September 2014

Dear Colleague:

The Georgetown-Howard Universities Center of Excellence for Health Disparities in Our Nation’s Capital (CEHD) and Center for Clinical and Translational Science (GHUCCTS) are jointly sponsoring the *2015 Summer/Fall Opportunity for Achievement in Research-Minority Health and Health Disparities (SOAR-MHHD) Research Internship Program*.

The aim of the program is to engage, recruit, and train well-qualified college undergraduate (primarily sophomore and junior) students, from underrepresented minority and other disparity populations, into minority health and health disparities research careers through specialized didactic and mentored research experiences. The SOAR-Health program has been highly successful for several years and the SOAR-MHHD program launched in the spring of 2013 to much enthusiasm. We hope the closer integration of these sister programs and the extended (Summer-Fall) program duration will further enhance the depth and scope of the research projects and the connections students will make with one another and with their research mentors.

We are writing to ask for your assistance in identifying and encouraging highly-promising interested students to apply and that you widely distribute the enclosed announcement. If additional mechanisms are available, such as student newsletters, broadcast email, or electronic posting, we would appreciate your sharing this information through those channels as well. We also encourage applications from students who might already be working on mentored research projects that could be extended to include a focus health disparity issues.

In addition to a core focus on clinical, laboratory, or community-focused research experiences, each student will participate in a series of didactic seminars, video discussion groups, journal clubs, and trips. We will do our best to match students with mentors who best fit their research interests. If you are interested in possibly mentoring a student, please let us know.

The application deadline is **January 31, 2015**. The application can be completed and returned electronically along with the required materials. Here is the link to the online application: [https://redcap.georgetown.edu/redcap/surveys/?s=7XXJqd](https://redcap.georgetown.edu/redcap/surveys/?s=7XXJqd). Students can also visit our website for the announcement, application, recommendation form, and answers to frequently asked questions at [http://georgetownhowardctsa.org/education/summer-program](http://georgetownhowardctsa.org/education/summer-program).
There will be up to 3 available spaces for the SOAR-MHHD program and each student will receive payment for participating in the program. In order to qualify for funding, the student must participate for the duration of the program from June 1, 2015 to November 20, 2015. In the summer, the time commitment will be full-time or 40 hours/week from June 1, 2014 to July 31, 2015 (9 weeks). During the fall semester, the time commitment will be approximately 15-20 per week from August 3, 2015 to November 20, 2015 (16 weeks).

Thank you in advance for assisting us by sharing this information with interested students and colleagues. If you have additional questions about the SOAR-MHHD program, please contact Lan T. Le by email at ltl5@georgetown.edu or by phone at (202) 810-4240. For inquiries related to our sister program, SOAR- Health, please contact Imani Rhone by email at imani.rhone@howard.edu or by phone at 202-865-0134.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

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