

MEMORANDUM

To: Pharm.D. Students in their P-1 and P-2 year,
Faculty, VCU School of Pharmacy

CC: **J. DiPiro, Pharm.D.,**
Dean, School of Pharmacy
A. H. Lichtman, Ph.D.
Associate Dean, School of Pharmacy
K.C. Ogbonna, Pharm.D.,
Associate Dean, School of Pharmacy
Y. Zhang, Ph.D.,
Director, Graduate Program, Dept. of Medicinal Chemistry
M. Sakagami, Ph.D.,
Director, Graduate Program, Dept. of Pharmaceutics
M. McRae, Pharm.D., Ph.D.,
N. V. Carroll, Ph.D.
Directors, Graduate Program, Dept. of Pharmacotherapy and Outcomes
Sciences
All faculty, School of Pharmacy

Date: February 7, 2018

From: Jürgen Venitz, MD, Ph.D.
Chair, Pharm.D., Ph.D. Subcommittee



RE: ***Availability of Pharm.D. Summer Research Fellowships (SRF) for P-1 and P-2 Students***

1. Dean DiPiro has graciously made available School of Pharmacy Pharm.D. Summer Research Fellowships for the summer of 2018. The intent of these research fellowships is to allow interested Pharm.D. students to embark on a two-month research project with faculty sponsors and to gain insight and interest in graduate-level research by pharmaceutical scientists. Successful completion of such a fellowship is a prerequisite for admission into the combined/sequential Pharm.D., Ph.D. program; however, acceptance and completion of a fellowship is neither a commitment by the student to nor a guarantee by the School of Pharmacy of admission into the Pharm.D., Ph.D. program. Application into the Pharm.D., Ph.D. program is a separate process.
The Pharm.D., Ph.D. Subcommittee (SC) has been charged with the selection of the fellowship candidates and administration of the fellowships.
A faculty member may sponsor only one student applicant per year. In view of the limited number of fellowships available, previous recipients of a Summer Research Fellowship are eligible for a second award only if strong justification can be offered.
2. First- and second-year Pharm.D. students interested in the fellowship are

encouraged to identify and contact individual faculty about their areas of interest. The following faculty (all members of the Pharm.D., Ph.D. Subcommittee) are willing to assist students in the process:

Hamid I. Akbarali, Ph.D., Dept. of Pharmacology and Toxicology (School of Medicine), hiakbarali@vcu.edu;

Norman V, Carroll, Ph.D., Dept. of Pharmacotherapy and Outcomes Sciences, nvcarroll@vcu.edu;

Aaron E. May, Ph.D., Dept. of Medicinal Chemistry, aemay@vcu.edu;

Elvin T. Price, Pharm.D., Ph.D., Dept. of Pharmacotherapy and Outcomes Sciences, etprice@vcu.edu;

Patricia W. Slattum, Pharm.D., Ph.D., Dept. of Pharmacotherapy and Outcomes Sciences, pwslattu@vcu.edu;

Jürgen Venitz, MD. Ph.D. (Chair), Dept. of Pharmaceutics, jvenitz@vcu.edu;

Additional information about ongoing research in the various individual research labs can be found on the School of Pharmacy website.

3. The fellowship recipients will receive a **stipend in the total amount of \$2,500 for a two-month summer period** starting no sooner than May 7, 2018; the exact beginning and ending dates of the project will be agreed upon in advance by the student and their faculty sponsor. The faculty advisor will discuss and agree upon the logistics and expectations of the fellowship in advance. The faculty sponsor will be responsible for all resources related to the research project. Upon completion of their projects, the fellowship students are required to submit a **final research report by September 10, 2018** to the chair, Pharm.D., Ph.D. Subcommittee. This final research report will be two to five pages in length (excluding bibliography, figures and tables) and contain Background, Objectives, Methodology and Results and Discussion sections; it will have to be reviewed and signed by the graduate faculty sponsor prior to submission. It is also expected that the student will present the results of his/her research as a poster at the School of Pharmacy Fall Research and Career Day (SOP FRCD) in the fall of 2018. A hardcopy of that poster presentation may be submitted in lieu of the formal research report (see above).

4. Interested students will have to **apply for these fellowships by March 30, 2018**; the application form is attached. Completed application packages will have to be submitted as PDF file via e-mail to Dr. Venitz, Chair, Pharm.D., Ph.D. subcommittee.

The application package has to include the following:

- A completed **Application Form** (see attached);
- A **Letter of Support** from the prospective faculty sponsor (outlining the students ability to successfully complete the project and expressing the sponsor's willingness to provide guidance for the student and all necessary resources for the research);
- A one-page **Research Proposal** (including Background, Objective and Methodology of the proposed research, indicating the feasibility for a 2-

month project);

- A **Statement of Research Interest** by the student (outlining their previous research experience, if any, and their expectations of the summer fellowship project, interest in future research endeavors and discussion of their future professional goals)

Separate from the application package submitted by the student applicant, the following information is required to be submitted by the faculty interviewers by the submission deadline:

- **Completed interview forms by two (2) members of the Pharm.D., Ph.D. Subcommittee.** It is the student's responsibility with the express approval of her/his prospective faculty sponsor to schedule these two interviews in time for a complete application submission.

Selection criteria for a successful application include strength of the candidate (as documented by GPA, prior research experience, graduate faculty sponsor recommendation, personal statement by the student and faculty interviews) as well as strength of the research proposal (feasibility and scientific validity).

5. The Pharm.D., Ph.D. subcommittee will start reviewing applications after March 30, 2018. Final selections will be made by April 23, 2018, and the student applicants will be informed shortly thereafter from the Dean's Office.
The fellowships will start no sooner than May 7, 2018 (end of spring semester) and end no later than August 13, 2018 (start of fall semester). **Final research reports are due by September 10, 2018.**
6. So far, the following SOP faculty members have indicated that they are willing to interview interested candidates for specific summer projects in 2018. Please contact the individual faculty directly for further information about these projects!

Department of Pharmaceutics:

Quamrun M. Masuda, Ph.D.: *Formulation optimization of medicated chewing gum for burning mouth syndrome (gnmasuda@vcu.edu);*

Masahiro Sakagami, Ph.D.: *Novel Flavonoid-Based Oligomers to Treat Emphysema: (msakagam@vcu.edu).*

Quingguo Xu, Ph.D.: *Development of Nanotherapeutics for Treating Ocular Disorders (qxu@vcu.edu);*

Dept. of Pharmacotherapy and Outcomes Science:

Joseph McClay, Ph.D.: *Epigenomic Analysis of Novel Psychiatric Drug Response Mechanisms (jlmcclay@vcu.edu);*

MaryPeace McRae, Pharm.D., Ph.D.: *Effect of Opioids on Brain Penetration of Anti-HIV Drugs and Neurocognitive Functioning in HIV Patients (mpmcrae@vcu.edu).*

This is not a comprehensive list of potential SRF mentors and research projects: Other School of Pharmacy/Dept. of Pharmacology and Toxicology faculty may also be contacted as well to discuss their interest in advising summer students and their availability for summer research projects.

7. The following students (and their summer research advisors) were recipients of past Summer Fellowship awards and can be contacted to discuss their experiences; students currently enrolled in the combined degree program are marked by asterisk (*: current student; **: graduated with Pharm.D./M.S. or Pharm.D./Ph.D.):

1999: **Yin Zhang**** (S. Wu-Pong, Ph.D.), **Ian Orensky**** (Cy. K. Kirkwood, Pharm.D.), **Patricia Kim** (M.A. Sarkar, Ph.D.), **David Adams** (N. Carroll, Ph.D.), **Shy Yom** (D. Holdford, Ph.D.).

2000: **Darlene Giugliano** (P.W. Slattum, Pharm.D., Ph.D.), **Blake Keller** (J. Venitz, MD, Ph.D.), **Daniel Lineberry*** (H.T. Karnes, Ph.D.), **Janelle Rodas** (M.A. Sarkar, Ph.D.), **Robert Faulkner** (M.A. Sarkar, Ph.D., W.R. Garnett, Pharm.D.).

2001: **Satjit S. Brar**** (J. Venitz, MD, Ph.D.), **Daniel Phipps** (P.W. Slattum, Pharm.D., Ph.D.), **Sarah Poston** (M.A. Sarkar, Ph.D.).

2002: **Lisa Burroughs-Phipps**** (P.W. Slattum, Pharm.D., Ph.D.), **Vera Roberts** (M. Pyles, Ph.D.).

2003: **David S. Lee**** (J. Venitz, MD, Ph.D.), **Melissa Moore**** (R. Polk, Pharm.D.), **Jenny Chen** (S. Wu-Pong, Ph.D., H. Fillmore, Ph.D.), **Seina Parks**** (D. Brophy, Pharm.D., M.S.).

2004: **Jason Neil** (Cy. Kirkwood, Pharm.D., D. Brokaw, Pharm.D.), **Elizabeth Herman**** (A. Cheang, Pharm.D.), **Mary Roslan** (L. Hill, Ph.D.), **Patrick J. Powell**** (R. Polk, Pharm.D.), **Michelle Alga** (Cy. Kirkwood, Pharm.D.), **Amanda Colquit** (A. Cheang, Pharm.D., M.S.).

2005: **Jeanese Reise** (A. Cheang, Pharm.D.), **Jaime Robenolt** (A. Lichtman, Ph.D.), **Amanda Schutt** (K. Goode, Pharm.D.), **Sheetal Dharia**** (P. Slattum, Pharm.D., Ph.D.), **Lee Clodtfelter** (W. Garnett, Pharm.D.), **Natalie Chen** (Cy. Kirkwood, Pharm.D.).

2006: **J. Timothy King**** (U. Desai, Ph.D.), **Ryan J. Leftwich** (R. Polk, Pharm.D.), **Sarah A. Burr** (P. Gerk, Pharm.D., Ph.D.), **M.A. Davis** (P. Byron, Ph.D.), **John Ejezie** (J. Venitz, MD, Ph.D.), **Akil Mousa** (P. Gerk, Pharm.D., Ph.D.).

2007: **Issa Nesheiwa** (B. Windle, Ph.D.), **Holly Gurgle** (A. Pakyz, Pharm.D.), **Mika Shima** (Y. Zhang, Ph.D.), **Timothy Innocencio**** (R. Polk, Pharm.D.), **Stephanie Atueyi** (D. Brophy, Pharm.D., M.S.), **Antoinette Coe** (B. Goode, Pharm.D.), **Deanna Flora**** (P. Slattum, Pharm.D., Ph.D.), **Julie Villanueva** (A. Cheang, Pharm.D., M.S.).

2008: **Uyen Do** (S. Zhang, Ph.D.), **Della Varghese**** (Cy. Kirkwood, Pharm.D.), **Richa Dua** (D. Brophy, Pharm.D., M.S.), **Shruti Brahmhatt** (P. Slattum, Pharm.D., Ph.D.), **Malini Krishnan** (J. Venitz, MD, Ph.D.).

2009: **Jason Quarles** (R. Polk, Pharm.D.), **Alex Lenhart** (S. Zhang, Ph.D.), **Che**

Chang (J. Venitz, MD, Ph.D.), **Andrew Johnson** (K. Ellis, Ph.D.), **Melissa Reis** (R. Glennon, Ph.D.), **Michael Snow** (J. Peart, Ph.D.).

2010: **Sara Bekri** (Y. Zhang, Ph.D.), **Merid Belayneh** (J. Venitz, MD, Ph.D.), **William Cang** (S. Zhang, Ph.D.), **Gina Lee** (A. Pakyz, Pharm.D.), **Drewry Nickerson** (M.J. Kennedy, Pharm.D.), **Justin Siegfried** (L.R. Moczygemba, Pharm.D., Ph.D.), **Meghan Thompson**** (U. Desai, Ph.D.), **Tien Truong*** (M. Sakagami, Ph.D.), **Celeste Vinluan** (K. Cheang, Pharm.D., M.S.), **Jamie Waller** (T. Stevens, Pharm.D.).

2011: **Tamoor Asif** (P. Gerk, Pharm.D., Ph.D.), **Elisaveta Budko** (D. Sweet, Ph.D.), **Biruk Mikru** (U. Desai, Ph.D.), **Jaykumar Patel** (J. Hackett, Ph.D.), **Maimuna Bruce** (J. Venitz, MD, Ph.D.), **Kelley Miller** (A. Cheang, Pharm.D., M.S.), **Ngochan Vo** (M. Sakagami, Ph.D.), **Jalpa Patel** (P.W. Slattum, Pharm.D., Ph.D.).

2012: **Julie Patterson*** (D. Holdford, Ph.D.), **Raymond Lai*** (D. Sweet, Ph.D.), **Whitney Zentgraf** (P.W. Slattum, Pharm.D., Ph.D.), **Sarah Barden** (D. Holdford, Ph.D.), **George Wohlford** (J. Venitz, MD, Ph.D.), **Michael Kelly** (L. Moczygemba, Pharm.D., Ph.D.), **Hibah Rehman** (M. Safo, Ph.D.).

2013: **Kathryn Schwienteck*** (M. Banks, Pharm.D., Ph.D.), **Ankit Zalavadia** (M. Halquist, Ph.D.), **Zaneera Hassan*** (P.M. Gerk, Pharm.D., Ph.D.), **Kimberly Hayashi** (M. Sakagami, Ph.D.).

2014: **Skylar White** (S. Zhang, Ph.D.), **Sean Hynie** (Y. Zhang, Ph.D.), **Crystal Leibrand*** (MP. McRae, Pharm.D., Ph.D.), **Omar Hassan** (P.W. Slattum, Pharm.D., Ph.D.), **Michael Lee** (U. Desai, Ph.D.), **Dan Nichols** (G. Brophy, Pharm.D.).

2015: **Elena Fernandez*** (N. Carroll, Ph.D.); **Giulia Barlow** (A. Pakyz, Pharm.D., M.S., Ph.D.), **Jason Mao** (D. Sweet, Ph.D.), **Gupree Dulai** (A. Cheang, Pharm.D., M.S.), **Layla Sawan** (S. Zhang, Ph.D.), **Jessica Reid** (K. Ellis, Ph.D.).

2016: **Harjot Othee** (P.W. Slattum, Pharm.D., Ph.D.), **Morgan Mabney** (Annie Cheang, Pharm.D., M.S.), **Rose Kohinke** (A. Pakyz, Pharm.D., Ph.D.), **Olivia Caron** (S. Zhang, Ph.D.), **Casey Boyer** (D. Sweet, Ph.D.).

2017: **Francine Kim** (B. VanTassel, Pharm.D.), **Christian Ruiz** (Y. Zhang, Ph.D.), **Hunter Hill** (M. Dukat, Ph.D.), **Sabrina Sperlazza-Phillips** (A. Cheang, Pharm.D., M.S.), **Sachpreet Bajaj** (T. Delgado, M.Pharm., Ph.D.), **Carolyn Hill** (K. I. Nicholson, Ph.D.), **Michael Gay** (M. Sakagami, Ph.D.).

8. If you need any additional information, please contact Dr. Venitz at 828-6249 or e-mail to jvenitz@vcu.edu.

**APPLICATION FORM FOR Pharm.D. SUMMER RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP (SRF)
VCU SCHOOL OF PHARMACY
SUMMER 2018**

Name: _____ VCU-ID: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

Are you a Virginia Resident? y / n

Do you have a prior degree? y / n

If so, describe: _____
Major Area: _____
Institution: _____

Do you have **any** previous research experience? y / n

If so, describe: _____
Advisor/Director: _____
Institution: _____

What is your **current GPA in pharmacy**:
(do not complete, will be obtained from Dean's Office)

What year in the Pharm.D. program are you currently in? P1 P2

Who is your Faculty Sponsor? _____

Title of proposed research project: _____

Will you receive any other financial assistance during the period of this fellowship? If so, give details:

Signature Date

The following documents need to be enclosed with your application package:

1. *Cover form (this form), completed by student;*
2. *Letter of support by faculty sponsor (discussing the student's interest in and ability to successfully complete the project and the sponsor's willingness to provide necessary time and resources for proposed research);*
3. *One-page research proposal (including Background, Objective and Methodology) by the student and prospective research advisor;*
4. *Statement of Research Interest by the student (outlining their previous research experience, if any, and expectation from the proposed research project and future professional goals);*
5. *Completed Interview Forms by Pharm.D., Ph.D. SC members (submitted separately).*

Please return the completed application package to Dr. Venitz by Monday, March 30, 2018!

VCU SOP Pharm.D./Ph.D. Program Interview Form

Date of Interview: _____

Applicant: _____

Interviewer: _____
(must be Pharm.D./Ph.D. Subcommittee Member)

Please carefully assess and rate the applicant in the following areas. In making your assessment, compare the applicant to other individuals you have known who have similar levels of experience and education.

	Superior	Good	Average	Poor	Unknown
Motivation	0	0	0	0	0
Oral Communication Skills	0	0	0	0	0
Scientific Competence	0	0	0	0	0

Please provide any additional comments: