

## PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Weill Cornell Medical College's Research Associate Program (RAP) exposes college and post-baccalaureate students to research activities within the emergency department setting, specifically at New York Presbyterian/Weill Cornell Medical Center (NYP/WCMC). Program participants work in the Emergency Department between 7:30 AM – 11:30 PM, 7 days a week, to recruit patients for participation in research studies.

The Research Associate program is a research program that occurs in a clinical setting. The Research Associate Program involves Research Associates in many elements of the performance of research. RAP is also designed to offer opportunities for observing clinical practice in the NYP/WCMC emergency department and provide numerous opportunities for extended interaction with clinical providers and patients. The program provides Research Associates with educational and practical experiences that increase knowledge about research methodology and clinical care and may enhance participant's application to medical or graduate school.

Participation in the program requires a minimum commitment of two 4-hour shifts per week for two consecutive semesters and attendance at monthly lectures.

The program offers Research Associates opportunities in the following three areas:

- Clinical Practice
  - *Interaction* with patients through research (e.g., patient recruitment and interviews)
  - *Observation* of interdisciplinary patient care in a dynamic, fast-paced clinical environment at a world-class teaching hospital
  - General patient assistance (e.g., providing blankets or water to patients as appropriate)
  
- Clinical Research: Theory and Practice
  - *Theory*: Training in epidemiological research methods and public health practice
  - *Theory*: Bioethics and research ethics
  - *Practice*: Performing clinical research protocols related to a variety of subject areas within emergency medicine
  - *Practice*: Data management and data entry; review of medical records
  - *Theory & Practice*: Didactic and practical learning about content area of clinical research protocols
  
- Mentorship and shadowing
  - *Interaction* with attending and resident physicians and other clinical staff
  - *Networking* with other pre-health students
  - *Opportunities* to shadow physicians and other clinical staff

Research Associates also attend lectures about the studies with which they assist.

The Research Associate program is conducted under the auspices of the Division of Research in NYP/WCMC's Division of Emergency Medicine. The Program is directed by Dr. Sunday Clark and is managed by Miriam Gofine, MPH.

## Applicant Q & A

### What does the program look for in applicants?

The program seeks detail-oriented individuals who enjoy both working independently and on a team. Applicants do not require previous research experience.

Those with previous clinical experience are especially encouraged to apply. However, clinical experience is not a pre-requisite for acceptance into the program. The program does not consider freshmen applicants. Upperclassmen and post-baccalaureate students are especially encouraged to apply.

### Is this a shadowing program?

Although opportunities to shadow physicians or other clinical staff may arise over the course of participation in the program, the Research Associate Program is not intended or designed to solely facilitate shadowing in a clinical context.

### Is this a research program or a clinical experience program?

The Research Associate program is a research program that occurs in a clinical setting. It is designed to provide numerous opportunities for clinical observation and extended interaction with patients in the NYP/Cornell emergency department.

### Could I put this on a resume?

The research experiences and didactic opportunities gained by Research Associates are highly marketable. These skills may be of use in future academic or professional endeavors and can be listed on a job resume or medical school application.

Potential applicants may note that evidence suggests that participants in RA programs have a higher likelihood of acceptance into medical school than applicants who have not participated in an RA program. *For more, see Sparano, D. M., Shofer, F. S., & Hollander, J. E. (2004). Participation in the Academic Associate Program: Effect on Medical School Admission Rate. Academic Emergency Medicine, 11(6), 695-698).*

### How can I apply?

The program is accepted applications for a minimum one-year commitment beginning in January 2017. **Applications can be accessed at <http://tinyurl.com/RA-app-S17> and are due by 5 PM on Tuesday, October 4, 2016.**

All Research Associates are credentialed as volunteers through NewYork-Presbyterian/Weill Cornell's Volunteer Services office. Prospective applicants should note that hospital policy requires all hospital volunteers to provide a Social Security Number.

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

Please contact Miriam Gofine (Research Manager, Division of Emergency Medicine) at [mig2039@med.cornell.edu](mailto:mig2039@med.cornell.edu) or 212-746-0132 with any questions.