



Ponce Health Sciences University- Moffitt Cancer Center Partnership

How it Works

The Ponce Health Sciences University (PHSU) and Moffitt Cancer Center (MCC) Partnership Program is a collaborative effort that promotes education, research, and training opportunities for young scientists and medical students in the area of cancer research in the Puerto Rican population. The main goal of the PHSU-MCC Partnership Research Education Core (REC) is to increase the number, competence and success of these cancer professionals.

The Research Education Core provides Graduate and Medical students the opportunity and funding to complete rotations in basic and translational research laboratories. Students from PHSU can elect to undertake their rotation at MCC or at PHSU. Students from MCC and the University of South Florida (USF) with an ongoing interest in cancer research are eligible to train at the PHSU campus.

Objectives:

- To increase the numbers and success of basic science investigators and clinical research scientists focused on enhancing cancer research for the PR population.
- To enhance clinical cancer research and treatment of the Puerto Rican population.
- To enhance career development and mentoring of partnership junior investigators.

Mentoring

Each Graduate or Medical student will have an assigned faculty mentor. All students will have access to a REC Coordinator for assistance in the organization of the rotation assignments.

Benefits to You

During the rotation period lasting up to 8 weeks, participants will be provided with mentored training in cancer research, emerging technologies, research skills, health disparities education, and career development. After completing the research rotations, students will give an oral presentation to faculty and students at their home institute and submit a written report of their work.

Professional Skills and Career Development

During the rotation period, Students will participate in activities such as Grand Rounds, Tumor Boards, cancer seminar series, journal clubs, Biobanking and cancer clinical shadowing and Omics projects. Other opportunities Students can continue to participate in throughout the year include:

- Health Disparities Training
- Responsible Conduct of Research
- Biostatistics for The Biosciences
- Introduction to Clinical Trials

Trainee specific career development workshops and seminars are also provided, including:

- Making a high impact poster presentation
- How to prepare and interview for Postdoctoral positions
- Navigating the Internship & Fellowship Process
- Strategies to secure your first independent academic position
- Choosing your career path in oncology

The PHSU-MCC Partnership is supported by the National Institute of Cancer (NCI) and the National Institute of Health (NIH), 2U54CA163071-06 (PHSU) and 2U54CA163068 (MCC).

How to Apply

Research rotations typically occur in the summer. Applicants must have successfully completed at least the first year of Graduate or Medical school by the beginning of the research rotation and be in good academic standing. Interested applicants must submit a completed application as follows:

- A completed application form which can be found at www.phsu-moffitt.org/Training
- An updated Curriculum Vitae
- An official college transcript
- Transcript of last semester at MCC/USF
- Two letters of recommendation
- A letter of good standing

All application materials must be received by **February 4, 2019.**

Selected participants will be notified by **March 15, 2019.**

Please mail or email application materials to:

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AND

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About Ponce Health Sciences University

The Ponce Health Sciences University (www.psm.edu formerly called Ponce School of Medicine) has gained extraordinary recognition and prestige in Puerto Rico and abroad for its education, service and research achievements. It holds nationally recognized graduate programs in the disciplines of Medicine, Clinical Psychology, Biomedical Sciences and Public Health.

The mission of Ponce Health Sciences University is to provide a world-class, culturally-competent, health sciences education to the population they serve, through innovative adaptive learning environments focused on the success of its students to become ethical practitioners and scientists.

About Moffitt Cancer Center

H. Lee Moffitt Cancer Center (www.moffitt.org) located in Tampa is the only National Cancer Institute (NCI) designated Comprehensive Cancer Center in Florida. Its mission is to contribute to the prevention and cure of cancer. Moffitt focuses on the highest level of patient care and the development of early stage translational research aimed at the rapid translation of scientific discoveries.

The Center includes a 206-bed cancer hospital, outpatient treatment programs with more than 350,000 visits a year, the Southeast's largest Bone and Marrow Transplant program, the Moffitt Cancer Center Screening and Prevention Center, and the Moffitt Research Institute organized in five scientific programs, all with an emphasis on translation: Cancer Biology and Evolution; Immunology; Chemical Biology and Molecular Medicine; Cancer Epidemiology; and Health Outcomes and Behavior.

About the PHSU-MCC Partnership

The PHSU-MCC Partnership is supported by a grant from NCI to eliminate cancer-related health disparities affecting Hispanics. The focus of the Partnership is to develop and improve cancer care outcomes for Hispanic cancer patients in Puerto Rico and Florida who are underserved with respect to cancer care, personalized medicine, participation in clinical research and understanding the underlying basic mechanisms of cancer.

What our participants are saying

"After this training experience I gained not only technical and analytical skills, but also I met excellent scientists that now will serve as mentors and collaborators. My thesis project has been improved, and also I ended up being better prepared for my future professional career." – 4th yr. PHSU PhD student

"I have always had interest in cancer research and now I am definitely more likely to pursue research in cancer if I match into a residency that is related to cancer. Residencies in radiation oncology are definitely on my interest list now, considering how much that field is involved in both clinical applications and research." – 1st yr. USF medical student

"It was a privilege to learn from an exemplary mentor who taught me step-by-step how to approach a scientific problem, design a research plan, order the materials and carry out the experimental phase." – 3rd yr. PHSU medical student

"I have become more aware of some of the barriers and other factors that may contribute to disparities in cancer treatment and prevention programs in Puerto Rican populations living in the US. Appreciation of this awareness will help to shape some of my future research endeavors that may provide more access for underserved populations." – 1st yr. USF PhD student

"This rotation greatly increased my interest in cancer research and pediatric oncology. Learning about cancer in a different perspective taught me that one can really make a difference when working in research and help others greatly while conducting experiments that help us understand cancer better. I look forward to search for more opportunities in the oncology specialty." – 1st yr. PHSU medical student



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Cancer Research Experiences and Career Development Opportunities

Summer 2019