2013 REU Program in Systems Biology
research experiences for undergraduates

Chicago Center for Systems Biology
University of Chicago
Northwestern University

$4,000 Stipend
Research awards are based on academic excellence and potential. Students are given lab space to work on projects with mentor support.

Research Focus
The Chicago Center for Systems Biology focuses on how networks of genes interact to enable cells and organisms to respond to environmental and genetic variations.

Applicants
REU participants are selected from a nationwide pool of undergrads. In 2012 there were REU students from Duke, University of North Carolina, University of Chicago, Johns Hopkins, & Northwestern University.

Drosophila salivary gland with actin and DNA staining.
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The Chicago Center for Systems Biology (CCSB) seeks highly qualified undergraduates for Research Experiences for Undergraduate (REU) projects. Stipends of $4,000 per ten-week summer quarter (June 10 - August 16, 2013) for biology investigations are available. They will be awarded on a competitive basis based on academic excellence, motivation, scientific potential, and career goals aligned with CCSB interests. Applicants with computational science backgrounds are especially encouraged to apply. Participants must be U.S. citizens or permanent residents. Students must be enrolled in an accredited undergraduate college degree program with a concentration in a biological sciences related field.

If selected, students will be matched with a faculty researcher and lab associates who will help mentor REU activities. There will be a mid-summer working lunch and informal journal club to discuss research projects and papers. At the conclusion of the REU, students will produce a written report and present research findings at a REU symposium.

CCSB is based at the University of Chicago but includes collaborating investigators located at Northwestern University. CCSB research focuses on how networks of genes work together to enable cells and organisms to respond to environmental and genetic changes. There are CCSB projects that study robustness of transcriptional networks in physiological, developmental, and evolutionary time scales.

REU students may use modeling applications and core CCSB technology resources. Participants will have access to libraries, athletic facilities, and University-sponsored social and cultural events.

Deadline for receipt of application materials is February 18, 2013. To apply, send via mail or email the filled out application, personal statement, official transcript, and two letters of recommendation to:

Barry Aprison, Ph.D.
Education and Outreach Director, IGSB
The University of Chicago
Knapp Center for Biomedical Discovery
900 East 57th Street, Rm. 10-114
Chicago, IL 60637
baprison@bsd.uchicago.edu
2013 Summer Research Experiences for Undergraduates Application

Name (first, middle, last): male/female

College or university:

Major field of study: Current year of study: Expected graduation date:

College address: Home address:

College phone: Home phone:

Date of birth: Place of birth (city, county, country):

Citizenship (must be US citizen or permanent resident): Social Security number:_________________________

U.S. Ethnicity:

Other __________________________ African-American Hispanic

(country) Asian-American Native American

U.S. Permanent Resident Caucasian Other ___________

Other academic information:

Overall GPA: GPA in science and math-related subjects:

Previous colleges or universities attended:

Have you participated in a REU program before? If so, when? & where?
Research area(s) of interest:
- Robust cell fate choice in Staphylococcus aureus differentiation
- Dynamics and robustness of stress response networks
- Robustness of Drosophila eye differentiation
- Connecting transcriptional and signaling networks in cells
- Robust properties of networks for circadian clocks
- Other:

Describe your specific interest regarding this program (e.g. experiment or theory, particular research area, or project if strong preferences exist):

__________________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________

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__________________________________________________________

Relevant Work, Life, or Laboratory Experience (employer, type of work, dates of employment, talents and practical skills, previous participation in an REU or other summer program):

__________________________________________________________

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__________________________________________________________

Computer Experience (Please list the types of computers you have used and any programming languages or operating systems with which you have had experience):

__________________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________

Please include along with the application a personal statement of at least 200 words describing your academic and research goals and how participation in the CCSB REU program would help you achieve these goals.
Letter of Recommendation

Name of applicant: ____________________________________________________________

In accordance with the provisions of the Federal Education and Privacy Act of 1974, enrolled students have the right to see their letters of recommendation unless they have explicitly waived that right. Check one:
I waive my right of access to this recommendation. • I do not waive my right of access to this recommendation.

__________________________________________  __________________________
Signature of applicant                      Date

__________________________________________
Name of respondent (Please print)

__________________________________________
College, University, or Company

__________________________________________
Department

__________________________________________
Title and Position

Note to respondent: We appreciate your candid evaluation of the applicant named above. We are interested in how long and in what capacity you have known the applicant, your impression of the applicant’s initiative, intellectual capabilities, resourcefulness, and any other specific qualities that you feel are important to judge his or her potential for further study and research leading to a career in the biological sciences.

__________________________________________  __________________________
Signature of respondent                      Date

Please mail or email the completed recommendation to the indicated address by February 18, 2013.