



Ponce Health Sciences University- Moffitt Cancer Center Partnership

How it Works

The Ponce Health Sciences University (PHSU) and Moffitt Cancer Center (MCC) Partnership 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 REC provides Medical, Graduate and Masters Students the opportunity and funding to complete rotations in population science, basic and translational research laboratories.

Students from PHSU can elect to undertake their research rotation at MCC (Tampa, FL) or at PHSU.

Students from MCC and the University of South Florida (USF) can elect to undertake their research rotation at MCC in Health Disparities or at PHSU (Ponce, PR) in Cancer Research.

Dependent on their research rotation site, students will receive a stipend or a travel allowance along with support for travel and housing.

Objectives:

- Provide education in research methods with specific experiences to advance cancer research focused on the Puerto Rican and Hispanic/Latino populations.
- Enhance research education in health disparities at Moffitt Cancer Center and provide additional educational opportunities for Puerto Rican post-doctoral fellows.
- Support the career of medical fellows and residents to enhance clinical cancer research capacity in Puerto Rico and treatment of the Puerto Rican population.

Benefits to You

During the 8-week rotation period, 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.

Mentoring

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

Professional Skills and Career Development

Students are expected to participate in 2-3 workshops during the research rotation. Examples of workshops open to all students include:

- Health Disparities Training
- Responsible Conduct of Research
- Biostatistics for the Bio-sciences
- Introduction to Clinical Trials

Trainee specific career development workshops and seminars are also provided such as:

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

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:

- Application form which can be found at www.phsu-moffitt.org/Training
- Current Curriculum Vitae
- Undergraduate and Graduate transcripts – including transcript of last semester completed
- Two letters of recommendation
- Good Standing Letter (MCC/USF–not required)

All application materials must be received by **February 15, 2021**. Selected participants will be notified by **March 15, 2021**.

Please mail or e-mail application materials to:

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AND

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About Ponce Health Sciences University

Ponce Health Sciences University (www.psm.edu formerly Ponce School of Medicine) located in Ponce, PR, has gained extraordinary recognition and prestige in Puerto Rico and abroad for its education, service and research achievements. PHSU 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 and 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, FL 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 U54 Partnership to Advance Cancer Health Equity (PACHE) grant awarded by NCI to eliminate cancer-related health disparities affecting Hispanics. The focus of the Partnership is to understand the underlying basic mechanisms of cancer 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, and participation in clinical research.

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 2021