**Experiential Learning in Research**

Research is an essential element of healthcare, considered by many to be the driving force behind medicine today. In its broadest sense, research is the gathering of data for the advancement of knowledge; within healthcare, research is conducted in the basic and clinical sciences for the betterment of our health and well-being. Research opportunities may begin in college, but professional research positions require at least a bachelors degree, and more typically a PhD, MD or MD/PhD degree. Your interests will lead you to either a bench or a clinical setting, or a combination of both. Research careers may be found in universities, healthcare institutions, non-profit organizations and private industry. Most biomedical research is accomplished in labs affiliated with research universities.

Working in research requires patience, attention to detail, and intellectual curiosity. Researchers are responsible not only for the ongoing acquisition and progress of knowledge but, depending on where they are employed, they may also be responsible for obtaining grants to fund their work. Because their primary concern is research rather than administration, researchers will often have a manager whose primary function is the day-to-day operation of the lab.

If you are interested in learning more about research options in healthcare, UChicago Careers in Healthcare provides individual advising and resources. UChicago Careers in Science and Technology is another valuable resource for you to explore.

**Campus Resources for Identifying Research Opportunities**

- **College Center for Research and Fellowships**
  [https://ccrf.uchicago.edu/undergraduate-research/students](https://ccrf.uchicago.edu/undergraduate-research/students)

- **Phoenix Biology Database of Professors/Labs that Accept Undergrads**
  [https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1osll-g4-unuiuNJF4hbpJhGNOVrDVpms4uJUMNBc2I/edit#gid=693393802](https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1osll-g4-unuiuNJF4hbpJhGNOVrDVpms4uJUMNBc2I/edit#gid=693393802)

- **Handshake**
  [https://uchicago.joinhandshake.com/login](https://uchicago.joinhandshake.com/login)

- **UChicago Student Employment Office**
  [https://studentemployment.uchicago.edu/](https://studentemployment.uchicago.edu/)

**Academic Organizations Involved in Research (not an exhaustive list)**

- The University of Chicago [http://www.uchicago.edu/research/](http://www.uchicago.edu/research/)
• The Rockefeller University  http://www.rockefeller.edu/research/
• University of California at San Francisco  http://www.ucsf.edu/research
• Johns Hopkins University  https://research.jhu.edu/research-at-johns-hopkins/
• Harvard University  https://uraf.harvard.edu/finding-opportunities
• Massachusetts Institute of Technology  http://web.mit.edu/research/

University-Affiliated Organizations Involved in Research (not an exhaustive list)
• Sloan-Kettering Institute  http://www.mskcc.org/research
• Dana-Farber Cancer Institute  http://www.dana-farber.org/Research.aspx

Non-Academic Organizations Involved in Research (not an exhaustive list)
• Argonne National Laboratory  http://www.anl.gov/
• National Institutes of Health  http://www.nih.gov/
• Abbott Laboratories  http://www.abbott.com/

A more comprehensive list of research opportunities

Tips for Emailing UChicago Professors/Principle Investigators at UChicago:

1. Start the email “Dear Professor/Dr. Doe”
2. Introduce yourself. Name, year in school, major if known.
3. State what you know about their research/why are you interested? Show you’ve done your homework on their research.
4. If you have related experience or any lab skills, mention them here, and note that you have attached your resume.
5. Ask if they are possibly hiring for their lab. If you prefer to be paid, you can simply say “hiring.” If you are okay not getting paid, then state you are willing to volunteer.
6. Thank them for their time and consideration - say something like “I would welcome the opportunity to discuss your research further, as well as how I might be of help to your lab.”
7. Sign off with your first and last name.
8. Remember to attach your resume!