

10 students aided by Medical Careers Project

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A group of 10 students from disadvantaged areas is getting a chance to work in the medical "big time" this summer through a special project in the School of Medicine at the University of California, San Diego.

The students, seven from UCSD and three from local high schools, are working side-by-side with researchers and doctors in a Medical Careers Project designed to give disadvantaged students 10 weeks of educational work experience in medical and research laboratories.

The students are being paid for their work and consider the project a summer job - the kind of job few students ever hope to find. Funds for the project have come from several sources, including the National Institute of Health, the American Chemical Society, Regional Medical Programs and the UCSD School of Medicine.

Each of the students has been assigned to a specific doctor, a member of the UCSD medical faculty, who is responsible for the student's training. Each doctor assigns laboratory experiments, reading assignments, tutorials, and independent projects designed to enhance the scientific background of the student and provide incentive for a career in the medical sciences.

According to Jack Douglass, Assistant to the Chancellor at UCSD and the motivation behind the Medical Careers Project, the object is to encourage young people from poverty areas to enter into training which will fit them for the health services so badly needed by the community.

"It is difficult for any student, disadvantaged or not, to find a summer job which will help train him for future studies and a profession," Douglass said. "In most cases, the closest any student can come to the medical profession is washing test tubes.

"This project gives the students valuable medical work experience while helping to offset the position from which they have been forced to begin their education. And, it gives the students desperately needed financial assistance," he said.

"The students selected to work on this project have spent the major part of their lives living in poverty areas," Douglass said. "We hope that they will serve as models for other young people in their neighborhoods."

The students work on a one-to-one basis with a faculty member right in the medical laboratories on specifically assigned projects. They are scheduled for an hour's conference each day with their supervisors and attend at least one student conference each week in order to share their work experiences.

In addition, each of the students is scheduled to observe actual surgery at University Hospital at least once during the 10 week period.

Sometime during the summer, each of the students is scheduled to present a seminar before the other students, the faculty and the public outlining his research work and his findings. The students must be well prepared for the presentation because it is open to questions from the audience. According to Douglass, those

that have given their presentations so far have shown good understanding of their work and a great deal of poise in front of their colleagues.

The students for the project were selected by a joint committee made up of the Assistant Dean of Student Affairs of the UCSD School of Medicine, the Assistant Director of the Equal Opportunity Program and Douglass.

The students taking part in the project, their home addresses and their educational affiliations follows:

David Casillas, of Chula Vista, a junior at UCSD's Muir College majoring in biology.

Sandra Cook, of San Diego, a senior at UCSD's Revelle College majoring in biology and interested in pediatrics.

Fred Dumas, Blake Hall at UCSD, a junior at Muir College majoring in Biology.

Barbara Grant, of San Diego, a senior at Lincoln High School interested in chemistry.

Mildred Hayes, of San Diego, a junior at Muir College majoring in psychology and literature.

Karen Imizu, of San Diego, a senior at Crawford High School.

Manuel Myers, of San Diego, a junior at Muir College majoring in biology.

Alvin Nelson, of San Diego, a freshman at the UCSD School of Medicine and a graduate of UCLA.

Ellsworth Pryor, of San Diego, a senior at Revelle College majoring in biology.

Annette Ruiz, of San Diego, a senior at Lincoln High School.