

## Undergraduate Senior Scholars (USS) Program Overview

### Objective

The purpose of the USS Program is to introduce promising, undergraduate scientists to HIV/AIDS vaccine research through their active participation in the world's leading AIDS vaccine conference. The goal is to feed the research pipeline by using this opportunity to encourage these scholars to pursue graduate study in the sciences in general and HIV/AIDS specifically.

### Selection Process

Through a competitive process, senior undergraduate science majors from Atlanta, across the country, and around the world will be selected to attend AIDS Vaccine 2010.

The Emory CFAR will coordinate the selection of the stateside scholars through the network of 19 CFARS across the country. Each CFAR will develop internal selection criteria, conduct a competitive application process, and select one undergraduate senior science major for participation in AIDS Vaccine 2010. The CFAR at Emory will provide general guidelines that may be helpful in developing the selection process. The name of the selected individual will be forwarded to the Emory CFAR by **May 1, 2010**.

Each student will be required to miss four days of class (Tuesday, September 28 through Friday, October 1) and must provide a statement of excused absence from their Dean's office in order to participate. The students must provide a signed copy of their home institutions code of conduct and agree to abstain from alcohol if they are not 21 years of age or older at the time of the conference. Students should plan to arrive in Atlanta on Monday, September 27.

We anticipate a cohort of 25-35 students.

### Program

The students will attend a pre-conference overview and training session organized and conducted by Emory University faculty. The training will be at the Yerkes National Primate Research Center and will include a tour of the facility along with a ½ day primer on vaccine science and HIV/AIDS biology. This training will be held on the opening day of the conference, Tuesday, September 28 from 9:30 – 4:00 pm. Transportation will be provided.

Additionally, the students will have opportunities during the conference to mingle with leading scientists from around the world at a "USS Program" luncheon round table. Students will attend a "preview" meeting each morning to alert them to "hot topic"

areas on the day's agenda, and each evening to debrief and ask questions about sessions they attended.

#### Funding

Emory University will cover the cost of registration (\$475/each) and the full cost of the pre-conference training program for all participants. Each participating CFAR must agree to cover per diem costs for the sponsored participant. The per-participant cost is \$1450, including 1) Lodging: \$730 (4 nights at \$185 in a single occupancy room), 2) Airfare: \$570 (average cost per participant), and 3) Administrative costs: \$150. To simplify the process, Conference Solutions, the AIDS Vaccine 2010 conference-planning group, will handle travel, lodging, and registration for all USS Program participants.

#### Questions/Concerns

Please direct questions or concerns about the USS Program to Ms. Judy Catasein ([jcatase@emory.edu](mailto:jcatase@emory.edu) or 404.727.1864).