



Multidisciplinary Student Research Collaborative

Upcoming Student Research Opportunity: Undergraduate Student Research Assistant

Harvard Radcliffe Institute ([HRI](#)) Invites students to apply for an open position in the Multidisciplinary Student Research Collaborative Program (MSRC). Students in this role would support Lisa Diller, Professor, Harvard Medical School, and Richard Parad, Associate Professor, Harvard Medical School, in leading their Exploratory Seminar titled, "Genetic Risk for Cancer: Should children undergo cancer risk testing as newborns?"

Major Responsibilities

- Prepare for the seminar by meeting with Drs. Diller and Parad and reading relevant literature and research materials provided by the seminar leaders.
- Help with seminary preparation, such as PowerPoint presentations or handout development.
- Attend a two-day seminar in person on November 6—7, 2023
- Help with notetaking/recording/documenting the seminar proceedings.
- Follow-up with post-seminar tasks, including drafting a manuscript.
- Complete a post-program survey.

Qualifications

The ideal candidate has strong organizational and communication skills, is passionate about multidisciplinary research and has an interest in medicine, genetics, medical ethics or population health. Candidates with relevant coursework in genetics or epidemiology will be given special consideration. This position is open to Harvard undergraduate students.

Executive Summary of the Project

Genetic advances have created new challenges in the care of children. Drs. Diller and Parad are members of the Department of Pediatrics at Harvard Medical School. Their recent collaborative work (which began when Dr. Diller was a Radcliffe Fellow) in clinical pediatric cancer genetics and newborn screening is focused on understanding the use of cancer risk testing in healthy newborns and children. Their work has largely focused on overcoming technical impediments to genetic testing and understanding the potential impact of testing using modeling. Drs. Diller and Parad are now formulating a plan to study the implementation of this testing in newborns in a clinical trial, but they have concerns and questions regarding the psychological impact, communication barriers, and ethical questions which arise when implementing a new test that utilizes the genetic code of a newborn to predict disease. They would like to use the Exploratory Seminar format to bring together a group of experts in cancer predisposition, genetics, newborn screening, health psychology, and ethics, as well as parent advocates, to help inform the design of future studies, and to inspire further collaborative work.



The Multidisciplinary Student Research Collaborative

Through this [program](https://harvard.smapply.org/), the Department of Academic Ventures and Engagement at Harvard Radcliffe Institute offers Harvard undergraduates and graduate students the opportunity to participate in cutting-edge, multidisciplinary research in conjunction with the Institute's Exploratory Seminar, Accelerator Workshop, and Advanced Seminar programs. Apply for this opportunity, as well as other programs, at <https://harvard.smapply.org/>.

Pay

- \$19 an hour for undergraduate students

Enrolled Harvard undergraduate students can work up to 20 hours per week across all their work commitments at Harvard. Students are also limited to a cap of hours worked throughout the project between 26 and 53 hours depending upon budget constraints. Specific hours/week will be coordinated, depending on your schedule and program workflow upon hire. Because this position is covered under the Graduate Student Bargaining Collective Agreement, we are only considering non-Federal Work Student Programs at this time.

Expected Start Date: October 6, 2023

Expected End Date: December 2023

How to Apply

Applications are due at 11:59 PM on Friday, September 22, 2023. Please submit a resume and writing sample at <https://harvard.smapply.org/>.