National Alliance of Research Associates Programs (NARAP)

A Clearinghouse for Pre-Health Professions Students as COVID 19 Tracers

Tracing is an age-old, very effective means used by public health agencies to break the chain of transmission spreading an infectious disease.

- identify people with an infection (Cases)
 - o make sure they don't have symptoms that need them to see their health care practitioner or go to the emergency department
 - o ask them to isolate themselves so they do not pass the infection further
 - o identify barriers to their isolation and help them get the resources they need to address those barriers
 - o find out to whom they may have passed along the infection since they became infectious (Contacts)
- call those Contacts
 - o find out if they have symptoms making them a Case
 - make sure they don't have symptoms that need them to see their health care practitioner or go to the emergency department
 - o ask them to quarantine themselves so they do not pass the infection further
 - identify barriers to quarantining and help them get the resources they need to address those barriers

To do this literally requires an army, an Army of Tracers.

Municipalities and states around the U.S. are recruiting bright, motivated individuals to make up this Army.

Who better to do this than pre-health professions students eager for clinical experience, but most often blocked from getting this at the moment by the mandates of social distancing?

But it is often difficult to know exactly how to join in this critical effort.

- Who needs Tracers?
- Where do I apply?
- What do I need to do to qualify?

NARAP has brought thousands of pre-health professions students from colleges and universities around the country into emergency departments (EDs) as Research Associates (RAs), data collectors for clinical research. With the pandemic, RAs cannot be in the EDs, but NARAP has adapted its recruiting to help you join the critical work of tracing through the COVID 19 Potential Contact Tracer Registry.

For details on applying to the Registry, please visit NARAP's website: www.theNARAP.org.

When your grandkids (and admissions committees) ask what you did during the Great Pandemic of 2020, will you say

- I studied my chemistry, physics, biology to get good grades on-line or
- I studied my chemistry, physics, biology to get good grades on-line
 I was part of the largest public health army ever assembled to stop the spread of coronavirus in its tracks ... serving my future patients now!