different aspects of health, including cardiovascular disease, diabetes, and neurocognition. Wearable technology collects physiologic signals, and can help us better understand ways to improve sleep to improve health outcomes. Dr. Stuti Jaiswal, a Scripps digital health trialist, actively pursues innovative projects in this exciting area, and also in other areas of sleep and neurocognition.

**Rebecca Reimers, MD MPH** – Advances in prenatal diagnosis has allowed physicians and families to prepare for the baby before birth and to allow some treatments to begin as soon as possible, sometimes during pregnancy. Dr. Rebecca Reimers, a clinician scientist at Rady Children's Institute for Genomic Medicine, is studying fetal and parental genomic sequencing when congenital heart disease is suspected. Her goal is to determine the utility of this testing and assess parental experience and outcomes.

**Emily San Diego, PhD** – The Scripps Whittier Diabetes Institute conducts community-engaged research focusing on diabetes education, care, and prevention. Together with community health champions, Dr. Emily San Diego, a social and behavioral scientist, incorporates digital health devices into projects that examine ways to improve metabolic health within Hispanic and Filipino communities in the greater San Diego, CA area.

**Edsel Abud, MD PhD** – There are 5 FDA approved biological medications used to treat severe or exacerbation-prone asthma patients. How and why each patient responds to one biological therapy is unknown and, furthermore, how their immune system changes is unknown. Dr. Abud, an allergist and immunologist, will be evaluating the peripheral immune system in longitudinal form in asthma patients starting biological therapies.

**Jyothi Purushotham, PhD** – The mechanisms underlying chronic complications observed after acute viral infection are poorly understood. However, there is mounting evidence suggesting that these effects are likely immune mediated. Dr. Jyothi Purushotham, a research scholar in the Department of Immunology and Microbiology, is investigating the role of dysregulated antibody and T-cell responses in driving post-acute COVID-19 sequelae (Long COVID).

**Additional Mentor Projects** – Many Scripps Clinic physicians are interested in mentoring medical student researchers during the summer. If you are looking for a summer experience in a clinical field or research area not described above, please apply and describe your interest. We are often able to match medical students with clinical research faculty in a large variety of disciplines across our medical and surgical divisions.



# Testimonials



## Yvonne Cottrell, '18 - Meharry Medical School

“The program not only allows students to explore translational research in an environment that is welcome to questions, but also provides professional development that will be useful no matter what field you choose to go into.”

Summer Mentor: Athena Philis-Tsimikas, MD

## Eric Johnson, '17 - Meharry Medical School

“My internship at SRTI was more than I ever expected. The experience and knowledge I gained working with my mentor not only seeing patients in the hospital but enrolling participants in a research project were invaluable. Living the sunny San Diego life wasn't bad either.”

Summer Mentor: Stuti Jaiswal, MD, PhD



## Reonna Smith, '18 - Meharry Medical School

“I really enjoyed working with my mentor on her projects, collaborating with fellow interns on journal club and primary literature, and I was able to learn more about palliative medicine which was new to me. Plus, there the social aspect of spending time with other interns also under the Scripps umbrella.”

Summer Mentor: Toluwalase (Lase) Ajayi, MD

## Alondra A. Rivera Raíces, '21 & '23 - Ponce Health Sciences University

“Reflecting on the experiences lived I feel very grateful to have had such an amazing opportunity at the institution.”

Summer Mentor: Athena Philis-Tsimikas, MD



## Tenesha Boyd, '23 - Meharry Medical School

## Kadae Campbell, '23 - Meharry Medical School

“It was a great overall experience, and besides the research, there were many great talks and seminars.”

“No research without action, no action without research!”

Summer Mentor: Stuti Jaiswal, MD, PhD



For more information visit our website.