Dear prospective MSTAR student,

Welcome to the MSTAR program at UCSF! We are a satellite program of the UCLA MSTAR training site, meaning that we enact our own research and clinical activities for students based in San Francisco, but coordinate the applications process and “big-picture” national activities with program leaders at UCLA.

**THE APPLICATION PROCESS:**

If you have not already done so, please review the following information:

UCLA (our parent site) MSTAR website: <https://www.uclahealth.org/geriatrics/mstar>.

We will start accepting applications on January 17, 2023. The application deadline is March 1, 2023.

The MSTAR program at UCSF is a mentored research experience and is open to students with an interest in aging research. In addition to the application submitted to UCLA, students who are interested in applying to the UCSF site **must also email to Elaine Chow the following:**

* Start/End Date
* Research Mentor
* Research project title

It is important to note that different MSTAR sites deal with the application process differently. For example, other sites often match students to mentors after they are accepted into the program.

**FINDING A MENTOR**

Due to the popularity and competitiveness of the UCSF program, it is highly encouraged that students seek out and start a relationship with a mentor ahead of time. It is also possible for students who have an established research mentor at UCSF to join the program *if their mentor is doing aging research*. If you have a mentor in mind who is not listed on the UCSF MSTAR mentor list, let us know and we will reach out to the prospective mentor to include him/her as a UCSF MSTAR mentor.

If you do not have UCSF mentor in mind, review the potential mentor list to find a research mentor who is doing work in an area of interest (see below). We recommend contacting the potential mentor directly to see if they have any potential projects for the summer.

In your application, we recommend that you discuss your interest and dedication to aging research and/or clinical care. If you have a project in mind, it would also be important to write about your mentor and potential project (one paragraph or so is fine and it is OK if all the particulars are not yet decided). You and a mentor can finalize the specifics of your project as the summer nears.

**THE MSTAR PROGRAM AT UCSF**

In addition to the mentored research experience, two other core elements run throughout the summer. First, we arrange a variety of clinical experiences in geriatrics and related fields for students. These vary from week to week, but typically occur on 1 to 2 half-days a week. Second, we offer a didactic program with small-group teaching and “meet-the-professor” sessions related to research and clinical care of older adults. These sessions occur on Tuesday mornings. In addition, students are required to attend the Division of Geriatrics Research Works-In-Progress conference, which occurs Wednesday mornings from 8:15 – 9:30 AM.

In the latter part of the summer, all MSTAR students at UCSF will present their research in a symposium. In addition, we strongly encourage all MSTAR students to submit their research to the annual meeting of the American Geriatrics Society, which occurs in May of each year (for example, if a student is with us the summer of 2021, they would go to the AGS meeting in May 2022). There is a special student symposium at the meeting, and it’s a great opportunity to present your research, meet other students from around the country, and get a flavor for the wider community of geriatrics and aging research.

**LOGISTIC CONSIDERATIONS**

* The MSTAR program is a **MINIMUM** of 8 weeks and a maximum of 12 weeks.
* To allow for maximum productivity over the summer, we ask that students complete web-based research compliance trainings before starting their MSTAR experience (these trainings are required for all people at UCSF who do research). This typically involves a few hours of completing a handful of web-based courses.
* In 2022, the stipend for 8 weeks was $4392, although this may change because of cost of living adjustments in 2023. You will receive the 1st half of your stipend during the first few weeks of the program and the 2nd half of your stipend during the middle of the MSTAR program (we cannot provide a specific date); please plan your finances accordingly (i.e. if you start June 1st, don’t expect a check the first week you are here).

If needed, you may also contact Elaine Chow, the UCSF program administrator, at elaine.chow2@ucsf.edu. Thank you for your interest in MSTAR!