

Research Associates Program Emergency Medicine Clinical Research

CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

Applications to this **clinical research volunteer program** at Weill Cornell Medicine's Division of Emergency Medicine are **due 5 PM on February 3, 2016**.

The current application cycle is for a **June or September 2017** start date (flexible).

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 volunteer in the Emergency Department over *two four-hour shifts* per week to recruit patients for participation in research studies. Shifts run between 7:30 AM to 11:30 PM, 7 days a week.

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.

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 prerequisite for acceptance into the program. The program does not consider freshmen applicants. Upperclassmen and post-baccalaureate students are especially encouraged to apply.

Participation in the program requires a minimum of a two-semester commitment.

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.

How do shifts work? Shifts are assigned each semester and are structured as follows: 7:30 AM to 11:30 AM; 11:30 AM to 3:30 PM; 3:30 PM to 7:30 PM; and 7:30 PM to 11:30 PM.

RA's volunteer for a minimum of 2 shifts per week but may request additional shifts, particularly during the summer months.

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? Applications can be accessed at <http://tinyurl.com/RA-app-Feb17> (deadline: February 3, 2017, 5 PM).

All Research Associates are credentialed as volunteers through NewYork-Presbyterian/Weill Cornell's Volunteer Services office.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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

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