

The University of Washington and the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center Announce the 2011-2012 Post-Baccalaureate Research Education Program (PREP)



UW PREP will recruit candidates from underrepresented minority, economically disadvantaged, and physically disabled groups who already hold baccalaureate degrees and wish to optimize their preparation for and successful completion of graduate studies leading to a Ph.D. in the biomedical sciences. The program will provide ...

- \$21,000/year Salary
- Health and dental benefits
- Tuition Assistance
- Travel allowance to attend conferences
- Graduate School application assistance
- Mentored Laboratory Experience

**If interested, please consider the attached information and application packet. Complete and return the application via email with requested secondary materials to:**

**Dr. Gabriele Varani, Department of Chemistry, University of Washington, Seattle WA 98195-1700**

**For any questions or information, please contact: [varani@chem.washington.edu](mailto:varani@chem.washington.edu)**

## University of Washington PREP – Overview

### Program Goals

The University of Washington (UW) and its partner Institution, the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center (FHRC), believe that a

diverse group of biomedical researchers is essential for the long-term competitiveness of the United States, and for the identification and resolution of health care disparities. Thus, we are committed to the diversification of the biomedical workforce. As part of this commitment, the UW PREP, supported by the National Institute of Health, will provide laboratory and didactic training to a group of students who have recently graduated from B.S./B.A. granting programs and who wish to optimize their preparation for and successful completion of biomedical doctoral programs (Ph.D. or M.D./Ph.D.). The program is not designed for individuals contemplating a professional degree.

### **Trainee profile**

UW PREP scholars will include individuals who are US citizens or hold permanent resident status, and are also members of groups underrepresented in biomedical sciences, including economically disadvantaged students and those with disabilities. The program is aimed at undergraduates who have great potential and enthusiasm for science, yet lack some tangibles (for example research experience) and are therefore less competitive for the most competitive biomedical graduate programs. We especially seek to recruit individuals who have BA/BS degrees in biomedically-relevant sciences, GPAs of at least 3.2 and who lack substantial research experience. Under exceptional circumstances (e.g. evidence of hardship, etc.), we will consider candidates with lower GPA, but only when the student's commitment to biomedical research is particularly strong and the academic trajectory of the student is positive. PREP scholars must commit to applying to PhD Programs within the completion of the program.

### **Financial Support**

The UW PREP supports students, for one year, with a \$21,000/year salary, plus benefits, educational allowance, and per diem/travel to one national conference.

### **Program Components**

- **Orientation:** Trainees will start the program beginning Summer Quarter, in June 2012. A set of introductory meetings will introduce trainees to the PREP administrators, faculty and staff; to the University of Washington environment, and to each other.
- **Mentored Research:** The main objective of the UW PREP is to involve the trainees in exciting cutting-edge research. To this end, trainees will be placed with two mentors, who can direct different aspects of a cohesive, often interdisciplinary, research

project. Students will select mentors that match their research interests from a pool of participating UW and FHCRC faculty.

- **Individual Development Plan (IDP):** Upon entering the UW PREP Program, each trainee, under the direction of the Principal Investigator (PI) and the co-investigators, will complete an IDP to establish her/his strengths and weaknesses and develop the most effective mentoring, counseling, and academic support needed to gain the core competencies for successful completion of doctorate
- **Writing Coursework:** During the Fall quarter, trainees will attend a writing course developed specifically for the UW PREP Program. The course is designed to enhance scientific writing skills, with particular emphasis on developing effective style and language usage, clarity, and structure in scientific writing in research papers, reports, and proposals and applications.
- **Academic Coursework:** Trainees will have the opportunity to take graduate courses (or upper level undergraduate course) in areas where additional didactic training is needed.
- **Seminars and research presentations:** All mentors associated with this program hold weekly informal research meetings, and the trainees will be expected to attend the group meetings of the primary mentor. Individual departments or divisions in which the trainees will be placed have their own seminar series and research seminars, presented by prominent visiting faculty as well as pre- and postdoctoral fellows. Trainees will attend these presentations.
- **Journal Club:** During the Winter and Spring quarters, trainees will take turns as discussion leaders for a weekly Journal Club, self-selecting a current biological theme and critically presenting current manuscripts.
- **Poster Session:** Trainees will present their scientific findings at the annual University of Washington research symposium at the end of the PREP and, in preliminary format, at the end of the Summer quarter at the Fred Hutchinson cancer center.
- **Scientific Meetings:** Funds will be made available for each trainee to present at or attend a national scientific meeting appropriate to her/his research and Academic interests.
- **Graduate School Application:** All trainees are expected to apply to at least three top-tier graduate programs, including one or more programs at UW; in most cases, applications will be completed by the end of the Fall quarter.

# UW PREP PROGRAM APPLICATION MATERIALS

## June 2012 – May 2013

**Postmark DEADLINE: December 31, 2011**

Please complete the UW PREP application and return with the following information, under one mailing:

1. **Photocopy of Social Security Card and State Driver's License/State ID or US Passport.** This document will be placed in your file or shredded if you are not accepted into the Program. If you are a **Permanent Resident**, please send pertinent documentation (photocopy of 'green card').
2. **Official Transcript(s)** of all community colleges and colleges/universities you have attended while pursuing your BA/BS degree. If you are graduating in June 2011, we will need proof of your degree attainment and final grades before formal enrollment into the Program. Please do not send unofficial documentation.
3. **Personal Statement** (maximum length: 2-page, 12-size font). Your personal essay must include information regarding:
  - a. Your undergraduate academic and professional preparation, please include names/dates of attendance at all 2- and 4-year institutions
  - b. What you have been doing since receiving your BA/BS
  - c. Reasons for wanting to pursue a biomedical PhD or MD/PhD degree
  - d. Why you believe you meet our eligibility requirement of underrepresentation in the biomedical sciences
  - e. Your future educational and career goals
  - f. Why you believe the UW PREP Program will assist you in meeting those educational and career goals
  - g. What are your reasons for not applying directly to a Ph.D. graduate program?
4. **Current CV/Resume**
5. **Three Letters of Recommendation** – Please include letters of recommendation:
  - a. One (1) laboratory mentor or employer
  - b. One (1) bioscience professor
  - c. One (1) academic advisor

The individuals writing your letters of recommendation must be able to attest to your interest and motivation for entering the UW PREP. You may include the sealed and signed letter with your application file or you may let us know whether the recommender is personally sending the letter to the program via postal service, email or fax. Please note that the Deadline date for letters of recommendation is also April 1, 2011.

**2011 – 2012 UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON  
Post-Baccalaureate Research Education Program (PREP)  
APPLICATION**

**PERSONAL:**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Social Security Number: \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

Current Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Permanent Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Parent/Guardian/other Emergency Contact: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number Parent/Guardian/other Emergency Contact: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_ Gender: \_\_\_\_\_

Country of birth: \_\_\_\_\_

Country of citizenship: \_\_\_\_\_

Are you a Permanent US resident: \_\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No (If yes, please send requested documentation)

Are you a legal resident of Washington State: \_\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No

What is your ethnic/racial origin: \_\_\_\_\_

**ACADEMIC:**

Name of College or University you received your BA/BS: \_\_\_\_\_ Month/Year: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of 2- and 4-year Colleges/Universities Attended in past 8 years

College/University	Year(s) Attended	Degree(s) Attained	Major	Cumulative GPA	Reason for Leaving

If you have ever been enrolled at the University of Washington (UW) - Student Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Year(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Have you ever applied to a UW Biomedical Graduate PhD Program: \_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_ No

If yes, please provide the Department: \_\_\_\_\_ Year \_\_\_\_\_

Department: \_\_\_\_\_ Year \_\_\_\_\_

Department: \_\_\_\_\_ Year \_\_\_\_\_

Have you ever applied to a Professional Degree Program in the Health Sciences (MD, PharmD, DDS, nursing, etc.): \_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_ No

Area: \_\_\_\_\_ Year \_\_\_\_\_

Area: \_\_\_\_\_ Year \_\_\_\_\_

Area: \_\_\_\_\_ Year \_\_\_\_\_

Area: \_\_\_\_\_ Year \_\_\_\_\_

Have you taken the Graduate Record Exam: \_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_ No Scores: \_\_\_\_\_

Have you taken the MCAT: \_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_ No Scores: \_\_\_\_\_

Name and Phone Number of the three (3) individuals you have requested to send letters of recommendation

Name	Professional Title	Work Phone	E-Mail

**PROGRAM INFORMATION:**

What are your areas of research interest (please list 3)

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_

From the list of Mentors we have provided, list 2-3 with whom you would like to work (in order of preference, please notice that this preference is not final and is simply an indication)

1. \_\_\_\_\_ 2. \_\_\_\_\_ 3. \_\_\_\_\_

**Final Question for the Application:** In 4 – 5 sentences, please state what are your goals for the next 5 years of your career; be as specific as possible.

**I attest that all information provided in this application is true.**

Print Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_