



Summer Program to Advance Research Careers
dfhcc.harvard.edu/SPARC

An innovative and engaging 12-week program to spark interest in cancer and cancer disparities research careers

WHAT IS SPARC?

The intensive 12-week summer program engages undergraduates in a full-time scientific education and training opportunity. Students will learn from research-scientists who are using emerging technologies across DF/HCC and UMass Boston. Program activities focus on three areas critical to the development of successful, innovative cancer researchers:

- Acquisition of scientific knowledge of cancer and emerging technologies
- Development of communication skills
- Individualized career preparation



PROGRAM ELIGIBILITY

The program is open to students who are first- or second-year students at UMass Boston and local Community Colleges. Students from backgrounds underrepresented in the sciences* as well as those who are first-generation college students, or are from economically disadvantaged backgrounds are especially encouraged to apply.

Applicants must also meet the following criteria:

- Have US citizenship or permanent residency
- Demonstrate an interest in basic, computational, and/or public health-related research
- Show interest in pursuing a biomedical science or health-related career

*Black/African American, Latinx, Native American/Alaskan, Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander

PROGRAM BENEFITS

SPARC students will gain confidence that they can successfully pursue a career in cancer research and begin constructing a practical road map for achieving that goal.

- Extensive scientific education & training
- Focus on emerging technologies in cancer research
- Seminars on research and professional development topics
- Experience composing an abstract and delivering an oral or poster presentation of your research
- Networking with scientists and peers
- Competitive stipend



IMPORTANT DATES

Application Extended: March 1st, 2021

Tentative Program Start Date: May 24, 2021

TO APPLY:

Visit our website at <http://www.dfhcc.harvard.edu/SPARC>

For more information, contact U54REC@umb.edu

ABOUT THE PARTNERSHIP

Since 2003, the UMass Boston–Dana-Farber Harvard Cancer Center (DF/HCC) Partnership has focused on addressing health disparities in minority populations and on improving research, training, and outreach opportunities for students, faculty, and scientists. The partnership connects UMass Boston researchers with clinicians and researchers at DF/HCC and supports collaborative investigations aimed at understanding and reducing cancer and cancer disparities. It also provides undergraduate, graduate, and postdoctoral trainees to engage in cancer-related, mentored research experiences. The partnership continues to significantly expand opportunities for researchers and talented students, especially those from underrepresented backgrounds, in four broad areas of cancer investigation—basic, clinical, nursing, and population science research.