



## The University of Alabama at Birmingham 2026 Partnership Research Summer Training Program (PRSTP)

The University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB) invites highly motivated undergraduate or post-baccalaureate students majoring in scientific disciplines and with an interest in cancer medicine, basic or translational cancer research, to apply to the hands-on eight-week **Partnership Research Summer Training Program (PRSTP)**. The program will run from **May 27 to July 22, 2026 (8 weeks)**.

**Eligible Applicants:** We welcome applications, for this **paid internship**, from students currently enrolled at UAB or other neighboring, regional, national colleges/universities, including institutions with limited research infrastructure. Master's level students may also apply. Selected participants will receive a stipend based on 30 hours of participation per week.

**Application Deadline: Friday, February 27, 2026, by 5:00 PM CST.**

**Program Goals:** The primary goal of PRSTP is to foster interest and facilitate training in laboratory-based, clinical, and/or translational cancer research. Through structured laboratory experience and educational seminars, interns will acquire practical research skills (scientific techniques) and enhance their understanding in cancer biology and cancer research. Programs alumni are well-positioned to pursue advanced degrees (e.g., master's, PhD, MD) and careers in biomedical and health-related sciences.

### Program Components:

1. **Educational Seminars:** Weekly noon seminars delivered by UAB faculty focused on cancer education and professional development.
2. **Research Lab-Based Training:** Each participant will be paired with a UAB faculty mentor and embedded in a **cancer research project** aligned with the student's interests. This may include bench science, clinical, or data-driven research.
3. **Cancer Research Symposium:** All participants will attend the two-day **Cancer Research Symposium (CRS)** hosted by Tuskegee University. Interns will present an abstract and poster summarizing their summer research project and experience. The program covers poster printing and travel expenses, including one overnight stay in Auburn AL .

### Application Requirements:

1. Completed application form
2. Personal essay
3. Two letters of recommendation

Although the final deadline is **Friday, February 27th, 2026**, early submission is strongly encouraged.

For more information or to apply, please contact Dr. Dennis Otali, Program Manager at [dennisotali@uabmc.edu](mailto:dennisotali@uabmc.edu)

Regards,

Upender Manne, MS., PhD  
Professor of Pathology, Surgery & Epidemiology  
Senior Scientist, UAB O'Neal Comprehensive Cancer Center  
The University of Alabama at Birmingham  
[upendermanne@uabmc.edu](mailto:upendermanne@uabmc.edu)

**UAB PARTNERSHIP RESEARCH SUMMER TRAINING PROGRAM (PRSTP)**

**May 27 – July 22, 2026**

**APPLICATION FORM**

**INSTRUCTIONS:** All application materials must be received by **Friday February, 27 2026.**

1. **Complete ALL sections** of this application. It is **your** responsibility to ensure that your transcript(s), one-page essay (Arial 11, 1-inch margins), and letters of recommendation are submitted by the deadline. Incomplete applications will not be reviewed.
2. **Transcripts** – Official sealed transcripts are not required. Unofficial transcripts are accepted
3. **Letters of Recommendation** – Please request letters from **two** individuals familiar with your **academic** performance or potential. Each recommendation letter may be submitted in a sealed envelope with the recommender’s signature across the back flap **and mailed to the address below, OR** it may be emailed directly to Dr. Dennis Otali ([dennisotali@uabmc.edu](mailto:dennisotali@uabmc.edu))  
**Attention:**  
**PRSTP 2026**  
1825 Univ. Blvd.  
Shelby Building 812  
Birmingham, AL 35233-1913

**I. PERSONAL INFORMATION (PLEASE TYPE OR PRINT IN INK)**

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Last First Middle

Current Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Street Apt. Number City, State Zip

Email Addresses: (Current, i.e. school email) \_\_\_\_\_

Email Addresses: (Permanent) \_\_\_\_\_

Cell Phone # \_\_\_\_\_ Are you a U.S. Citizen? Yes  No

If *not* a U.S. Citizen, are you a Permanent Resident? Yes  No

Race/Ethnicity \_\_\_\_\_ Place of Birth \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_ Sex: F  M

Age: \_\_\_\_\_ Do you have a valid driver’s license? Yes  No

Will you have use of a car if public transportation is not available? Yes  No

Have you ever participated in a Summer Training/Enrichment Program in the past?  
Yes  No

Do you have any special needs to be considered? Yes  No   
If yes, please specify \_\_\_\_\_

Please list the names of people to be notified in case of emergency:

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ Relationship \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone Numbers(s): Home (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Work (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

### RECOMMENDATIONS

Give the names, positions, and addresses of the two persons whom you have asked to write letters of recommendation.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Position \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Position \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

### II. EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND

Colleges and Universities attended - please list most recent first.

Name and Location of College/University	Dates Attended	Degree and Graduation Date

Academic information for current enrollment

Major	Minor	Classification Under graduate/Graduate	Rank (Sr, Jr, Soph, Freshman)	GPA

Most recent science courses

Courses	Credit Hours

### III. HONORS, SCHOLARSHIPS, ACHIEVEMENTS, AND AWARDS

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

### IV. EXTRA CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES (College and Professional)

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

### V. COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

### VI. ABILITIES AND SKILLS (Computers, laboratory techniques, licenses, etc.)

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## VII. AREA OF RESEARCH INTEREST

Indicate your 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> choice(s) regarding the type(s) of a research project, the research program area(s), and the type(s) of cancer which interest you. **Write a 1, 2, or 3 on the line in front of the applicable item.**

### Category of Project:

- Community-Based Research                       Laboratory or Basic Science Research  
 Analytical/Statistical Research                       Clinical (Patient Care) Research  
 Animal Research  
 Behavioral Research (cultural influences of health seeking behaviors, intervals knowledge, attitudes and beliefs towards health care, lifestyle modification interventions, etc.)  
 Other (specify): \_\_\_\_\_

### Research Program Area:

### Type of Cancer:

- |  |                                     |
|--|-------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cancer Prevention and Control | <input type="checkbox"/> Breast     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Chemoprevention               | <input type="checkbox"/> Cervical   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Experimental Therapeutics     | <input type="checkbox"/> Colorectal |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cancer Immunology             | <input type="checkbox"/> Lung       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cancer Genetics               | <input type="checkbox"/> Oral       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Neuro-Oncology                | <input type="checkbox"/> Prostate   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Basic Cancer Science          | <input type="checkbox"/> Skin       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Translational Cancer          | Other (specify): _____              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cancer Experimental Pathology |                                     |
| Other (specify): _____                                 |                                     |

Do you have a specific faculty member in mind for a mentor?

If yes, provide name and contact info: \_\_\_\_\_

Do you have a specific research project in mind?

If yes, please describe: \_\_\_\_\_

## VIII. AVAILABILITY FOR ASSIGNMENT

**Student trainees are expected to participate fully in the entire 8-week training program from **Wednesday May 27 through Wednesday, July 22, 2026.****

Trainees should participate dedicating approximately **30 hours a week**, which will include required course work, research seminars, and time to work with an assigned mentor to develop and conduct a cancer-focused research project. The detailed weekly schedule will be determined in coordination with the assigned mentor during the first week of the program.

Tentative PRSTP course dates are:

- Weekly Research Seminars (dates and times TBA)
- Cancer Research Symposium hosted by Tuskegee University, Tues-Wed, July 21-22, 2026

**IX. RECRUITMENT INFORMATION**

Have you participated in any type of internship program in the past?

Yes  No

If yes, indicate when and where.

---

How did you learn about the UAB Partnership Research Summer Training Program?

---

**X. STATEMENT OF INTENT ESSAY**

Please attach a one-page essay (approximately 250 words) to this application. The essay must be typed in Arial 11-point font with 1-inch margins. Your writing will be evaluated for clarity, grammar, spelling, and overall coherence.

The essay should address the following prompts:

- Why are you interested in participating in the UAB PRSTP?
- How does this training opportunity align with your academic interests and long-term career goals?
- What qualifications, experiences, or attributes distinguish you from other applicants?

All applicants will be reviewed by the UAB PRSTP program leaders and interviewed, if needed, by a zoom call. Final decisions will be communicated by **Friday, May 1, 2026**.

**XI. Applicant Certification and Authorization**

**I certify that the information provided in this application is accurate and complete to the best of my knowledge. I give the UAB PRSTP permission to share this information for recruitment and placement purposes.**

**If selected, I authorize UAB to photograph, videotape, or otherwise record my participation in the program for education, promotional, or archival purposes.**

---

Signature

---

Date