Developmental and Stem Cell Biology

The Developmental and Stem Cell Biology PhD program builds upon the outstanding strengths of basic and translational research at UCSF. It provides training in four overlapping and interrelated thematic areas: stem cells and cell differentiation, organogenesis and tissue regeneration, pattern formation and morphogenesis, and evolutionary developmental biology. The DSCB Program offers an integrated and multidisciplinary educational opportunity for graduate students pursuing careers in these rapidly expanding fields.

Research in the field of developmental and stem cell biology has multiple entry points for participation. Applicants committed to the study of developmental and stem cell biology should apply directly to the DSCB PhD program. Students who want to explore broader approaches to the field should consider applying to the TETRAD [1] or Biomedical Sciences (BMS) [2] graduate programs. TETRAD has a developmental biology focus within their PhD program and a thematic area within BMS is developmental and stem cell biology.

faculty
The DSCB program includes more than sixty faculty members from various clinical and basic science departments with a wide range of interests. Most DSCB faculty have ongoing laboratory projects that span multiple thematic areas.

DSCB coordinates its activities with a variety of cross-campus entities including the Eli and Edythe Broad Center of Regeneration Medicine and Stem Cell Research [3], the UCSF Diabetes Center [4], and the Gladstone Institutes [5].

sub-disciplines
stem cells and cell differentiation
organogenesis and tissue regeneration
pattern formation and morphogenesis
evolutionary developmental biology
career outcomes
Because it is a relatively new program, DSCB cannot yet boast about its alumni. However, students who graduate with a doctoral degree from the DSCB program will be well positioned to capitalize on the high levels of enthusiasm for such training by recruiters from academia and the private sector, especially in the biotechnology and pharmaceutical industries. Moreover, because of their direct impact on human health, the fields of developmental and stem cell biology command significant resources from state and federal funding agencies such as the California Institute for Regenerative Medicine (CIRM) and National Institutes of Health.

The Developmental and Stem Cell Biology program office is located at the Parnassus campus in the Eli and Edyth Broad Center of Regeneration Medicine and Stem Cell Research. Visit the program website for more information.