

SUMMER SCHOLARS

Undergraduate Students Dedicate their Summer Vacations to Basic Science

Each year, as colleges and universities around the world let out for summer break, small groups of talented students find their way to the Stowers Institute to pursue summer research opportunities. This summer, those groups included 11 Stowers Scholars from undergraduate institutions around the United States; six students from Peking University in Peking, China; and six students from France, Italy, and Germany.

"The thrill of swimming is in the water and the thrill of skiing is on the slope. The same is true for research," said Ron Yu, Ph.D., Assistant Investigator, who has mentored several summer researchers. "When students apply what they have learned from textbook to real experiments and, in turn, gain insights into how the knowledge is acquired, it becomes addictive. Over the years I have given summer researchers increasingly challenging projects, and they thrive

on the challenges. The Scholars program is invaluable to me, and I believe it is invaluable to the students, too."

Each student is placed with a mentor in a lab or support facility and is given an opportunity to conduct significant basic biomedical research utilizing cutting-edge technology and the most advanced research techniques. In the fall, they return to their home institutions with valuable experience and, sometimes, a new perspective on their future career path.

"I enjoyed the learning atmosphere at the Institute," said Jonathan Scoville, a third-year student majoring in Biochemistry at Brigham Young University who spent his summer conducting research in the Cytometry Facility. "There is always someone willing to help you understand difficult things, but they allow you to work and learn on your own. I always wanted to be involved in research, I just

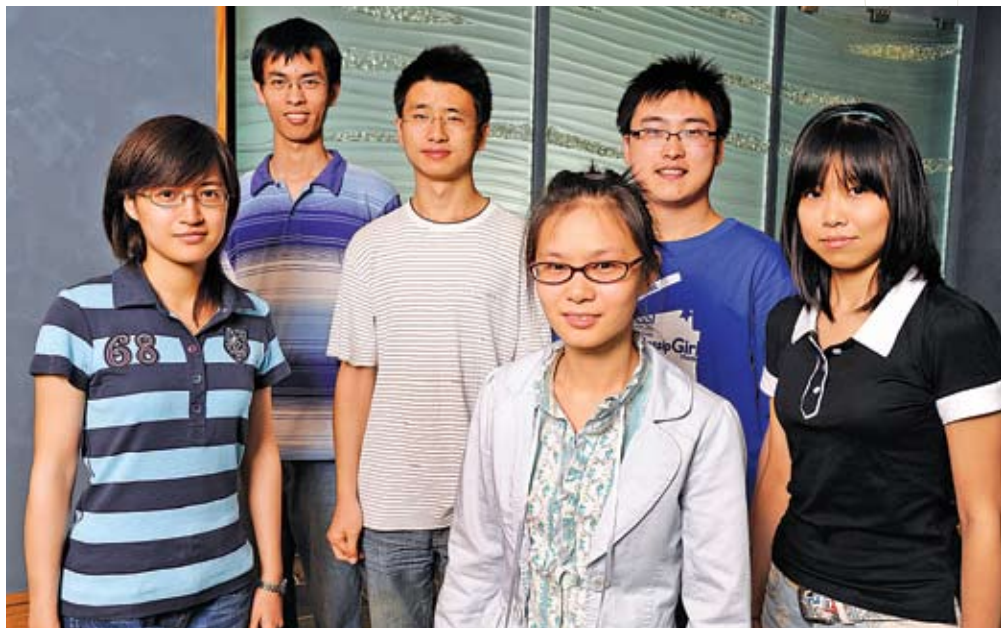


2009 Stowers Scholars (back row from left) Jonathan Scoville, Stephanie Rawlings, John McGinnis, Spencer Karr; Jessica Samuelson, Kinjal Majumder (front row from left) Priyanka Surana, Steven Tan, Brian McCandless, Andrew Satterlee, and Megan Fracol

didn't know what kind. Now I know that I would like to study developmental cancer biology."

"After three years of courses, I had hardly gained any research experience, but I was interested in solving biological problems in a computational way," said Lingxue Zhang, a fourth-year student in Biology, French, and Mathematics at Peking University, who spent her summer providing bioinformatics support in the Yu Lab. "This experience allowed me to combine my knowledge in different subjects, including programming and statistics. I learned new skills and applied them in my research. It is also really amazing to compare my methods with a published paper, and to discover something new to be done in the field."

To learn more about the Stowers Scholars program and other summer research opportunities at the Stowers Institute, visit www.stowers.org/ScientistsSought/TrainingPrograms.asp.



International Scholars from the University of Peking (from left) Zhangli Su, Chuankai Zhou, Ye Qiu, Yu Jiang, Su Wang, Lingxue Zhang

Stowers Scholars Research Projects

Student Scholar	Lab	School	Project
Megan Fracol	Yu Lab	University of Kansas	A Genetic Approach to a Self-Propagating Neuronal Tracer
Spencer Karr	Media Prep	Tulane University	Preparation of Reagents and Growth Media
Kinjal Majumder	Baumann Lab	Drury University	Identification of Novel Protein at the Mature 3' End of TER1 in <i>S. Pombe</i>
Brian McCandless	Rong Li Lab	Kansas State University	Molecular Mechanisms of Symmetry Breaking in Mouse Oocytes
John McGinnis	Linheng Li Lab	Luther College	Purification and Functional Verification of R-Spondin 1
Stephanie Rawlings	Abmayr Lab	University of Oregon	The Effect of SNS Immunoglobulin Domain Deletions on Cell Aggregation
Jessica Samuelson	Si Lab	University of Kansas	Persistence of Memory in <i>Drosophila</i>
Andrew Satterlee	Yu Lab	Kansas State University	Identification of an Estrus-Dependent Pheromone
Jonathan Scoville	Cytometry Facility	Brigham Young University	Assay Development for Analysis of Bone Marrow
Priyanka Surana	Zeitlinger Lab	Purdue University	Extracting High Resolution Information from ChIP-Seq Data
Steven Tan	Gerton Lab	University of California - Davis	Characterizing Psh1 in Budding Yeast