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SUMMER EQUITY
RESEARCH PROGRAM
INTERNSHIP
REPORT

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A LETTER FROM THE TEAM

As we wrap up our 2023 cohort year, we are simultaneously opening applications for the 2024 season! As we look back, last year's cohort was fantastic, and it warms our hearts, and we are proud to say we supported this group during the internship. As we reflect on the past cohort, great memories come to mind. We saw interns make meaningful connections with other interns, their respective lab teams, mentors and other OHSU leaders that will be crucial to their careers. These future medical and science professionals are deeply committed to the health of the population, and research advancement in STEM. It is a privilege to meet and help these learners on their way to becoming medical and science professionals. We are confident that all these interns will succeed wherever they go, and it would be an honor to have them return to OHSU as medical professionals and researchers. We are excited to continue our Equity Research Program, together we are making an impact and preparing the next generation for greatness.

- The Student Diversity and Retention Team

- Andrew Justicia, Program Manager
- Kelsie Johnson, Administrative Coordinator
- Nina Luong, Student Worker and PhD candidate
- Wes Studer, Administrative Coordinator



ABOUT

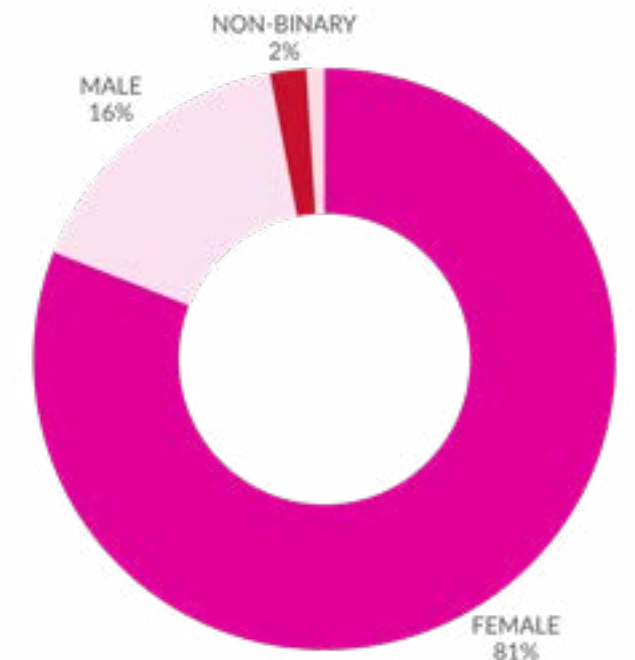
The goal of the Equity Program is to give hands-on research experience and science exposure to underserved and underrepresented students in health and science research. The Equity Research Program strives to increase the enrollment of under-represented minorities in STEM fields.

The Equity program has six tracks: Biomedical Science, Health Systems Policy, School of Medicine, School of Dentistry, School of Nursing, and School of Public Health. The students conducted research in their respective labs and also participated in weekly seminars. At the culmination of their internship, they presented their work in the OHSU Intern Research Summer Symposium community event.

APPLICATION PROCESS & DEMOGRAPHICS

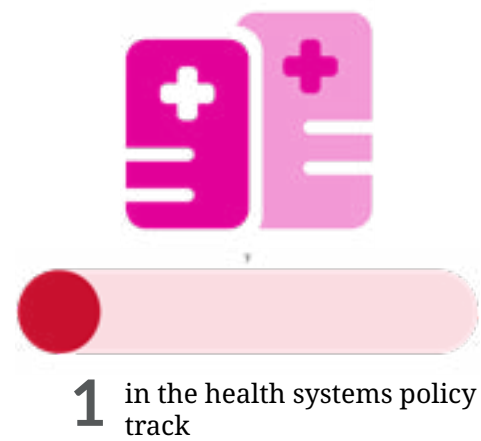
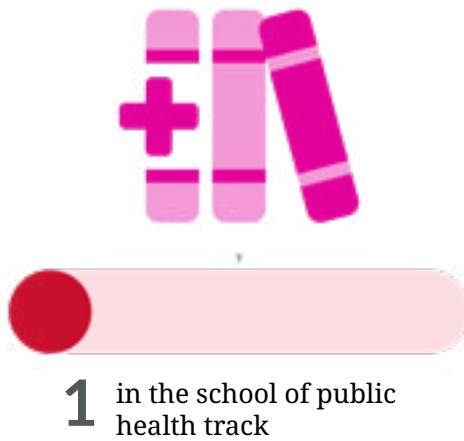
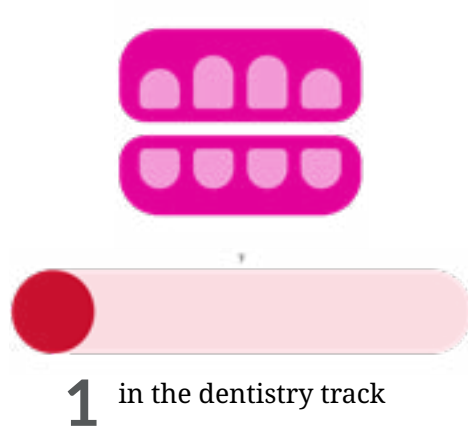
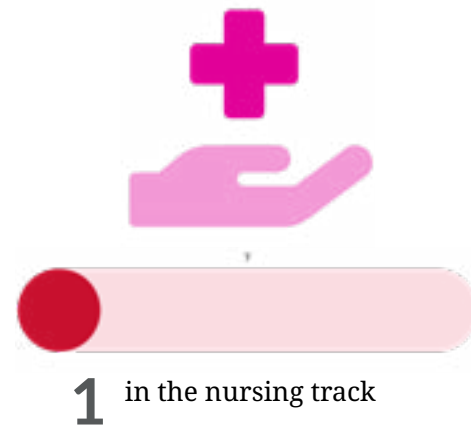
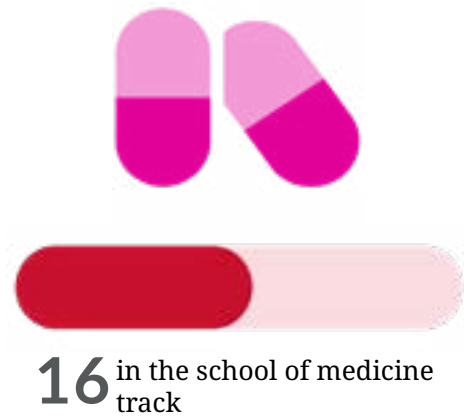
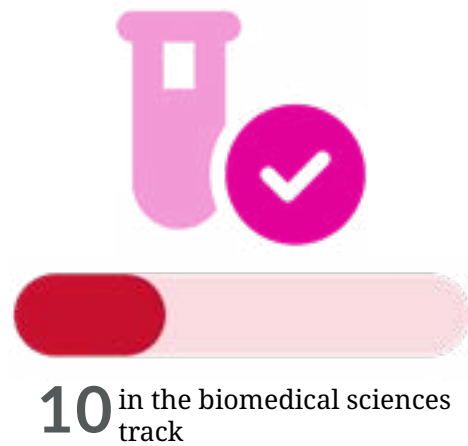
The Equity program is a highly sought internship and each year we see a diverse and extremely competitive pool of applicants. In 2023, we had 171 applicants interested in joining our cohort.

OUR APPLICANT POOL WAS..

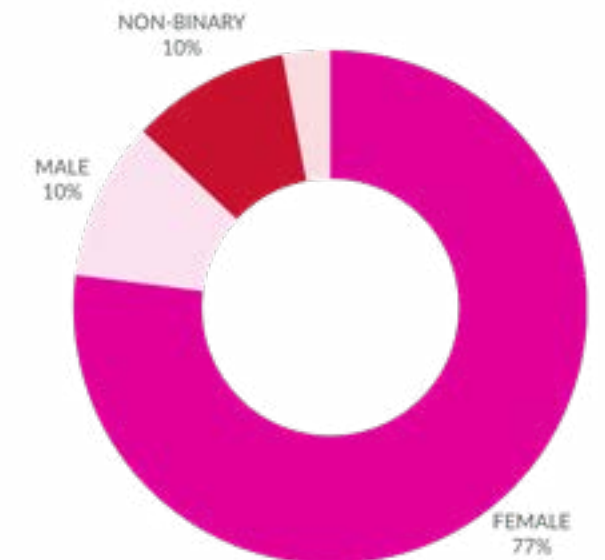
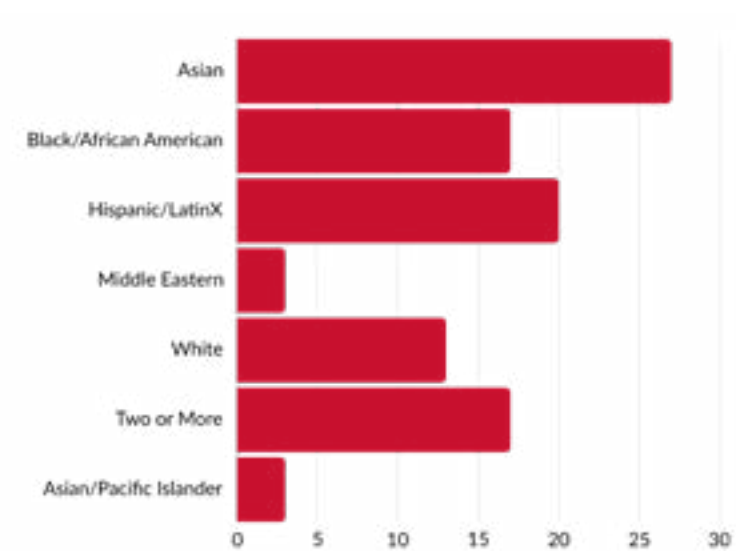
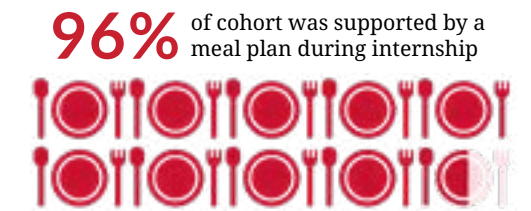
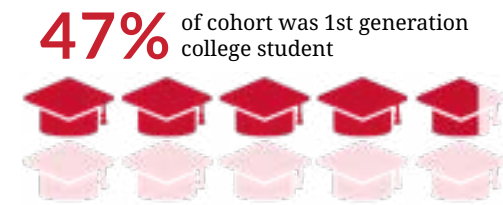
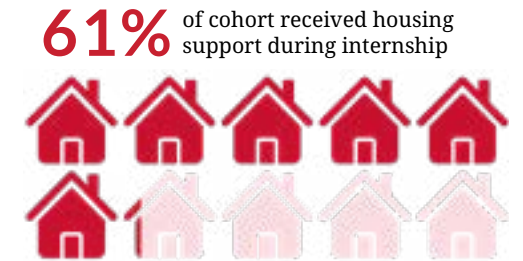
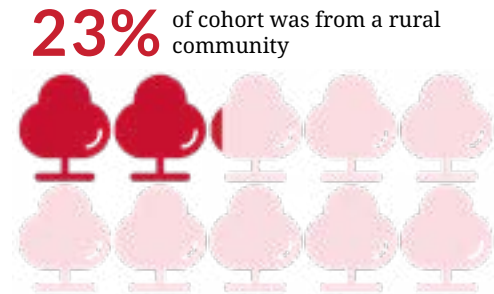


2023 EQUITY INTERNS

For 2023, our intern cohort was made up of 30 students within the 6 intern tracks. Each intern successfully completed the eight-week program, working with their research mentor and participating in program seminars and activities.

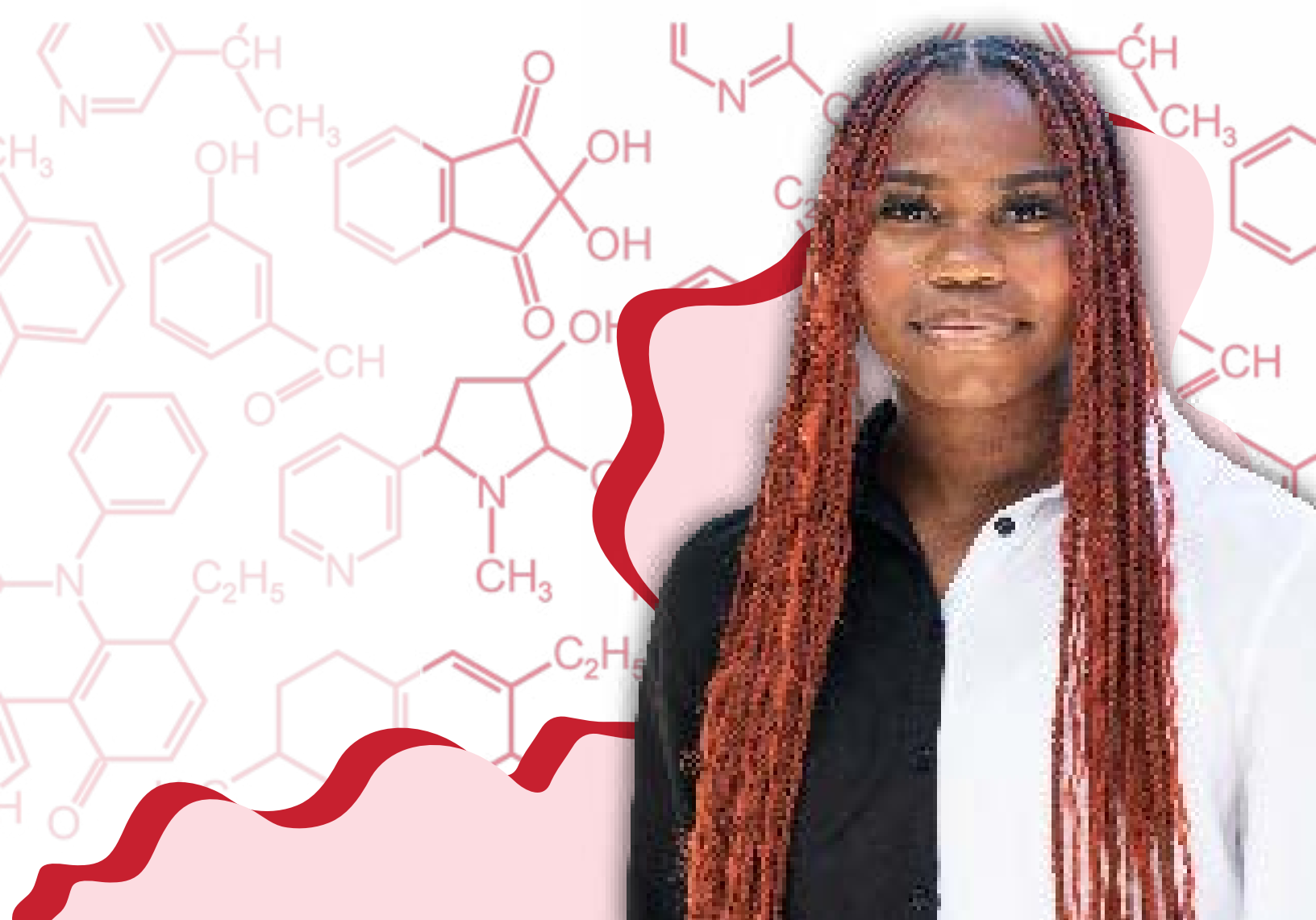


OUR COHORT WAS..



“The Equity program has elevated my academic career by tenfold. My mentor encouraged me to apply for the Rhodes Distinguished Scholarship during the program. It was something I didn't think I could achieve, but I just found out I am a National Finalist. This will pay me to study at Oxford for two years to acquire two masters, one in Pharmacology and the other in Translational Health Sciences. I am truly grateful for the opportunity to be a part of this program. Thank you.”

-Colleen Uzoekwe



2023 INTERN COHORT

Here are the 30 interns for 2023 along with the school they attend and the title of their research for the Equity Program. [View intern projects and a detailed overview here.](#)



ALESSANDRA ARMENTA
Willamette University

Disparities in school readiness among rural families



LILLIAN BACA
Portland State University

Assessment of current strategies for recognizing FALD symptom development for Fontan pediatric patients



DANIEL BARRERA
Corban University

Investigating Functions of Diadenylate Cyclase in *S. mutans*



ARIANA BORDA
University of Pennsylvania

Developing bioinks for 3D-printed breast cancer models to study endothelial-breast



CECILIA COCA-AITKEN
Pacific Lutheran

Understanding the Barriers to Menopausal Care in Latina Communities



ALESSANDRA CUEVAS
University of Guam

Barriers and facilitators to Early Intervention referral completion from the perspective of referral coordinators



ANNA DANG
University of Portland

Combination Therapies for Clear Cell Sarcoma



JESSICA GARIBAY OCHOA
Western Oregon University

Changes in sleep timing, duration, and quality across the transition to shiftwork



ALLISON HIMIOB
University of Georgia

Effects of THC on Endothelial Cell Barrier Function



BRADY JIN-SMITH
Tulane University

Analyses of tumor hybrid cell distribution in colorectal cancer (CRC) patient samples across tumor stages



BRIANA JOHNSON
Middlebury College

Unraveling Estrogen's Effects on DNA Damage Response Pathways in ER-Null DCIS Breast Cancer models: An Imaging Study Correlating Scanning



RONNY JUNKINS
Stanford University

An analysis on the relative importance of cell features in determining the of morphological trajectory embeddings

2023 INTERN COHORT



MEGAN LY

University of California Berkeley

Consequences of cytosolic LPS recognition in human intestinal epithelial cells



DIANA MALLANAO

University of Guam

Oregon Rural Hospital Staffing with Pas & APRNs



TAILA MARKS

Washington State University-Vancouver

Delay Discounting: Which choice gives more on average in the long-term



AVA MINU-SEPEHR

University of Oregon

Understandings of Oregon Reproductive Health Policies: Differences between English and non-English Primary Speakers



SARA TUMMURU

Portland State University

Level of Health Literacy Among Pediatric Pre-Kidney Transplant Recipients and its Effect on Education Provided During Evaluation



COLLEEN UZOEKWE

University of Oregon

This study investigates the trends in the chain of survival and EMS interventions before, during, and after the pandemic (2018-2022)



ISABEL VILLEGAS-GLANG

San Diego State University

Lung Cancer and Lung Cancer Screening in Oregon: Health Education and Awareness for High School Students



MICHELLE WAMBUI

Oregon State University

Investigating the Binding Affinity of the Deubiquitylase of O. tsutsugamushi to Ubiquitin



SHAUNA MORATO

University of Guam

Effects of Language Status, Caregivers' Beliefs, and Community Advice on Heritage Language Maintenance in the U.S.: A Scoping Review



SHELBY NICHOLAS

University of Portland

Collection of bacterial membrane vesicles using dielectrophoresis as a novel biomarker detection technique



ANGELA PATTERSON

Portland State University

Optimizing conjugation and DNA ligation in complex environment to enable single molecule protein sequencing



GEMMA PLEAS

Washington University in St. Louis

Developing an Emotion Based Viewing Task to Investigate the Role of Emotional Effort in Emotional Avoidance



RUTHANNE ZAREYNA

Linfield University

Development of an Immunostaining Functional Assay to detect Pancreatic Cancer



ESENIYA ZINKINA

Portland State University

Enhancing Oregon's Response to Substance Abuse: Analyzing Policy Synergies and Contradictions with the Substance Use Disorder 1115 Demonstration Waiver



BELLA ROOT

Lewis and Clark

Of Mice and Meth: Gene expression in mice selectively bred for the Taar1 allelic variant



CAROLINE SCHRENKER

Oregon State University

Prevalence of oral squamous cell carcinomas within cohabitants of patients with hrHPV-mediated cervical dysplasia



YOONA SHIM

Lewis and Clark College

ender bias in diagnostic evaluation and treatment for acute pulmonary embolism



HAO TRAN

Swarthmore College

Constructing culturally appropriate survey measures to understand how limited English proficiency affects families' access to autism care for their children

2023 INTERN COHORT

SCHEDULE

In addition to the interns' research experience, the program included enrichment and professional development events throughout the eight-week internship. These events were open to other summer internships across OHSU.

- Equity Program Orientation
- Library Services workshop-Literature Review
- Dean of Admissions guest speaker
- Group Hike at Washington Park
- All-Campus Summer Welcome hosted by On Track OHSU!
- PARC/MARC Research Presentation
- Knight Cancer Director speaker
- Tours of the Radiation Therapy Labs
- Student Academic Support Services speakers
- OHSU student leader round-table and Q&A
- School of Medicine Admissions and Outreach speakers

EQUITY SEMINAR SERIES

Our team created a series of presentations in addition to the Equity Program schedule. For 2023 we wanted to extend an invite to all internships at OHSU to join for the Equity Seminar series. The series of events were well attended and provided yet another learning resource and professional enrichment opportunities to our OHSU interns. We had guests from: Health Equity, Center for Women's Health, a discussion on the "Diversity Tax" from a doctor in Pediatric Anesthesiology, radiology and a few others. You can view some of these presentations here.



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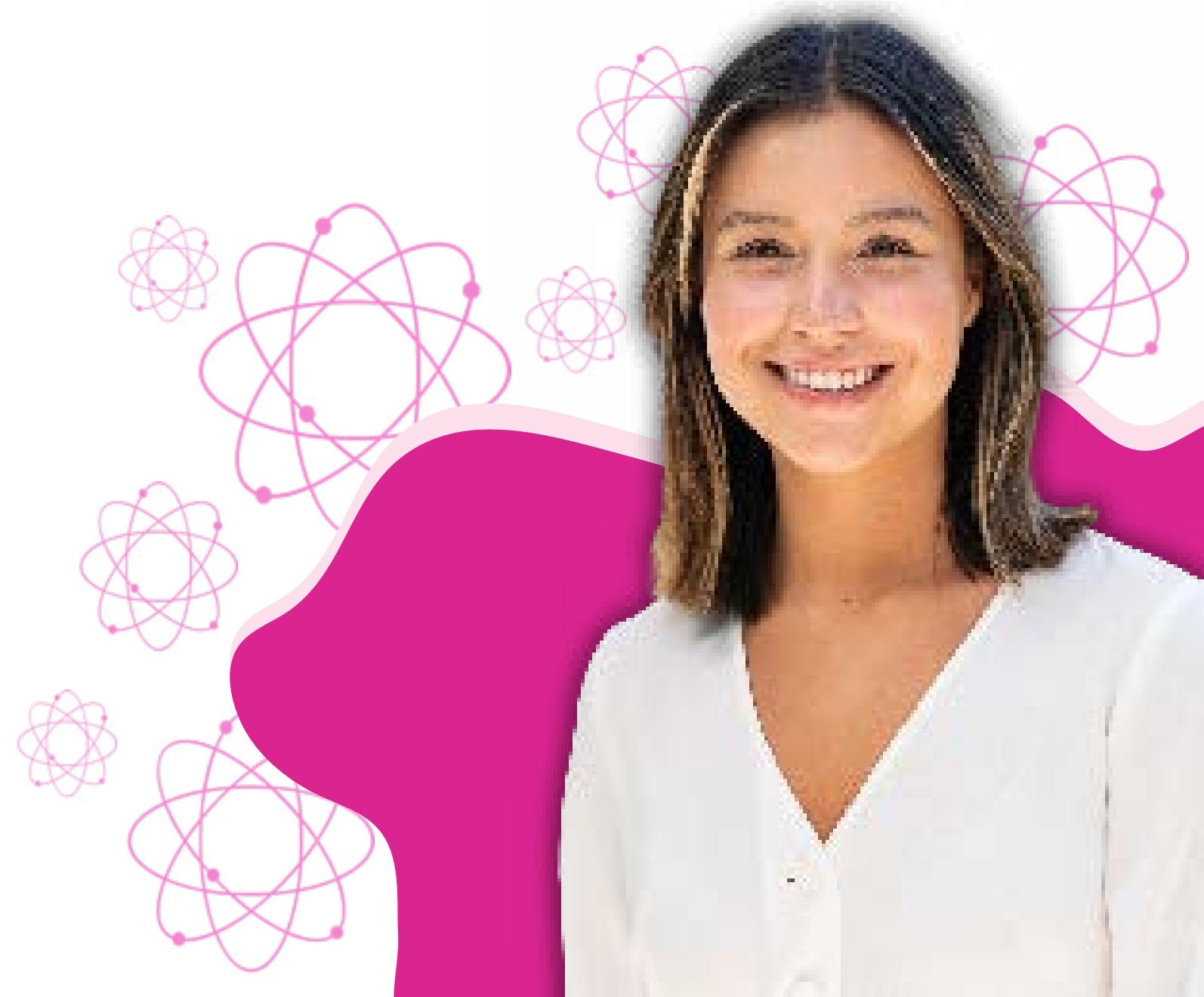
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“The Equity Research Program is a wonderful program that gave me the opportunity to explore new research interests. Through the program, I strengthened my research and writing skills immensely, which helped me prepare for future research endeavors in my academic career. I felt that my assignment aligned greatly with my skills and interests, and I felt supported the entire time.”

-Isabel Villegas-Glang



INTERNS SAID..

94% Strongly agreed that they had access to their research mentors on a regular basis.

100% Strongly agreed that they gained knowledge and skills that they can apply to future research.

94% Felt more confident about their abilities to reach their education and career goals.

100% Felt consistently supported by the internship administrators throughout the time of program.

88% Were satisfied with their housing accommodations during their internship.

MENTORS SAID..

94% Said they would be interested in participating as a mentor with the program next year.

100% Saw a significant improvement in interns' general research ability.

100% Observed improvements in critical thinking and problem solving in interns.

“(The lessons and connections made during my time with the Equity program are truly priceless. The support and experience it provided me with, I’ll use and value forever.)”

-Shauna Morato



TOGETHER WE MAKE AN IMPACT IN STEM

The 2023 Equity interns successfully met the expectations of the program and demonstrated a commitment to continuing their education in the health science field. The growth of the program is a direct reflection of OHSU prioritizing diversity. The Center for Diversity & Inclusion will remain in contact with the Equity interns. We will remain engaged with the interns, with connection sessions, networking and OHSU community opportunities. CDI will continue to open pathways to our future providers and science researchers and maybe see them at OHSU! The future is bright for medicine and science because of these young leaders!



ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The Equity Research Program would not be successful without the collaborators listed below. The Center for Diversity and Inclusion would like to extend a big thank you to all the folks that contributed to the 2023 Equity Program. Thank you for your participation in the Equity Research Program!

OHSU Provost Office – Thank you for all you do for pathway programs at OHSU! Thank you for supporting the Equity Research Program.

All the Equity Program mentors – Thank you mentors! You continue to open doors for our future researchers and providers! (see all the mentors listed under their respective intern).

All the folks that presented and shared their expertise – The Equity Program Schedule is dynamic and a great source of professional development. Thank you for all your contributions!

Nikki Ulrich – Thank you for being an amazing resource for our interns. Food security is imperative. Your contribution to the Equity internship is invaluable.

Catering Team FNS (Food Nutrition Services), Justin, Mich, and Joey – You all are incredible, thank you for your dedication. Joey, thank you for always going above and beyond, you helped us move all those tables to the shade! Mich, thank you for being so reliable and always coming through for us. Your help with planning and assessing numbers for food, made for excellent enrichment events.

Melanie and Derrik from the CURE Program – Thank you for a great partnership. Your collaboration in planning for the Poster Symposium event helps make the event a fantastic collaborative demonstration of the OHSU community. It is a pleasure and an honor to work together with you all to support our future scientists and providers!

Center for Diversity and Inclusion team – Octaviano Merezias Cuevas, Briana Nathanielsz. Thank you for contribution to the Poster Symposium event! Your collaborative spirit is inspiring.

Nina Luong (PhD Student Worker) – you were instrumental in Equity! Thank you for helping us make it stronger and a great experience!

OVV (Office of Visitors and Volunteers) Angel Almanza – We could not have done our internship

without all your help and support. Post-pandemic on boarding can be so challenging in a large institution. You were simply amazing and helped us every step of the way.

OHSU ID Badge Team, Aden Romeo – Thank you for all your help ensuring that our interns had access to specific areas of OHSU. We appreciate your timely responses, and also for supporting our interns throughout their stay at OHSU.

AP Stipends team and Wyatt Swayngim (CDI Fiscal Manager) – Thank you for your help processing the stipends for our Equity Interns. You helped us meet expectations and maintain timelines for interns to receive their stipends.

Greg Sabatka (OHSU Contracts) – Thank you for your help with the contract work for PSU Housing. We appreciate your team helping the Equity Program go smoothly through this very important work that happens behind the scenes.

PSU Housing – Thank you for your hospitality for our interns this summer, we are grateful for your flexibility and the services provided to our administrative team!

Gabriela Hernandez Duran and Mireya Jimenez-Magana, Past Equity Program participants – Thank you for being part of our program, meeting our interns, reflecting on your experience, providing tips to gain maximum benefit from the internship, and your encouragement.

EdComm and Jordan Sleeth (photographer) – Thank you for your efficient and professional photography services both during Equity and during the Research Symposium!

Strategic Communications – Jhoselyn, thank you for your contributions in helping us promote and design materials for the Poster Symposium and for helping us make this great report! We appreciate your collaboration and are always grateful to have you helping us every summer!

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Application scoring panel for Equity 2023 cohort:

Rohan Chaudhari - MD Student

Staci Ganje - Administrator Coordinator, Student Access

Seth Igarta - Career Development Specialist

Kelsie Johnson – Administrator for the Center for Diversity and Inclusion

Wesley Studer – Administrator for the Center for Diversity and Inclusion

Andrew Justicia - Program Manager for the Center for Diversity and Inclusion

Hillary Le - PhD Student

Matthew Lowe - PA Student

Brenda Martinez - Mentorship Specialist

Rick Mathews – PhD Student

Annae Nichelson - Student Learning Support Specialist

Chad Nix – OHSU Student Worker

Amara Pang - PhD Student

Linzy Rodrigues – Dept. Manager of the Provost Office

Arely Nuno Sanudos - SON Grad Student

Ali Sultan - DMD Student

Megan Swope – MD Student

Amirali Veshagh - MD Student

Tomoko Wilson - MD Student

Zachary Yellowman - MD Student

Thank you to all our judges for the 2023 Symposium Poster Symposium event!

Chad Nix, MD Student leader of Queer Health Alliance
CDI Student Interest Group

Staci Ganje, Admin Coordinator Student Health and Wellness

Briana Nathanielsz Bowden, Diversity Trainer, CDI

Rick Mathews, PhD student

Jee Min Lee, PhD student

Alexis Gibson, SOM MMI

Briana Garcia, Volunteer

