

## Scholarship Opportunities for Students in UAB Undergraduate Cancer Research

### *RACE<sup>21</sup>*

The UAB Center for Community OutReach Development (CORD) and UAB O'Neal Comprehensive Cancer Center were recently awarded a National Cancer Institute grant to support the progress of students from high school through UAB's undergraduate cancer biology programs. The scholarships will support research activities in mentored laboratories by participating students in the program. We are therefore issuing this call for applications.

#### Scholarships will be for the following amounts:

UAB Freshman Year = \$2,000

UAB Sophomore Year = \$3,000

UAB Junior and Senior Year = \$5,000

In addition, the program expects to offer an additional \$1,000 to two juniors and two seniors who win top awards at the annual Summer poster competition for all students in the program.

All of these scholarships are in addition to any scholarships and or wages that you receive from other sources.

#### Expectations include:

1. Awardees must be students in good standing in their undergraduate major at UAB and maintain a 3.0 overall GPA.
2. Awardees must actively conduct research that is related to cancer biology and work in a mentored research lab at UAB. **The eligible research activities include all areas related to cancer research, e.g., bench science, patient-based research, bioinformatics, health disparities, populations science, etc.**
3. Awardees must present their results at the annual poster RACE<sup>21</sup> competition in late summer.
4. Attend monthly educational/sharing opportunities scheduled by the Program Manager.
5. Assist in CORD high school programs that create a pathway for the next generation of cancer researchers. This includes the **BioBridge** summer camp or full day cancer-themed research experience located at **GENEius**.

**BioBridge** is a week-long course that is offered twice during the summer that provides hands-on experiences covering the principles of cellular and molecular biology, and genetics using biotechnology and hands-on laboratory techniques. Students will get a head-start on 9th grade biology content in the context of cancer research. The **GENEius** lab is located at the McWane Science Center and will give hands on cancer biology training to HS students such as detecting mutated cancer suppressor genes using molecular biology tools and establishing and interpreting family pedigrees.

6. Awardees will also participate in NIH research to identify best practices in science education, including an annual survey and focus group sessions. We intend to track the progress of all students in the program for at least 5 years.

Preference will be given to students who are on a trajectory to a research (including clinical research) career in cancer biology (this includes bench science, patient-based research, bioinformatics, health disparities, populations science, etc.). Further preference will be given to applicants from populations that are underrepresented in cancer biology research in the United States. RACE<sup>21</sup> participants will be expected to be part of an NIH research study that examines optimal pathways to science careers, including annual questionnaires and tracking of student's trajectories toward a research career.

**New Applicants:** To apply for the program, fill out the attached Application Form, save it, and e-mail Items 1-3 as a PDF to Michelle Johnson at [msjohnson@uab.edu](mailto:msjohnson@uab.edu) or to the CORD Office at [ccord@uab.edu](mailto:ccord@uab.edu).

Please ask your school and teachers to e-mail items 4 and 5 to Michelle Johnson at [msjohnson@uab.edu](mailto:msjohnson@uab.edu) or CORD at [ccord@uab.edu](mailto:ccord@uab.edu).

Call us at 205-975-5120 or 205-934-5171 for further information.

Please visit us on the web at: [www.uab.edu/cord](http://www.uab.edu/cord)

**RACE<sup>21</sup> Cancer Biology Research Scholarship**  
2021-2022

Place photo here

**Application Form for New Applicants**

To be eligible for participation, applicants should:

- Students in degree-seeking programs related to cancer research should apply, however, priority may be given to Cancer Biology majors.
- Have an interest in and a demonstrated aptitude for a career in cancer research.
- Commit to pursuing cancer research in the current school year.
- Have an overall 3.0 GPA or higher and making efficient progress toward degree completion.

You must submit a COMPLETED APPLICATION PACKET which includes:

1. The Application form below.
2. **New Applicants:** A 500-word essay<sup>1</sup> describing your personal and career interests as they relate to cancer research.
3. Passport size photo (please attach headshot above).

The following must be sent directly to the RACE<sup>21</sup> program manager, Michelle Johnson by your teachers or school administrators either by mail or electronically to UAB CORD, c/o Michelle Johnson, Rm 532. 933 19<sup>th</sup> St. S. Birmingham, AL 35294 or [msjohnson@uab.edu](mailto:msjohnson@uab.edu).

4. Letters of recommendation from 2 teachers or instructors at your former or current high school or college (Students out of High School for >1 year, should ask at least one college faculty member to write one of the letters).
5. Official transcript indicating your progress at your current and former high school or current college.

Priority will be given to students from groups that are underrepresented in cancer research.

For existing college students, applications will be accepted until all slots are filled, however, to be assured of a scholarship that starts in 2021, please submit your application by **September 30, 2021**.

For incoming Freshman applying for Fall or Summer 2022, applications are open from Sept. 1, 2021 and must be submitted before **April 1, 2022**.

All Application materials from you (items 1-3) must be received in one complete package at the same time. Items 4 and 5 must be directly e-mailed to the program manager by the school and teacher(s), respectively.

Please e-mail applications items 1-3 to Michelle Johnson at [msjohnson@uab.edu](mailto:msjohnson@uab.edu) or the CORD Office at [ccord@uab.edu](mailto:ccord@uab.edu).

Please ask school administrators and teachers to e-mail items 4 and 5 to Michelle Johnson at [msjohnson@uab.edu](mailto:msjohnson@uab.edu) or CORD at [ccord@uab.edu](mailto:ccord@uab.edu)

<sup>1</sup> Essays should be written in MLA format, i.e., Arial 12 pt. font, 1-inch margins, and double-spaced.



## RACE<sup>21</sup> Research Scholarship Application for New Applicants

### Contact Information:

<b>Current Date:</b>	
<b>Applicant Name:</b>	
<b>Date of Birth:</b>	
<b>Blazer ID, if Applicable</b>	
<b>Mailing Address:</b>	
<b>City:</b>	
<b>State and Zip Code:</b>	
<b>Telephone Number (Cell):</b>	
<b>Alternative Number:</b>	
<b>Email:</b>	
<b>Race:</b>	
<b>M/F:</b>	
<b>High School Attended:</b>	
<b>Graduation Date:</b>	
<b>Name of Parent(s) / Guardian:</b>	
<b>Mailing Address (if different):</b>	
<b>City:</b>	
<b>State and Zip Code:</b>	
<b>Phone (Daytime):</b>	
<b>Phone (Cell):</b>	

### Questions about you and your academic and career goals:

1. Are you a UAB Student? Yes  No
2. What year did you begin as a full-time student at UAB? [Click or tap here to enter text.](#)
3. Are you currently in the UAB cancer biology undergraduate major? Yes  No
4. If the answer to #3 is not, have you been accepted into the cancer biology major? Yes  No
5. If the answer to both #3 and #4 is no, what is your current major?

<b>6. Please list all Scholastic awards or honors you have received:</b>	
<b>7. Have you carried out (are you conducting) any cancer research? If so, please describe.</b>	
<b>8. Please list school/community activities in which you are involved.</b>	
<b>9. Please indicate your cancer research career interest (check all that apply)</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Basic mechanisms underlying cancer
<input type="checkbox"/>	Research into cancer better/earlier detections
<input type="checkbox"/>	Development of cancer treatments
<input type="checkbox"/>	Epidemiology of Cancer
<input type="checkbox"/>	Clinical Oncology
<b>10. What are your plans after graduation?</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Work in a research lab
<input type="checkbox"/>	Enter graduate school in biomedical sciences (including engineering)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Enter medical school
<input type="checkbox"/>	Other: Please specify

I certify that the information contained in this application is correct and complete. I grant permission for information concerning my educational records to be released to UAB-CORD for the purpose of establishing eligibility to participate in this program.

Applicant Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Please e-mail items 1 – 3 to Michelle Johnson at [msjohnson@uab.edu](mailto:msjohnson@uab.edu) or to the CORD office at [ccord@uab.edu](mailto:ccord@uab.edu).

Questions? Please call us at: 205-975-5120 or 205-934-5171. Please visit us on the web at: [www.uab.edu/cord](http://www.uab.edu/cord).

You may send in the items as scanned documents or a PDF.

**11. Please type your 500-word essay describing your personal and career interest as they relate to cancer research in the space provided.**