The goal of the PREP (Pitt-med Research Experience for Pre-matriculants) program is to provide highly motivated students who are admitted to Pitt Med with an accelerated research experience prior to matriculating into medical school. The program will run for 8 weeks prior to the start of Pitt Med orientation with flexible start and stop dates approved by the faculty mentor and program directors. Qualified applicants who have identified a mentor within the Pitt schools of health sciences are eligible to apply. The proposals will be judged based on the quality of the background and significance, a clear statement of the hypothesis to be tested, a rigorous study design with well described methods, an appropriate role for the student within the scope of an 8-week experience, and well thought out analysis plan. Ethical approval must be obtained from the University of Pittsburgh Institutional Review Board (IRB) for studies involving human subjects or Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) for studies involving laboratory animals prior to the start of the research experience. Therefore it is strongly encouraged that students select a project for which their mentor already has ethical approval. The following documents should be submitted by email to Suzann Beardsley (suzann@medschool.pitt.edu) by April 15th to be considered. Funding decisions will be released early May.

1. Research Plan

   - Each student must make contact with a mentor within the University of Pittsburgh Schools of the Health Sciences and devise a 2-page proposal (excluding references) after communicating with the selected mentor.
   - Proposal must be single spaced in Times New Roman 12 point font and contain the following information:
     o Title
     o Background and significance of the proposed work
     o Specific Aims and Hypotheses to be tested
     o Methods
     o Analysis Plan
     o Role of the student
     o Ethical Approval
     o References

2. Updated CV or Resume

   - Students should submit an updated curriculum vitae that includes information about prior degrees and institutions attended as well as previous research experience, if any.

3. NIH Bio-sketch

   - An NIH style Bio-sketch for the faculty mentor must be provided.

4. Personal Statement

   - Students should submit a one page personal statement explaining his/her interest in research, prior research experience, if any, and goals for participation in the program.

5. Letter of support

   - A letter of support from the proposed research mentor is required.