

## **KU Alzheimer's Disease Center / Wichita State University Regional Institute on Aging Developing Scholars Program**

### **Mission and Purpose**

The KU Alzheimer's Disease Center (KUADC) and the Wichita State University Regional Institute on Aging have created the Developing Scholars Program. The Internship is a 8-week, research intensive program designed to provide experiential learning opportunities in a wide range of Alzheimer's disease and brain aging research, including molecular, epidemiologic, observational, model-based, and clinical studies. As part of our mission, the KUADC is committed to training prospective researchers and health professionals in brain aging and dementia study and care.

### **Goals for the Training Program**

- 1) Attract high quality pre-professionals with a structured, mutually beneficial, learning experience.
- 2) Train future geriatric and dementia care researchers and clinicians.
- 3) Provide a meaningful and rewarding training experience that goes beyond the classroom walls.

### **Availability of Training Program Positions**

There are a limited number of positions offered based on funding and mentorship availability. They are awarded on a competitive basis at the discretion of the Program Directors, Dr. Alex Chaparro and Dr. Eric Vidoni with no guarantee an applicant will be awarded a position.

### **Remuneration**

Scholars are paid a \$4400 stipend for the 8-week program.

### **Prospective Trainee Background**

Individuals with training in biology, kinesiology, gerontology, psychology, public health, or a professional or academic interest in neuroscience, neuroimaging, aging or health care are preferred. Those with other backgrounds and career interests (engineering, art, etc.) are welcome but encouraged to contact the Program Director before applying.

Individuals representing underrepresented minorities pursuing undergraduate degrees in the STEM (science, technology, engineering or mathematics) disciplines are preferred.

### **Selection Process**

#### **Step 1 Application**

Send your resume or curriculum vitae to Dr. Chaparro, [instituteonaging@wichita.edu](mailto:instituteonaging@wichita.edu), along with a cover letter explaining your interest in the program. Applications will be accepted until April 10.

#### **Step 2 Internal Review**

The Program Directors will review all applications and notify all applicants no later than April 15. Applicants will be evaluated on their prior experience with their research, their course work history in their current major and their proposed plans for training or a career in aging.

### **Step 3 Formal Application**

Accepted trainees who will then complete will then complete a formal application. Details of the application process will be determined based upon whether the trainee will be remunerated.

### **Other Requirements of Accepted Scholars**

- Infection Control Compliance Requirements
  - \*Proof of Immunizations
  - \*Proof of a negative two-step TB test within the past 2 years.*\*If the prospective intern does not have proof of these, HR can help arrange an appointment in Occupational Health at the trainee's expense.*
- HIPAA and Human Subjects' Protection Training and Certification
- Conflict of Interest Certification

### **Supervision**

The KUADC will identify 1 or 2 staff members that will serve as a supervising mentor based on mutual interest and availability. These staff members will assist the trainee in identifying experiential opportunities that serve the needs of both the KUADC and the trainee.

### **Duties**

The KUADC is engaged in a variety of clinical and research activities. It is incumbent upon the trainee to work with his or her supervising mentor to identify experiences that benefit the KUADC and meet learning goals.

Duties may include any activities the KUADC is engaged in, commensurate with the trainee's abilities and experience, including off-campus travel. These duties will be mutually agreed upon and described on the goals and checklist form prior to the start of the training period. Travel will not be compensated.

### **Time Commitment**

Scholars are expected to work 40 hours per week for 8 weeks during normal business hours. Occasional early release or absences can be negotiated with the supervising mentor with the consent of the Program Directors.

### **Dress Code**

Business casual attire is expected Mondays through Thursdays and at all times when in contact with participants or patients. Casual attire is acceptable on Fridays. No torn or wrinkled clothing, T-shirts, or shorts are allowed unless authorized by the trainee's supervisor.

### **Travel, Room and Board**

The scholar is responsible for arranging and paying their own travel expenses, room and board. Several apartments near the KU Medical Center provide housing on a monthly basis. KUMC and the Developing Scholars Program do not endorse any housing provider. Scholars will be considered temporary employees and thus will follow the KUMC HR policy and application process for temporary employees. Total employment hours not to exceed 400 hours.

### **Course credit**

The training opportunity is not considered a course for enrollment or credit purposes unless offered through a cooperating program. The KUADC can provide letters detailing the experience to schools or

prospective employers as requested with sufficient notice.

If the agreed-upon experience-based learning program meets specific requirements for an intramural or extramural credit-offering course, details can be discussed with the Program Director during the application process.

### **Scheduling**

The KUADC is typically open from 7:30 to 5:30 Monday through Friday, and follows the KUMC calendar for holidays. Trainee work times are to be discussed and delineated with supervising mentor.

#### **Program Directors**

Alex Chaparro, PhD  
Director, Regional Institute on Aging  
Wichita State University  
[Alex.Chaparro@wichita.edu](mailto:Alex.Chaparro@wichita.edu)

Eric Vidoni, PT, PhD  
KUADC Education and Outreach Core Director  
[evidoni@kumc.edu](mailto:evidoni@kumc.edu)

#### **Location of the KUADC Office**

KU Alzheimer Disease Center  
4350 Shawnee Mission Pkwy  
Fairway, KS 66205  
<http://bit.ly/KUADCmap>