

Keck School of Medicine with AYA@USC: The Adolescent and Young Adult Program –

AYA Patient-Student Partnership Experience: An extension of the Summer Oncology Fellowship

AYA@USC – The Adolescent and Young Adult Program of Keck Medical Center of USC, led by the Norris Cancer Hospital and Norris Comprehensive Cancer Center in partnership with CHLA, is a program specifically tailored to address the gap in cancer care currently experienced by the AYA patient population, ages 15 – 39. For more information, please visit www.uscnorris.com/AYA. Students with a particular interest in issues affecting AYA patients will have the opportunity to conduct research and participate in experiential learning focused on this patient population.

We are offering a component to the Summer Oncology Fellowship called the AYA Patient-Student Partnership Experience. As part of your fellowship, four selected Keck School of Medicine of USC students will be matched with mentors who work closely with the AYA patient population and are part of the planning for AYA@USC. Students will be required to conduct their research in the area of AYA cancer. Their Fellowship will not be limited to the summer, but will also extend into the first semester of their second year of medical school.

Beyond the summer fellowship, the fall term will include physician mentorship and students partnered with an AYA patient(s) undergoing treatment. The student will have the opportunity to attend the patient's clinical consultations, treatments, inpatient visits, surgeries, and other visits/procedures wherever feasible throughout his/her treatment. The student will also attend a semester-long course with monthly meetings and coursework.

Through experiential learning using a model of peer-to-peer support, the student will gain direct experience with AYA oncology care. This will include exposure to the challenges and opportunities for AYA patient care gaining an improved understanding of the AYA patient experience. This will serve as the initial training ground for medical students interested in AYA patient care. We hope this level of peer support will improve the patient experience and outcomes.

This type of experiential program is the first of its kind. Given the sensitivity of this course, students will be required to attend an initial course orientation. Any partnership with a patient will be at the discretion of both the attending physician(s) and willingness of the patient(s), subject to change during the course. Students will be expected to be extremely motivated and committed to maintaining communication with their physician mentors and patients.

Participation for the extension is limited only to USC's Keck School of Medicine students. No more than four students will be selected. Each student will receive a stipend of \$300/week up to 10 weeks during their summer fellowship.

While the extension is limited to Keck School of Medicine students, summer fellows from other medical schools interested in AYA oncology are welcome to undertake a related research project. If interested, please note this in your fellowship application.

For KSOM student, you must complete the standard Summer Oncology Fellowship application. In addition, please submit a second personal statement that briefly describes your interest in adolescent and young adult oncology and anticipated experiential research project. Include in your essay a description of how you will be able to participate in this program, which will require flexibility throughout the school year.

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