COMPUTER SCIENCE, BIOLOGY, AND BIOMEDICAL INFORMATICS

SUMMER 2018 INNOVATION INTERNSHIP

The Center for Commercial Applications of Healthcare Data, through the University of Pittsburgh Department of Biomedical Informatics and sciVelo, is now seeking applications from undergraduate students for the Summer 2018 Innovation Internship.

Due March 15, 2018
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

On July 1st, 2015, the Pittsburgh Health Data Alliance, a collaboration between UPMC, the University of Pittsburgh, and Carnegie Mellon University officially began with the vision to “re-imagine healthcare for millions of people in our shared, data-driven world.” Building on its 20-year track record of healthcare investments, UPMC funded two centers who will work to advance research at the intersection of medicine and informatics and to create new data-centric healthcare innovations. The University of Pittsburgh’s Center for Commercial Applications of Healthcare Data and Carnegie Mellon University’s Center for Machine Learning and Health, aim to support Pittsburgh’s “innovation ecosystem” and to accelerate revitalization of Pittsburgh.

Halfway between a start-up accelerator and a translational research partner, the Center for Commercial Applications of Healthcare Data is a one-of-a-kind environment for students to explore innovation and entrepreneurship in an academic setting, as well as sink their feet in for long-term career growth. The Center for Commercial Applications of Healthcare Data is housed in the University of Pittsburgh Department of Biomedical Informatics and supported by sciVelo.

An often-overlooked strategy for accelerating growth of an innovation ecosystem is fostering a pipeline of talent through tailored educational opportunities. Students offer a large intellectual capital pool for spurring entrepreneurship, especially in the University of Pittsburgh’s biomedical research areas and Carnegie Mellon University’s computer science areas. Just as basic scientific research opportunities provide students with wet bench experience and mentorship necessary to pursue careers as scientists, hands-on exposure to commercial translation and innovation opportunities in early career stages promotes budding entrepreneurs. Paralleling the launch of the Center for Commercial Applications of Healthcare Data, we set forth a new program to accomplish these goals, the Computer Science, Biology and Biomedical Informatics (CoSBBI) Innovation Internship.

These paid, time-flexible positions offer interns experiences across numerous unmet clinical needs, varying technological solution approaches and both Pitt and Pittsburgh innovation partners. First and foremost, the CoSBBI Innovation Internship gives students unparalleled mentorship and networking opportunities in healthcare, IT, and business. Students are involved in several distinct commercial translation projects and interact directly with University principal investigators from idea to impact. The fast pace of the Center for Commercial Applications of Healthcare Data enables interns to embed themselves in the early-stage commercial translation process, learning about developing and protecting intellectual property, performing market research, and developing investment pitches and proposals. Technical skills can also be developed in areas such as analytics, web development, and cloud computing. There will be four ongoing roles or components throughout the CoSBBI Innovation Internship, including:

1. sciVelo junior commercial translation associate role, supporting a project in the Center for Commercial Applications of Healthcare Data
2. Innovation/Entrepreneurship expert through mentorship, lectures, and tours
3. Center for Commercial Applications of Healthcare Data Subspecialist in choice area (e.g. web development/marketing/finance/etc.)
4. Educational liaison to young innovators in Pittsburgh

OVERVIEW

One goal of the Center for Commercial Applications of Healthcare Data is developing an educational platform for innovation. Students offer a large intellectual pool for academia and entrepreneurship; by providing paid internships to promote involvement in the commercialization of medicine and computer science, we hope to create a natural feedback loop for students to help foster growth in the Pittsburgh region, as well as train interns with the skills to start their own companies.
The Center for Commercial Applications of Healthcare Data plans to annually host undergraduate students as **Innovation Interns**. The CoSBBI is one of the sites of the [University of Pittsburgh Cancer Institute (UPCI) Summer Academy](https://www.csbbi.org). Now in its 10th year, the UPCI Summer Academy sets out to engage high school students in academic research experiences, just as the CoSBBI Innovation Internships aim to address the educational deficiency in entrepreneurialism by engaging undergraduates in translational commercialization experiences.

The initial six-year contract for the Center for Commercial Applications of Healthcare Data provides ample opportunity for continuous growth and evolution of the Center’s involvement at Pitt and in the Pittsburgh region. The internship details are constantly refined and improved by the interns themselves. In 2018, we will offer one internship, for a 10- to 12-week summer period (dates flexible with school schedule) with possible remote involvement beyond those 12 weeks. Note—these details are subject to change based on the application pool.

The intern will take place mostly at the [Department of Biomedical Informatics](https://www.med.upmc.edu/Informatics) in Shadyside, PA or at the sciVelo office in Oakland. Preference will be given to those who are more tightly connected to the Pittsburgh region, as housing is not provided. Interns will be paid as Pitt temporary employees, and must be at least 18 years of age. Tasks will range in skillsets. You should apply if the following bullets describe you,

- interest in healthcare and business
- strong understanding of biology
- knowledge of industry
- self-motivated with a go-getter mentality
- skilled in writing, speaking, project management, computer science, and web development

Interns will be involved with investigators and leaders from UPMC, the University of Pittsburgh, Carnegie Mellon University, and Pittsburgh start-ups and institutes. See the executive summary for a breakdown of the five internship components. Read more about the internship experience on the CoSBBI blog.

**Contact us** if you are interested in learning more or would like to apply for next year’s positions. Applications will be open until March 15, followed by one month of interviews before the 2018 intern is selected in early April. This position is in an involved, demanding internship, but we are cognizant of students’ searches for summer plans, so we ask selected applicants to confirm by late April to facilitate a waitlist process. Best of luck, and we hope you will help us **accelerate health data together**!