

ACC Young Scholars Mentorship

The Academic Section of the American College of Cardiology is now in its fourth year of hosting the Young Scholars Program. This program was designed to introduce promising high school and college students to careers in cardiovascular medicine and strengthen the pipeline of future talent in the field.

The American College of Cardiology's Young Scholars Program is a 1-year program that will kick off virtually in April. Over the course of the subsequent year, students will be paired with a Fellow of the American College of Cardiology for a dedicated year of mentored research. Each student will work directly with their mentor on a research project most appropriately suited to their level of experience. In addition to one-on-one mentorship for each accepted student, the program will include regularly scheduled educational webinars to allow students to gain additional knowledge about careers in the field of cardiovascular disease, and information related to the basics of research in medicine.

The year-long program will conclude at ACC.23 in New Orleans as a culminating event for all students who stay actively engaged throughout the year. They will be able to attend opening day sessions and late breaking clinical trials. They will also be paired up with an FIT of the college to take them around the expo floor and attend other sessions ACC.23 has to offer.

Expectations of Mentors:

Mentors will guide students on a research project and serve as a source of support to help the student understand the best way to navigate one's educational journey to achieve their career goals.

1. Mentors should be an FACC and ideally work in an academic environment
2. Mentors should be willing to work with high school and college students as an advisor/mentor and provide guidance and supervision as needed
3. Mentors should develop a suitable research project for their student to lead or, allow their student an opportunity to be part of an on-going research project.

*Please note that while students are encouraged to work with their mentors on a research project and encouraged to volunteer their time to help with some form of research, this was not delineated as a mandatory requirement to be part of this program. Therefore, it is possible that some students may not be prepared or able to dedicate time to research. In these situations, we encourage the mentor to create a way in which the student can learn more about research without having to directly commit to a research project.

4. Mentors should provide the student with opportunities for shadowing to allow for direct observations of the clinical world of cardiology.
5. Mentors should meet with students on a regular basis to discuss their education goals, extra-curricular work, and help the students to learn about the various fields of medicine/research and a field of study that maybe best suited for them. Meetings should occur about 4 times a year, ideally in-person, but given the pandemic, phone calls or facetime meetings are also acceptable forms of communication when necessary.
6. Mentors should be available for informal communication/trouble shooting when needed through additional phone calls or email correspondence.
7. We welcome any comments or suggestions to the structure of the mentorship program.