

EVALUATION OF WV-BRIN SUMMER RESEARCH PROGRAM

1. Was the information provided about the program ahead of time helpful in allowing you to make a decision about applying? If not, how can it be improved?

- Partially helpful, presentation at school allowed questions to be answered
- Did not receive information prior to presentation at school
- Yes, it was helpful
- Yes it was helpful
- Would have liked more information including long-term goals, money provided
- Yes; however the web site was a little slow at getting the application forms on line
- The information was slightly cloudy
- The only information was what was presented at the presentation at school. It would have been helpful to have had printed information handed out (that was done, so this person must not have gotten it)
- Yes
- Yes
- Yes
- Yes; younger students should have been encouraged to apply
- Yes

2. Did you attend the visit to your campus by the WV-BRIN representative to describe the program? Was it helpful? How can the visit have been improved?

- Yes, it was helpful, but the presentation was not publicized very well
- Yes; it might have been nice to separate the presentations into “interns” and “faculty” (that was done when I made the presentations)
- Yes
- Next year, examples of the posters should be available for the attendees to see
- I did not attend
- Yes; application forms and more mentor booklets should be made available
- Yes; use examples from this year to show students what actually goes on
- Yes; more advertising about the presentation would have been helpful
- Yes
- Yes
- The presentation did not start on time, and I had to leave before it was over
- I did not attend the presentation, but did speak to the BRIN representative one-on-one as did other students

3. Was the Mentor’s Booklet helpful in selecting the three potential mentors? How can it be improved?

- It needed more information on the projects students might be doing
- Some were very straightforward while others were rather confusing
- Yes; it was helpful in selecting a mentor
- Yes, but maybe specific projects can be described for students so that they can prepare before they arrive
- Very helpful. It would have been nice to have been given information about the graduate students the mentors have in their labs
- It was very helpful
- It was a little overwhelming and somewhat vague. A more detailed description would have been helpful. Emphasis needs to be placed on contacting the mentor. Having the booklet available on line was very helpful
- It was very helpful in choosing a mentor, but some of the projects were vague or completely over my head. Information should be presented consistently from mentor to mentor and in less scientific jargon. A list of prospective procedures the intern will engage in should be included

- It was accurate and helpful
- Yes
- Yes, since I couldn't attend to presentation
- Yes; the positions should have been posted in more depth concerning what the student will be doing so he/she can brush up on them ahead of time
- Yes

4. Was the correspondence from Dr. Reasor and Vickie Sanders prior to your arrival at WVU or Marshall helpful? How can it be improved?

- It was as helpful as it could be
- It was helpful; the Marshall information was extremely vague
- No complaint
- Both were extremely helpful; I like the correspondence through e-mail
- Helpful; always responded with speed
- Very prompt and courteous. In his visitation, Dr. Reasor said housing was available but there was none; his e-mails were of little help (although he made an effort). Ms. Sanders tried to help and kept in continual contact
- Always quick and accurate and adequately answered all of my concerns and requests
- Both were helpful in answering questions and in filling out all those confusing forms. Through this correspondence is how I learned most of the details about the program
- It was helpful
- Yes
- Very helpful
- They kept me well informed
- Yes

5. Was the orientation session at the beginning of the program helpful? How can it be improved?

- Very helpful; it could have been better organized
- It was helpful
- It was OK
- It helped me become familiar with the health sciences building, other BRIN students and my mentor
- Yes
- It was good by seemed too drawn out. Not everything pertained to everyone and some speakers went too long. Find a way to shorten it and have a small orientation between the mentors and participants
- Yes
- It was not too helpful. Most of the safety issues I had been told since freshman chemistry. The tours and meeting with my mentor were the most helpful to me. I suggest that the students are taken up to get their parking permits that day.
- It was helpful and I enjoyed it very much
- Yes
- It was helpful, but I didn't feel as comfortable knowing my way around the building at the end of the day. I would have liked a more complete tour.
- It was very helpful, and made me feel welcome
- Yes

6. Was your laboratory experience rewarding? How can it be improved?

- It was wonderful
- It was rewarding. It would have been helpful to receive a check in advance to help with the first few weeks of moving here.

- It was really rewarding
- It was extremely rewarding
- It was very rewarding. The mentor should be more available during the course of the program
- I thoroughly enjoyed the experience. I learned about research; how difficult and rewarding it is and learned new techniques and methods. It opened several doors to my future
- It was incredible! My mentor was a wonderful teacher and the others in the lab were so helpful. The material was interesting and working on break-through research was exciting.
- I think so.
- Yes
- It was rewarding in the aspect that it broadened my interest in the field of genetics. The only part I am wary about is the whole microscope work aspect. I don't like looking through a microscope 3 or 4 hours a day.
- It was rewarding. I learned several new techniques. However, due to the fact I had never done these techniques before, and I think that my professor needed to be more understanding. The BRIN program needs to be viewed as more of a learning experience by professors than a job where skills are expected to be present before arrival.
- Yes, very much so

7. Were the enrichment activities (seminars, demonstrations, etc.) valuable? How can they be improved?

- They have been a something of a mixed bag in their usefulness. More free food would improve attendance and interest.
- Some were; some pulled us away from our lab work for no reason. The seminars during noon at NIOSH where no food was provided were an irritation.
- Certainly valuable
- I liked the seminars given by the professor on various work they have done. I liked the WVU lectures more than the ones at NIOSH because they seemed more applicable to me. The pizza and sandwiches were a good asset too.
- Not that valuable. I could not understand the speaker with a foreign accent.
- The workshops were very informative and quite useful as well. The seminars were good to provide a broader understanding of other research
- They were helpful in learning about what actually goes into research and the emphasis on graduate school. They were good at educating participants on what goes on after undergraduate school and the multiple options in the biomedical sciences.
- I enjoyed most of the seminars. They were interesting and thought provoking.
- They were very valuable.
- Yes
- They were very valuable. The recent activity with the librarian was very helpful as well. I was introduced to a very valuable website.
- I truly enjoyed the seminars. I think there should be more of them for shorter periods of time. The students do have work that they need to do, and asking them to miss 2 or 3 hours in the afternoon is not fair.
- Yes – maybe they can start demonstrating at low levels of understanding and increase slowly

8. Did the summer research program change your attitude about applying to graduate school in the biomedical sciences? If so, how?

- I was already planning to attend graduate school, but the BRIN program has given me a clearer idea of what I need to do.

- I am already planning to get my Master's, but now I am thinking more strongly about getting a Ph.D.
- Dr. Reasor can add part of the seminar he gave about "Why go to graduate school and what to expect" to his presentation at the PUIs.
- I am definitely more interested in getting my Master's degree. It seems like an attainable goal whereas before this program, I wasn't sure if I could do it.
- It has made me more aware of how research works. I still have not decided.
- It has altered my attitude about graduate school. I am no longer intimidated by research and enjoy the actual hands-on work. It really helped to let me know what it is all about, from all perspectives.
- The program gave me a renewed interest in graduate school, particularly the MD/PhD program. I have always wanted to become a doctor, but now with the new prospect of graduate school, I would like to combine the two and get a dual degree.
- The summer program gave me valuable opportunities to meet some of the graduate students and talk about going to graduate school in general. The program was helpful to get lots of information about graduate school. I am going to apply to some of the graduate school.
- N/A
- The program has drastically changed my mind about applying to grad school in the biomedical sciences. I am almost positive that I will apply. It has also opened my eyes to the fact that thus far in college, I have only been giving 75% because that has been all that it has taken for me to get by successfully. I now know that I am going to have to start giving a billion and ten percent if I am going to stand out amongst all of the stiff competition when applying for grad school.
- I am really considering graduate school now, even though I had no intention of doing so before hand. When I see how many doors open for you by having more school, I see that in the world of science, knowledge really does mean power.
- No, I still want to be a cardiologist. It made me more aware of the genetics of cardiovascular disease.

9. What did you like the best about the program?

- Lots of new experiences and opportunities to learn.
- I enjoyed learning in the lab.
- The program has given us the opportunity to link, interact with the professors, researchers, labs and other resources, which would be useful for our future activities.
- I liked the experience of being in a lab and becoming immersed in the work that my mentor is doing. I am completely hooked on research.
- The people, the paycheck, the learning, experience, flexibility in workplace.
- The opportunity to do research in an interesting field and using techniques that I chose to use.
- I really enjoyed the actual research, along with meeting new people. I have always enjoyed learning, but this really expanded my outlook on what is out there, beyond graduation.
- Working in the lab. I love to learn new techniques and apply them to ongoing research in the laboratory. I also love the possibility of having the research that I accomplished during the program published and being one of the authors.
- There were a lot of great presentations or seminars.
- Relearning what I forgot; learning new equipment
- I liked the experience I gained far more than anything else in the program
- I do like the length of the program. It is a summer job, but allows the opportunity to have a short break from school before and after the program. All of the people involved

were so cooperative. I think that this is the best part of being involved in the BRIN program. Everyone knows the importance of learning and having a good experience in the lab.

- My mentor and co-workers. The genetic aspects of the research interested me.

9. What did you like the least about the program?

- Some of the enrichment experiences were lacking
- Moving arrangements for only 3 months.
- In most cases, participant's absences from the seminars and parties after repeated reminders.
- I wish the program could have lasted longer or that I could somehow have a way of returning to finish the work I started. I really believe in the research ideas that I was introduced to. I am leaving something I worked hard on and that has become such a big part of me
- The 2 day orientation session
- I didn't like the short amount of time of the internship. I think that it should be extended to maximize the actual learning experience, allowing a short span in the beginning to learn about the actual project.
- The housing; I stayed in Brooke Tower and it was not pleasant. I would recommend that students who need to stay in Morgantown for 2 months be matched with a roommate then perhaps aided in renting an apartment.
- Unfortunately the lab was in the process of moving to North Dakota, so people did not pay much attention to me.
- The drive.
- I disliked most having to park in that awful pit and walk up each of the 125 steps.
- I think the program should make housing more available and affordable.
- I am not sure I disliked anything.

11. Please provide any other comments that you think might be helpful in improving the program.

- The Marshall conference – it was at a time that made it difficult to prepare for the move and the scholarships were very late; too late to pay off a credit card by its due date.
- WV-BRIN representative's sincere efforts to make the program successful are praiseworthy
- Overall, I give the program a very good rating. I feel it provided everyone with the opportunity to enhance themselves and the research of the mentors. I feel that I have benefited greatly from this program.
- This program will help to increase the research in WV along with increasing the interest in graduate school. Thank you all for your help and support.
- If even I could get a small project to be done as part of a large project, then I would be more motivated to work (I think he means as part of the summer program).
- I wish that my mentor had specifically had days marked for things to be completed on. I was sort of going at my own pace.
- Students can explore their interests with continued mentoring and opportunities if they could work more than one summer.