

2024
EQUITY
IMPACT
REPORT



Letter from the CLDI

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“Every year we host interns from across the country, and are always left impressed by the knowledge, abilities and the limitless potential of our future scientists and providers. These individuals are leaders in their community, and many are First-Generation students, and have demonstrated grit, passion, and resilience throughout their academic journey. This is only the beginning for them! The Equity Research Program has been proudly serving these promising individuals for a number of years, opening pathways, and ensuring that they know OHSU is a place where they can achieve their goals, make lasting connections, and bring their dreams to fruition. ”

-Student Retention and Recruitment team:
Andrew Justicia
Wes Studer
Kelsie Johnson

Program Overview

The goal of the Equity Research Program is to give hands-on experience in research and science to learners from underserved communities across the nation. The Equity program strives to increase the enrollment of underrepresented minorities in STEM fields.



Program Highlights

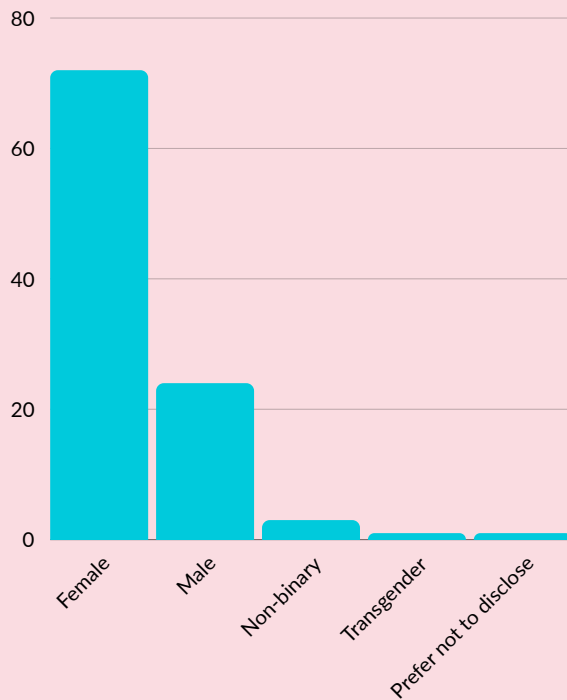
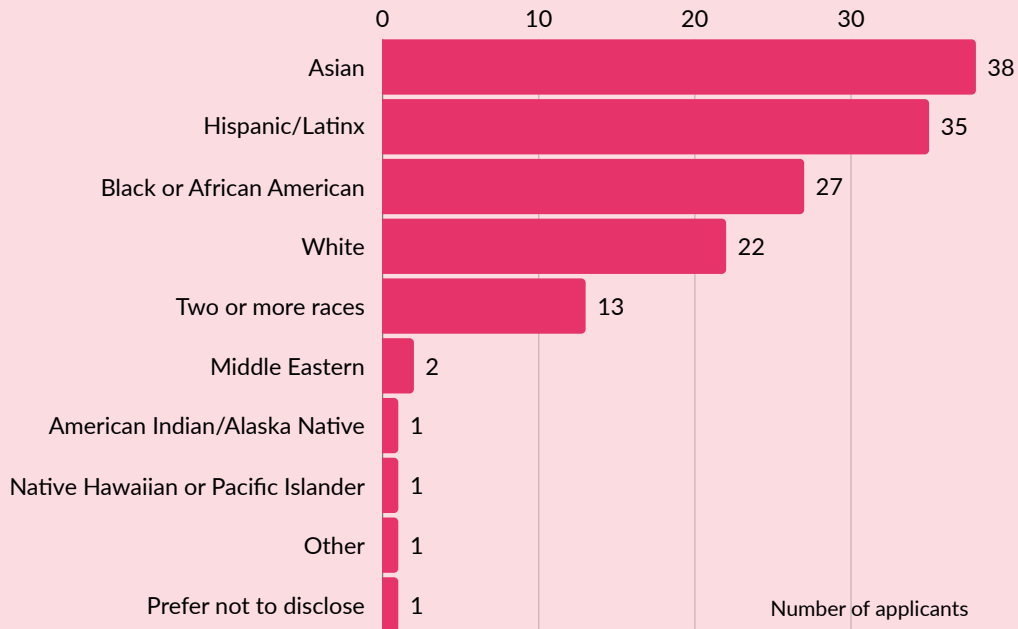
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The Equity program had three tracks this year: School of Medicine, Biomedical Sciences, and School of Dentistry. The students conducted research in their respective labs and participated in weekly seminars. At the culmination of their internship, they presented their work in the OHSU Intern Research Summer Symposium community event.



Applicant Overview

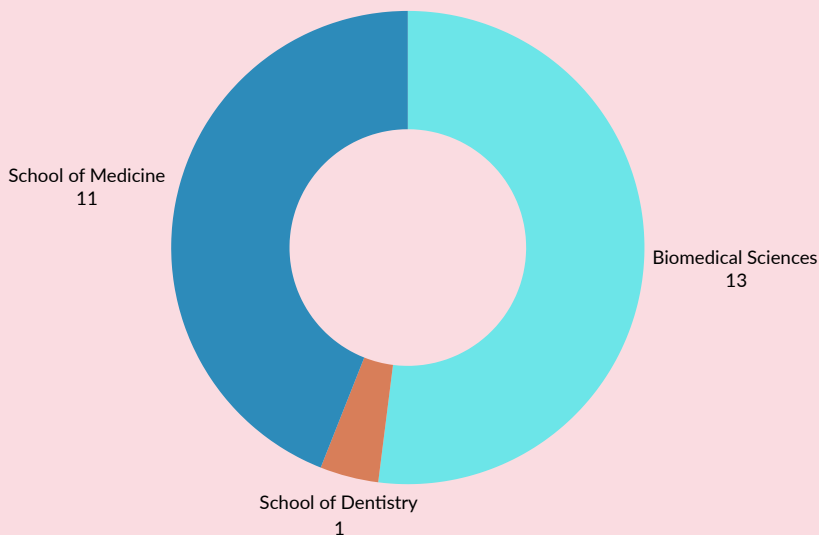
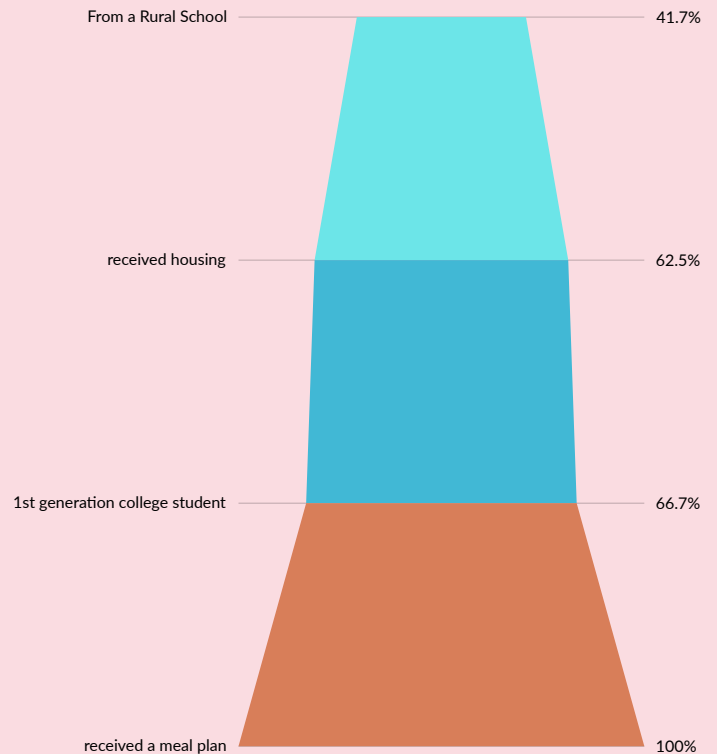
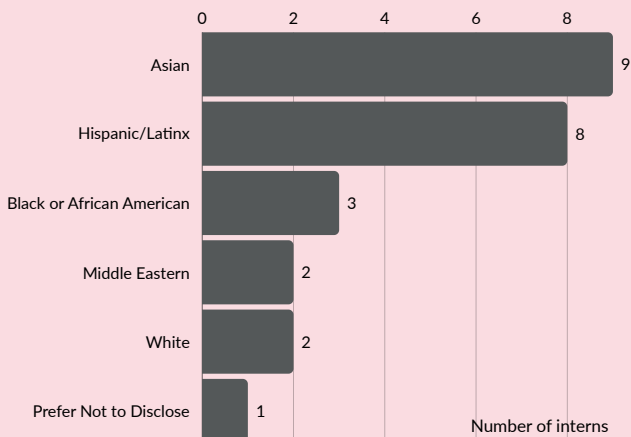
The Equity program is a highly sought after internship. From year to year, we see a diverse and extremely competitive pool of applicants. In 2024, we had 196 applicants interested in joining our cohort



Cohort Demographics

Our 2024 intern cohort was comprised of 25 students within the 3 tracks. Each intern successfully completed the eight-week program, working with their research mentor and participating in program seminars and activities.

Our cohort was...





Kalkidan Abey
University of Oregon

Investigating the Association Between Double Sequential External Defibrillation and Outcome in Patients Experiencing Shockable out of Hospital Cardiac Arrest.



Leen Albaka
Portland State University

Enhancing Diagnosis and Awareness of Rare Cardiothoracic Disease and Systemic Histiocytic Disorder Through Radiology.



Olivia Maldonado Avila
Linfield University

The Role of CCR10 and CCL28 in Directing Lung-Resident Plasma Cells During Influenza



Nadia Guadalupe Calderon-Ruiz
University of Portland

Enhancing Autism Care Access for Spanish-Speaking Latino Families: Developing Culturally and Linguistically Adapted Interventions for U.S. Latino Parents of Children with ASD



Jing Chen
Oregon State University

Identification of Inflammasomes Activated in Intestinal Epithelial Cells During E. Coli Infection



Jodi Chen
University of Portland

Evaluation of Omacetaxine and Methotrexate as Potential Treatments for Clear Cell Sarcoma of Soft Tissue



Nick Ferguson
Portland State University

Synthesis of Cy5 Dye with PSMA Targeting Vector (EuK)



Natalie Goering
Oregon State University

Whole Genome Bisulfite Sequencing of Mouse Pancreas to Test for Fetal Sex-Dependent Variation in DNA Methylation



Jack Huang
Oregon State University

Antibody Bioengineering for Highly-Multiplexed Immunodetection in Cancer Research



Jimena Caballero Ignacio
Oregon State University

Estamos Listos: A clinic based, Spanish school readiness checklist designed by Latino families, providers and early childhood educators



Annabel Jensen
Portland State University

Whole brain imaging and c-fos quantification in a mouse model of risk for excessive alcohol drinking



Natasha Kujovich
Oregon State University

The Effects of THC and CBD on Endothelial Glycocalyx and Viability



Fabiana Lopez-Ruiz
Willamette University

The Use of Dielectrophoresis to Analyze Cancer-Derived Nanoparticles in Biological Fluid Samples



Ximena Nava-Diaz
Oregon State University

Neighborhood Characteristics Associated with Firearm Injuries in Children and Adolescents Across the U.S



Debbie Okeke
University of Oregon

Using Magnetic Resonance Imaging to Understand the Neural Basis of Behavioral Flexibility: A Volumetric Analysis in Rhesus Macaques



Celine Lopez Padilla
University of Oregon

Novel Inhibitors in Leishmania Mexicana: A Pathway to New Antileishmanial Therapies



Claire Sherman
Lewis and Clark College

Investigating the Structural Fluctuations of an IDP via Molecular Dynamics Simulations



Gabriella Tangkilisan
Portland State University

Modeling Early Breast Cancer Metastasis Dynamics in the Lung: Quantifying Single-Cell Signaling and Microenvironmental Interactions



Annie Tran
Indiana University

Investigating Diadenylate Cyclase's Role in Biofilm Formation and Environmental Stress in *Streptococcus mutans*



Hao Tran
Swarthmore College

Constructing Culturally Appropriate Surveys to Better Understand How Limited English Proficiency (LEP) Affects Families' Access to Autism Care for Their Children



Lisa Truong
University of Southern California

Assessing the Correlation between MRI Proton Density Fat Fraction (MR-PDFF) and CT Attenuation in Pancreatic Fat Quantification



Claire Tuquero
Simmons University

Improving Access to Pediatric Gastroenterology Care in Rural Oregon: An Assessment of the Pediatric GI Referral Needs, Challenges, and Expectations of Rural Primary Care Providers



Tomas Veliz
Lewis & Clark College

Investigating the Role of Vascular Endothelial Cells in the Link between Cardiovascular Disease and Breast Cancer Progression

Internship Enrichment

Equity Seminar Series

As part of the 2024 Equity Internship program, we hosted our second virtual seminar series. Offered in conjunction with the Equity Program Schedule, this series provided an additional learning resource and professional enrichment opportunity for our OHSU interns.

This year we had a few returning speakers, Dr. Maria Rodriguez from the Center for Women's Health, Ari Rain, Executive Assistant for the Office of the Provost giving a training on Cultural Humility and LGBTQIA2S+ Allyship, and Dr. Tomas Lazo who is both an Assistant Professor in the Department of Anesthesiology and also the APOM Vice Chair and Senior Director of Diversity Equity and Inclusion, and the Educational Debt Counseling and Financial Management team.

Program Schedule

In addition to the interns' research experience, the program included enrichment and professional development events throughout the eight-week internship. Most of these events were in collaboration with Ted R. Lilley CURE internship.

- Equity program orientation
- Library services workshop-literature review
- Dean of admissions guest speaker
- Group hike at Washington Park
- All-Campus Summer Welcome hosted by OnTrack OHSU!
- PARC/MARC Research Presentation
- Knight Cancer Director speaker
- Tours of Radiation Therapy Labs
- Student Academic Support Services speakers
- OHSU student leader round-table and Q&A
- School of Medicine and Outreach speakers
- Educational Debt and Finance team presentation

PEER Mentoring

Pathways for Empowering Equity and Recruitment (PEER) Resource

This year two current OHSU medical students who both participated in the Equity program, approached us with the idea to create a resource exclusively for the Equity Research Program interns. The resource offers Equity Program interns an opportunity to be matched with current OHSU student mentors in conjunction with their lab mentors for the course for their 8-week internship. We were able to match 17 of the 25 interns with current student PEER mentors.



Mohadeseh Solgi

“As a former Equity intern, I knew how crucial support and confidence are in pursuing STEM careers, and I was inspired to create a mentorship program within this internship where students can feel uplifted and empowered by their peers, to support their journey to medical or graduate school.”



Amirali Veshagh

“I faced many challenges on my path to medical school, but the Summer Equity Internship at OHSU gave me the confidence and resources to succeed! After becoming a medical student, I wanted to give back. This inspired me to create the PEER program that connects underserved undergraduate students with health professional students in their field of interest, with the goal of providing guidance and support to students in the same ways that helped me along my journey. It’s been an incredible way to empower others and make a lasting impact!”

Survey Says...

Results shown are from 20 intern responses

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Interns said...

- 60% Strongly Agreed I had access to my research mentor(s) on a regular basis.
- 75% Strongly Agreed After completing the program, I feel more confident about my abilities to reach my educational and career goals
- 80% Strongly Agreed During the program, I gained knowledge and skills that I can apply to future research
- 100% Strongly Agreed I felt consistently supported by the CLDI internship administrators throughout the time of the program

Results shown are from 12 mentors responses

Mentors said...

- 67%-Great Improvement in intern's improvements on general research ability
- 33%-Moderate Improvement in intern's improvements on general research ability
- 67%-Moderate Improvement on critical thinking and problem solving
- 33%-Great improvement on critical thinking and problem solving

“ Participating in the summer equity research program was an incredibly enriching experience. It served as a vital steppingstone for my career goals, in which I will continue to accomplish with my PI, advisor and now boss. Thank you to the equity research program who provided endless support. ”
-Jimena Caballero-Ignacio

“ This summer was filled with many new environments and people. I am incredibly grateful to have been exposed to the valuable ongoing research at the Primate Center. All my amazing mentors were hands-on and encouraging, allowing me to explore my interests and learn much more than I thought possible. I am incredibly proud of myself and what I accomplished in eight short weeks. Thanks for all your support! ”
-Debbie Okeke

Mission Statement

Our mission is to provide access to aspiring health professionals, researchers and clinicians from under-recognized and diverse backgrounds from underserved communities across the nation, to a world class medical and research internship experience at OHSU. We take a holistic approach to supporting our interns. We leverage the OHSU community to provide a network of support for our interns. This intentional pathway work continues to lead OHSU on a journey to promote a more diverse healthcare workforce and to combat health inequities in population health, locally, rurally and nationally.

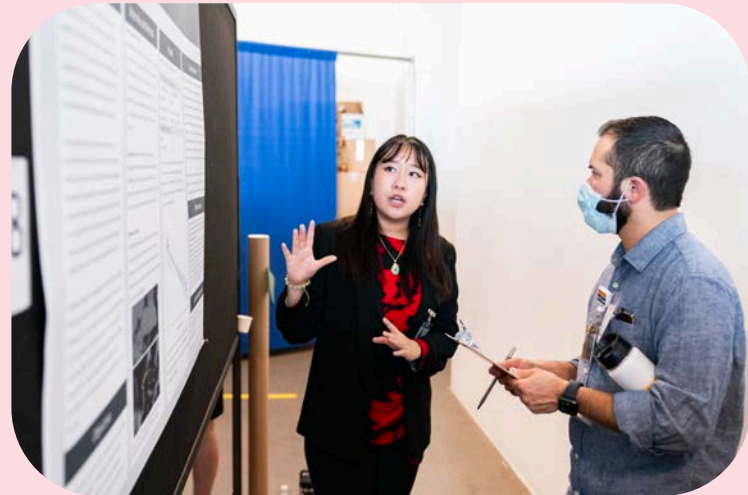


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The Equity Research Program would not be successful without the collaborators listed below. The Center for Learner Diversity and Inclusion would like to extend a big thank you to all the folks that contributed to the 2024 Equity Program. Thank you for your participation in the Equity Research Program!

- OHSU Provost Office – Thank you for all you do for pathway programs at OHSU! Thank you for supporting the Equity Research Program
- All the Equity Program mentors – Thank you mentors! You continue to open doors for our future researchers and providers! (see all the mentors listed under their respective intern).
- All the folks that presented and shared their expertise – The Equity Program Schedule is dynamic and a great source of professional development. Thank you for all your contributions
- Catering Team FNS (Food Nutrition Services), Justin, Mich, and Joey, Jennifer, Ben Larson – You all are incredible, thank you for your dedication. Joey, thank you for always going above and beyond, you helped us move all those tables to the shade! Mich, thank you for being so reliable and always coming through for us. Your help with planning and assessing numbers for food, made for excellent enrichment events.
- Melanie and Derrik from the CURE Program – Thank you for a great partnership. Your collaboration in planning for the Poster Symposium event helps make the event a fantastic collaborative demonstration of the OHSU community. It is a pleasure and an honor to work together with you all to support our future scientists and providers!
- OVV (Office of Visitors and Volunteers) Angel Almanza – We could not have done our internship without you! You were simply amazing and helped us every step of the way.
- Mohad Solgi and Amir Veshagh-Thank you for helping create the PEER program, and opening mentorship for the Equity interns to the OHSU student community!



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Thank you to the application scoring panel for Equity 2024 cohort:

Rick Mathews
Hillary Le
Staci Ganje
Kelsie Johnson
Malik Seals
Mattie Watts
Linzy Rodrigues
Annae Nichelson
Bettie Kareko
Wes Studer
Amirali Veshagh
Morgan Gross



Thank you to all our judges for the 2024 Symposium Poster Symposium event!

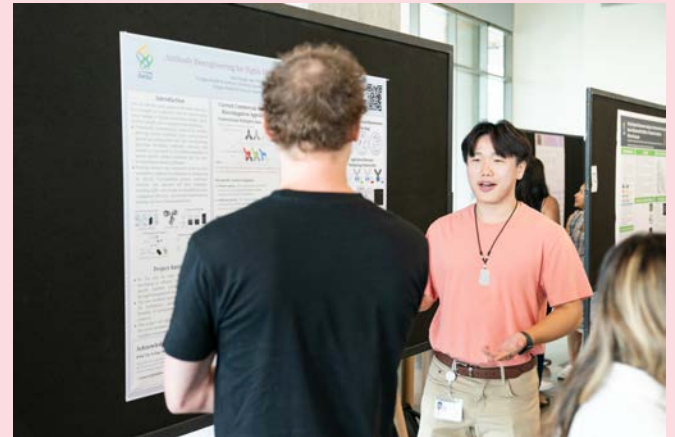
Alexis Gibson
Staci Ganje
Ari Rain
Tony Mareino
Amirali Veshagh
Sara Asberry
Briana Garcia

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- OHSU ID Badge Team, Aden Romeo – Thank you for all your help ensuring that our interns had access to specific areas of OHSU. We appreciate your timely responses, and also for supporting our interns throughout their stay at OHSU.
- AP Stipends team and Wyatt Swayngim (CLDI Fiscal Manager) – Thank you for your help processing the stipends for our Equity Interns. You helped us meet expectations and maintain timelines for interns to receive their stipends.
- Greg Sabatka (OHSU Contracts) – Thank you for your help with the contract work for PSU Housing. We appreciate your team helping the Equity Program go smoothly through this very important work that happens behind the scenes.
- Gabriela Hernandez Duran and Brady Smith, Past Equity Program participants – Thank you for being part of our program, meeting our interns, reflecting on your experience, providing tips to gain maximum benefit from the internship, and your encouragement.
- EdComm and Aaron Bileck (photographer) – Thank you for your efficient and professional photography services both during Equity and during the Research Symposium!
- Strategic Communications – Seth, thank you for your contributions in helping us promote and design materials for the Poster Symposium! We appreciate your collaboration and are so grateful to have your help this summer!
- PSU Housing – Thank you for your hospitality for our interns this summer, we are grateful for your flexibility and the services provided to our administrative team!



Prepared by:
Kelsie Johnson



in collaboration with CLDI Student
Retention and Recruitment team