



### General Information

At the University of Missouri, we are taking on society's biggest health care challenges and expanding our collaborative research efforts to bring precision health to patients, no matter where they live. From major urban centers to underserved rural communities, the University of Missouri Ellis Fischel Cancer Center investigators are dedicated to delivering the next generation of personalized health care solutions. This is where opposite ideas attract, grand challenges are explored every day, and where rigorous study meets the real world.

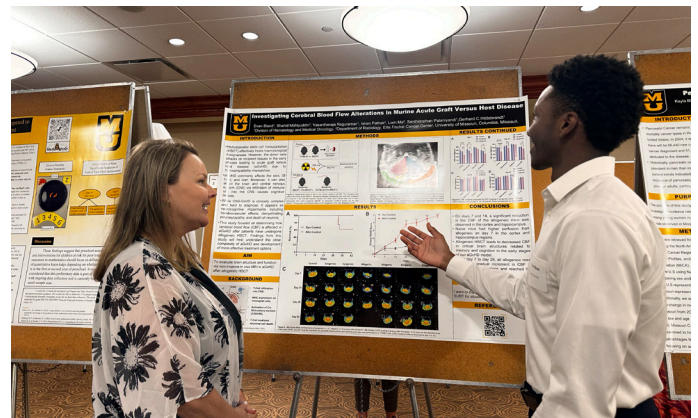


Visit our program website!



Missouri faces an increasing cancer burden, coupled with a low number of students pursuing careers in oncology and cancer research. The Ellis Fischel Cancer Center's Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowship (SURF) program aims to address this gap by providing immersive research experiences that enhance students' skills, foster mentor-mentee relationships, and promote diversity in STEM. By expanding access to these opportunities, particularly for underrepresented groups, the program prepares students for successful careers in cancer research and strengthens the state's capacity to address its cancer-related challenges.

**Program runs May 27 - July 26** with travel days on May 27th and July 26th (9 weeks). Students receive one credit hour, on-campus air-conditioned housing, a daily meal plan, travel to and from Columbia, and subsistence of \$5400 (minus taxes). A mandatory orientation session will be held May 28th & 29th.



### Application Information

**The deadline to apply is February 16, 2025.** Students must complete the [application](#) and provide: an **unofficial transcript** (including Fall 2024 grades); **letters of recommendation** (two preferred); **a resumé**; and a **personal statement** indicating career plans, prior research experience, and research interests.

### Educational Programming

The program emphasizes hands-on research experience, allowing students to engage directly in cancer research projects under the mentorship of experienced faculty. This experiential approach fosters deep learning and the application of theoretical knowledge in realworld contexts. A significant component of the program is the mentor-mentee relationship. Experienced researchers provide guidance, helping students navigate the complexities of research, develop critical thinking skills, and gain insights into professional pathways in cancer research. The program encourages students to approach problems from multiple perspectives, integrating knowledge from various disciplines such as biology, chemistry, medicine, and technology. This interdisciplinary focus enhances creativity and intellectual resourcefulness.

### Eligibility

Applicants should have completed one year in an undergraduate STEM major and have a strong interest in pursuing a career in cancer research or treatment. Prior laboratory experience is not required. Students must be citizens or permanent residents of the U.S.

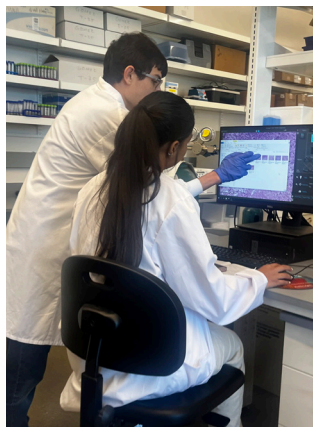
## MU and Columbia Communities

The University of Missouri is committed to fostering **an inclusive community of researchers**, free from discrimination and harassment as defined in MU's Student Standard of Conduct and Human Resources policy. As visiting students on the MU campus, participants in the Summer Research Internship Programs join current MU students, faculty, and staff in holding the following values as the foundation of our identity as a community: **Excellence, Respect, Responsibility, and Discovery**. Upon this, we strive to build a comprehensive, engaging learning experience for all persons involved in our programs.

In partnership with the MU Office of Undergraduate Research (OUR), the EFCC-SURF fellows carry out a cancer research project under the guidance of over thirty world class cancer research labs, led by Cancer Center federally funded faculty mentors and participate in seminars, small groups, and other activities that will enrich their understanding of new technologies that are revolutionizing the diagnosis and treatment of cancer. Fellows learn about the cancer continuum from bench research of theranostics and molecular imaging, radioisotopes and nuclear medicine, to comparative oncology, including translational clinical trials and drug discovery, to immunomodulation and regenerative medicine including bone marrow transplant, cellular therapy, and cancer vaccinations, to data driven decision-making, using computer generated cancer modeling and engineering, to community-wide public health education, cancer prevention and screening, and patient centered care participating in clinical and operating room shadowing.

Students admitted to the EFCC-SURF program will participate in an intensive nine-week program encompassing a series of educational experiential training. This includes professional development activities, focused discussions on cancer research within small groups, and immersive, interactive tours, including highly advanced clinical and molecular imaging cores and the Missouri University Research Reactor (MURR), the largest research reactor in the world, designed to enhance their understanding and engagement with the field.

Students should expect to work 40 hours per week in their lab, attend mandatory weekly meetings, and join in various professional development activities. Additional questions may be directed to **EFCC Administration** (efcc-admin@health.missouri.edu).



**Ever wonder how cancer connects a research reactor, a veterinary medical center, and a cancer center?**

## Research Education Experiences

- ✓ Research Professional Development Seminars
- ✓ Cancer Biology Course Credit
- ✓ Cased-based Research Small Group Discussions
- ✓ STEM-based Educational Tours
- ✓ Weekly Mentor/Mentee Meetings
- ✓ Professional Career Development
- ✓ Community Building Events
- ✓ NIH Responsible Conduct of Research

