UCSF Receives Renewed Support from Amgen Foundation to Continue Hosting Amgen Scholars Program

Tue, 2018/12/18 - 12:12pm

UCSF's 2018 Amgen Scholars gather for a photo at the Amgen Symposium in southern California in July. 
Photo by Julia Clerk.

Through a $74M, 16-year investment, Amgen Scholars Program will partner with 24 top educational and research institutions worldwide.

UCSF has been awarded a four-year grant from the Amgen Foundation to continue providing hands-on laboratory experience to undergraduate students from across the U.S. through the Amgen Scholars Program [1]. The Amgen Foundation is expanding the Program to a total of 24 premier institutions across the U.S., Europe, Asia and, for the first time, Australia and Canada, to provide undergraduates with financial support and hands-on summer research opportunities in biomedical and biotechnology fields.

Since 2007, UCSF has hosted more than 275 Amgen Scholars in our basic science research labs, as part of the Graduate Division?s Summer Research Training Program [2] (SRTP). Now entering its 32nd year, SRTP enables a diverse group of undergraduates to engage in research projects with faculty members in a wide range of disciplines. Along the way, participants take part in seminars, lectures, and social events, creating a cohesive and supportive community. The program culminates in a research symposium at which students receive valuable feedback from graduate students, postdocs, and faculty.
For twelve years, the Amgen Foundation has fortified UCSF’s SRTP program by enabling us to offer this intensive academic development experience each summer to many more talented undergrads than would have been possible otherwise, said Graduate Dean Elizabeth Watkins. Traveling to the annual Amgen Scholars Symposium is an additional highlight for those students supported by Amgen. We are delighted to have renewed support from Amgen, and excited that they are expanding support to new institutions in the U.S. and abroad.

This signature initiative builds upon the Amgen Foundation’s mission to advance excellence in science education and empower tomorrow’s innovators, a goal to which the Foundation has contributed nearly $150 million globally to date. Eight new partners – Duke University, Johns Hopkins University, National University of Singapore, Tsinghua University, University of Melbourne, University of Toronto, University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center and Yale University – will join the already distinguished group of host institutions, including UCSF.

Since its inception in 2006, the Amgen Scholars Program has made research opportunities at premier institutions possible for more than 3,900 undergraduate students representing 700 colleges and universities. Of those alumni who have completed their undergraduate studies, nearly 900 are currently pursuing an advanced graduate degree in a scientific field, and another 280 have earned their PhD or MD-PhD. More than 500 are employed in scientific fields across 33 countries, with 99 percent of surveyed alumni saying the program influenced their academic or professional direction. Alumni of the Program are beginning to make a growing impact across academia, industry and government, garnering recognition and numerous awards such as the Rhodes Scholarship, NIH Director’s New Innovator Award, and selection to the Forbes 30 Under 30 list in health care.

The Amgen Scholars Program provides a unique opportunity for students to engage in the process of discovery and build intellectual connections with some of the most accomplished scientists around the world. The Program breaks down barriers for many students who would not have the opportunity to engage in science at the world’s top educational and research institutions without this experience. Financial support for students is a critical component of the Program, ensuring that eligible students, can participate regardless of their financial status. Learn more at AmgenScholars.com.

UCSF’s Summer Research Training Program is now accepting applications for the 2019 program through February 1, 2019. For more information and to apply, visit graduate.ucsf.edu/srtp.

UCSF’s Summer Research Training Program is generously funded by Amgen Foundation, Genentech Foundation, National Science Foundation, UC LEADS, the UCSF Graduate Division, and the following UCSF graduate programs: Biomedical Informatics, Biophysics, Neuroscience, and Pharmaceutical Sciences & Pharmacogenomics.