

# The USC/CHLA Summer Oncology Research Fellowship (SORF) Program

USC Norris Comprehensive Cancer Center  
Keck Medicine of USC



## Program Description

Our NIH-supported Summer Oncology Research Fellowship (SORF) Program for US medical students is a full time 8-12 week program in the summer(s) between school years in medical school between May and August. It is designed for students who are considering a biomedical career that involves cancer research. This research fellowship takes place at two sites: **Children's Hospital Los Angeles (CHLA)** and the **Norris Comprehensive Cancer Center and Keck School of Medicine of USC**.

SORF immerses medical students in cutting-edge research experiences within a **Team Science** framework in oncology, malignant hematology, and related fields. Students are matched with mentors according to their preferences, interests and research experience. Research projects are in pediatric, adolescent or adult hematology-oncology, in clinical, translational or laboratory research, in bioinformatics, machine learning, biomedical engineering, computational biology, precision medicine, population-based research, survivorship and other oncology-related fields. SORFites work on their research project under experienced faculty mentors, visit centers of emerging sciences, participate in social and networking activities, interact with faculty, trainees and cancer survivors, and engage in a dynamic interactive curriculum of selected topics in hematology-oncology, career development, research communication, research skills and responsible conduct of research. Students further enhance their skills through scientific reports, posters and oral presentations. SORFites are encouraged to present their work at local, national and international conferences and to compile their data into a manuscript for publication. As testament to the success of the program, many SORFites have gone on to successful academic medical careers involving cancer research and related disciplines.



<http://chla.org/fellowship/summer-oncology-research-fellowship>

**Contact:**  
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Students apply online. SORF's executive committee invites the top applicants to participate in SORF's full time summer program. Invited students indicate five or more project/mentor choices from a list provided and are paired with one. They then connect with their mentors, read background literature, conceptualize and submit a research proposal prior to start of the program, and are ready for their project upon arrival. Applicants with solid lab research experience and laboratory research aspirations are given special attention. We encourage applications from all students, including underrepresented minorities, economically disadvantaged or underserved backgrounds, or students with disabilities.

In summer 2024 the program will again be fully *in-person*, on-site at CHLA and at Keck/USC in Los Angeles, California.

Students receive up to \$600/week for subsistence while in the summer program. Housing assistance and travel to/from Los Angeles are provided to qualifying students (ask us). Students can also be supported for additional research beyond the summer, to complete their projects remotely or on-site and in presenting their research at scientific conferences.

## To Apply

Online application and guidelines are at the SORF program's website: <http://chla.org/fellowship/summer-oncology-research-fellowship>

**Applications for Summer 2024 are accepted after November 1, 2023. Early application/early admission deadline is December 18, 2023 with acceptances in January 2024. Regular application deadline is January 8, 2024 with acceptances in February 2024.**

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