

# What's Happening @ BSCP

November 2020 Edition

## Coming Soon!

### APPLY NOW and MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

**Virtual Biomedical Science Careers Student Conference** – Friday, April 9 and Saturday, April 10, 2021

Applications Available Now! View [Conference Flyer](#) for more details.

For High School Seniors and Juniors through Postdoctoral Fellows

**Virtual New England Science Symposium (NESS)** – Friday, April 23 and Saturday, April 24, 2021

Abstract Submission Portal Is Live! View [NESS Flyer](#) for details.

For College and Community College Students through Postdoctoral Fellows.

[www.NewEnglandScienceSymposium.org](http://www.NewEnglandScienceSymposium.org)

**VIRTUAL CONNECT:** Fall sessions begin December 1st. If you had expressed interest in this program and have not yet been contacted please email [hollie\\_desilva@hms.harvard.edu](mailto:hollie_desilva@hms.harvard.edu)

## In Case You Missed It

- **Skills Workshops Webinar Series for Parents/Caregivers** - The final webinar in this series took place on November 19th. Thank you to all who joined us!

All webinars in the 8-week series have been recorded and are available online.

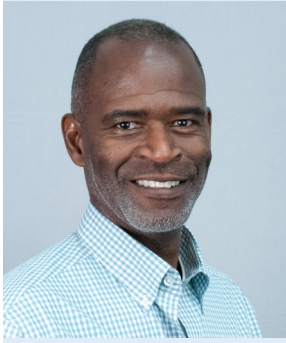
[All Recordings and Supplemental Documents Can Be Found Here](#)

## Resources and Highlights

- [Institute for Public Health Summer Research Program](#) - The students receive a \$4,000 stipend and engage in real-world experiential learning in public and global health, gain exposure to a diverse array of research topics and network with peers and faculty.
- **30 Fellowships Available in US Government for Recent Graduates and Young Professionals** Learn More [Here](#).
- **HIV Research Mentoring Program (RAMP) Applications Open Now!**: HIV Vaccine Trials Network is seeking African-American/Black and LatinX medical students interested in HIV vaccine research. [Deadline to Apply](#): January 4, 2021 [Learn More](#).
- Thanksgiving break is a great time to work on applications! [PathwaysToScience.org](http://PathwaysToScience.org) is an excellent resource for finding both paid summer research programs and fully-funded STEM graduate programs: [https://pathwaystoscience.org/front\\_forprint.jpg](https://pathwaystoscience.org/front_forprint.jpg)
- The **Vertex Physician Investigator Program** is a two-year program which intends to provide participants, who join Vertex as full-time employees, with a broad understanding of the drug development process. [Learn More](#).
- **STEP-UP Summer Research Program Informational Webinar** - The STEP-UP Program provides hands-on summer research experience for high school and undergraduate students interested in exploring research careers. The webinar will provide information about the STEP-UP program for the summer of 2021. [Register Here](#).
- Apply now for **The Continuing Umbrella of Research Experiences (CURE) Programs** at Dana-Farber/Harvard Cancer Center. Deadlines Fast Approaching! [Learn More Here](#).
- Looking for a position in industry? **Merck is hiring!** Available positions: [Scientist Computational Biologist](#), [Senior Software Engineer](#), [Scientist Immunology](#), [Associate Scientist Protein Expression and Purification](#). Click job title to learn more!

# Ask an Advisor

## Meet the Challenge: Continue to Pursue Opportunities to Advance Your Career



The COVID-19 pandemic has impacted our lives in many different ways, and the lasting effects will challenge all of us for years to come. The pandemic has also left many of you wondering about your future and how to navigate the next steps to reach your career goals. Although the pandemic has reduced many of the opportunities that are usually the stepping-stones to obtaining your career objectives, I encourage you to continue to explore and advance your career options by seek training opportunities in the National Institutes of Health's (NIH) Intramural Research Program (IRP).

Undergraduate students at U.S. four-year universities and those transferring to one from a community college, who are interested in a career in research, should consider the NIH Undergraduate Scholarship Program. This need-based scholarship award offers up to \$20,000 of scholarship support annually. In exchange for each year of financial support, a selected candidate has two obligations to the NIH: 1. a 10-week internship the summer following the year of an award and 2. work at the NIH a corresponding number of years after graduation. The yearlong obligation can be deferred for any qualifying educational experience, affording the chance to attend a graduate or professional school before completing your obligatory return to the NIH. The online application will be available in early January for the 2021-2022 academic year.

Postbac training at the NIH is another proven way to advance your career objectives, allowing up to two years of valuable research experience. Trainees also engage in activities that improve many important aspects of their personal and professional development. If you are graduating this winter or spring term or completed your undergraduate studies within the past couple of years, I urge you to investigate the NIH postbac program. The postbac experience at the NIH also includes a specific opportunity to focus on health disparities as a member of the NIH Academy or Academy Enrichment Programs. Both of these programs allow trainees to learn more about health disparities and what is being done to address them. There is a rolling application and we suggest you apply several months in advance of your expected graduation. Be sure to watch the accompanying video on the website, before submitting your application.

The NIH Graduate Partnership Program offers the unique opportunity for graduates students to complete all or part of their thesis research at the NIH, while obtaining their Ph.D. degree from the university where they are enrolled. This can be accomplished either through an institutional agreement at a partnership university, where full-time students are also considered NIH Pre-doctoral trainees from the beginning of their graduate school studies or through an individual agreement at a non-partnership university where a student is already enrolled. Both instances allow graduate students access to NIH resources and investigators while completing their thesis research. Please visit the website for specific details about the application process.

There are also opportunities for those seeking postdoctoral training at the NIH. A large contingency of more than three thousand NIH postdoctoral fellows from all over the world get to improve their research skills working in various scientific disciplines in a collegial atmosphere consisting of more than 1200 NIH laboratories. In addition, trainees get to focus on their research projects without burden of writing grants or teaching, although the opportunity to do both exist. A list of some current postdoc positions openings can be found here. Since some available postdoc jobs are not listed, I also suggest reaching out to NIH investigators directly to finds other positions not listed.

The summer is also a time to seek experiences that advance your career aims. The NIH Summer Internship Program (SIP) provides such an experience, with a ten-week research endeavor, along with many enriching professional development opportunities. During the summer program, the NIH Graduate and Professional Fair, provides an extraordinary opportunity to interact with representatives from over one hundred graduate and professional school programs. Due to COVID-19, this event and all other summer activities were offered virtually last summer and open for everyone to attend. The COVID-19 pandemic will have some impact on 2021 summer programs, including the NIH SIP and likely limit the availability of research opportunities for summer 2021 applicants. Also, high school programs will be limited to local students. I strongly encourage you to apply early for the best opportunity to be selected. The NIH SIP application opens on November 23rd.

These NIH IRP training opportunities are administered by the Office of Intramural Training and Education (OITE). This office is responsible for providing an enriching and insightful environment for all NIH trainees. The OITE takes a holistic approach to offering educational, professional development and important wellness activities and workshops that support every trainee's well-being. The COVID-19 pandemic has tested our resilience and capacity to focus on the future and it has also limited the opportunities available. During this time, it's critical to take care of your whole self, but it's also essential to continue the pursuit of prudent options to move your life and career forward.

**Darryl Murray, Ph.D.**

Director, Undergraduate Scholarship Program  
Office of Intramural Training and Education  
National Institutes of Health

## Save The Date

### Biomedical Science Careers Student Conference

Virtual Conference - Friday, April 9 and Saturday, April 10, 2021

### New England Science Symposium

Virtual Research Symposium  
Friday, April 23 and Saturday, April 24, 2021

## Stay Connected

Questions/Comments? [hollie\\_desilva@hms.harvard.edu](mailto:hollie_desilva@hms.harvard.edu)

[www.bscp.org](http://www.bscp.org)

