

# JACK'S Summer Scholars Program

A mentor and research program of the Division of Neonatal Medicine.



VCU Medical Center and Children's Hospital. A New Day.

## Division of Neonatal Medicine

Neonatal medicine (or neonatology) is a pediatric subspecialty that provides care to high risk newborns including full-term infants, premature infants, and critically ill infants with complex surgical needs or birth anomalies.

The Division of Neonatal Medicine provides multidisciplinary care in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) at Children's Hospital of Richmond (CHoR), a children's hospital within the Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU) Medical Center. Quiet surroundings, private rooms and cutting-edge technologies for newborns all contribute to the safe, collaborative environment of CHoR's NICU. The unit provides care for the highest level of patient acuity and is a resource and transfer hub for infants who require a higher level of care unavailable anywhere else in the community.

## Neonatal Team

The neonatal team runs a multifaceted program dedicated to providing excellence in all areas of clinical patient care, improving health care as leaders in medical research, and advancing medical education and academic endeavors.

The multidisciplinary team includes:

- Neonatologists
- Neonatology fellows (neonatologists in training)
- Neonatal nurses (specialty trained to care for critically ill and premature infants)
- Neonatal nurse practitioners
- Developmental specialists
- Infant and family psychologists
- Respiratory therapists
- Social workers
- Occupational, physical and speech therapists

Pediatric subspecialists (cardiologists, endocrinologists, surgeons, etc.) are also integral to meeting the health care needs of critically ill infants. The neonatal team builds strong collaborations with these subspecialists to provide multidisciplinary care to its patients and families. In addition to pediatric subspecialists, the team collaborates with maternal-fetal medicine to provide care and management of infants of mothers at risk for early or complicated deliveries.

**JACK's Summer Scholars Program** provides students with the opportunity to view the world of neonatology and pediatric subspecialties through clinical mentoring and research. Summer scholars have the opportunity to work with the neonatal team as they provide care and conduct research related to infant and maternal health. Specific



emphasis is placed on developing an understanding of multidisciplinary hospital care. The program also enables participants to explore medical career opportunities in pediatric subspecialties such as general surgery, anesthesiology, neurosurgery and infectious diseases.

The goals of JACK's Summer Scholars Program are to:

- Foster student interest in the importance of medical research and the medical profession through exploration of various areas of pediatrics and neonatology.
- Use mentorship to educate in a collaborative team environment and to teach medical professionalism.

## Program Tracks

Program candidates are selected from a highly competitive pool of applicants. All levels of university students in good standing are encouraged to apply, however preference is given to rising seniors. There are two tracks based on level of education including a Graduate Medical Student Program and a Pre-Med Undergraduate Program.

### *Graduate Medical Student Track*

Medical Students receive an assigned Division of Neonatal Medicine faculty/fellow mentor for basic or clinical research projects. They are exposed to a variety of pediatric shadowing experiences including neonatal intensive care and pediatric surgical subspecialty rotations.

### *Pre-Med Undergraduate Track*

This track offers pre-medical undergraduate college students an introduction to research, patient care, and ethical issues in neonatology. This track also provides exposure to a broad spectrum of health care providers through pediatric medicine shadowing opportunities. Each student is paired with a medical student for their project.

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**CHILDREN'S  
HOSPITAL** OF RICHMOND

VCU Medical Center and Children's Hospital: A New Day.

Candidates are awarded a stipend, \$1,500 for medical students and \$1,000 for undergraduates. The program covers lodging and meals for an eight week period. Candidates are responsible for covering all travel costs.

## Research

A selection of the division's investigations include endothelial cell vascular responses in retinopathy of prematurity, drug abuse, and hypertension. Other research activities include assessment of factors that control infant immunity, role of the microbiome in health and disease, and environmental factors that impact infant outcomes and development. A selection of clinical studies include enhanced ventilator strategies, oxygen use, ligation for PDA, decreasing central line associated infections and optimizing infant nutrition.

## Important Dates

**Application deadline: February 1, 2012**

**Program dates: May 21, 2012 - July 15, 2012**

## Application Information

Please visit <http://www.vcu.childrens.org/NIC/JACKS> to download an application.

For questions or more information please contact:

- Adriana Pascal – Scholar Coordinator  
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- Dr. Hendricks-Muñoz – Chief, Division of Neonatal Medicine, JACK'S Summer Scholars Program Director  
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## About the VCU School of Medicine

The Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU) School of Medicine is the oldest medical school in Virginia and the Commonwealth's largest public university to provide inpatient, outpatient and emergency care.

## About Children's Hospital of Richmond

CHoR offers a robust continuum of pediatric services, research and education. CHoR provides the widest range of pediatric services in the region and is Central Virginia's only full-service children's hospital. The pediatric team at CHoR provides primary, secondary, advanced tertiary and long term care to children from birth to age 21. Children's Hospital of Richmond has 11 locations, including two main campuses and nine satellite outpatient therapy centers.

*\*NOTE: The JACK'S Program will move from NYU to CHoR in February 2012.*

