Who are we?

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  - Director

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Introduction

- Overview of the Amgen Scholars Program at Caltech
- The application process
- Important Dates
- Questions/Chat
National Amgen Scholars Program

- Year 4 of a four-year grant to ten U.S. schools
  - Caltech
  - Columbia/Barnard
  - Harvard University
  - MIT
  - NIH
  - Stanford
  - UC Berkeley, UCLA, UCSF
  - Washington University, St. Louis
Who can apply?

- Be sophomores (with at least 4 quarters or 3 semesters of college course work), juniors, or non-graduating seniors attending 4-year colleges or universities in US, Puerto Rico, other US territories
- Have a cumulative GPA of at least 3.2
- Be US citizens or permanent residents
- Have an interest in pursuing a PhD or MD/PhD
  - If you are interested in pursuing an MD, this program is not for you.
- Students who have been an Amgen Scholar, at any U.S. site, are not eligible.
Amgen Scholars Program at Caltech

- Open to ~20 students
- Focus on research in an academic setting in biology, chemistry, and bio-technology related fields
- Introduction to the world of biotechnology
- A smaller, cohort experience
- Graduate school preparation
Overview of the Program

- A full-time commitment
  - All Amgen Scholars MUST begin on Monday, June 18
  - All Amgen Scholars MUST live in provided campus housing

- Educational requirements:
  - Interim reports, abstract, final paper, final presentation

- Summer symposium – July 13-15

- Weekly seminars
Compensation

- Amgen Scholars receive a $6,000 stipend for the ten-week period.

- Students will also receive a $200 allowance. Housing (on-campus housing required) and travel costs are covered.
Overview of Application Process

- Based on grant-seeking process

- Identify a mentor

- Submit:
  - an application
  - a research proposal
  - three letters of recommendation (not from your possible mentor)
  - an unofficial transcript
How do I find a mentor?

- Mentors need to be a Caltech faculty member
  - Staff scientists, postdocs and grad students can be co-mentors
    but ultimately the head of the lab/research group needs to serve as mentor

- Announcements of Opportunity (AOs)
  http://announcements.surf.caltech.edu/index.cfm?event=ShowAOPublicList&inFrame=&type=Amgen&formType=AO_AMGEN

- Review 2017 Abstracts
  http://sfp.caltech.edu/students/summer_requirements/seminar_day

- Browse the website and contact faculty of interest

- Be sure to look outside your major, much of the research at Caltech is interdisciplinary
Hints for finding a mentor

- Start early
- Contact multiple possible mentors at once; but don’t spread mass emails. Pursue only research groups you are truly interested in.
- DON’T RELY ON EMAIL!
  - If you are close to Caltech, visit their office.
  - Call as a follow-up to an email.
  - CC the administrative assistant on all emails.
- Contact the faculty’s administrative assistant for help in setting a meeting.
- Contact a graduate student or postdoc in the group to learn more about the group.
- Use who you know.
- If you are having difficulty, contact the Student-Faculty Programs (SFP) office--early.
- Be assertive yet professional!
The Application

- Who you are, where you live
- Courses you’ve taken or will take
- Extracurricular activities
- Prizes and awards
- How this project fits into academic/career goals
- Anything else you want to tell us
The Research Proposal

- The proposal explains:
  - what you plan to do in your research
  - why this work is necessary or desirable
  - specifically, how you will do it
  - and persuades, by your preparation and by force of argument, that you are the right person for the job.

- It will be reviewed by someone in your general field.
Letters of Recommendation

- Three confidential letters of recommendation, at least two from a faculty member, who is not your prospective mentor.

- The other could be from someone else in your campus community who knows you well (TA, coach, RA, glee club director, etc.)
Your prospective mentor will submit the mentor recommendation online after you submit your application.
Timeline

Now-January  Find a mentor
Feb. 15      ASP application due
             Recommendations due
March 15     ASP awards are announced
June 18      ASP begins
July 13-15   Summer Symposium
August 24    ASP ends
Website

http://www.sfp.caltech.edu/programs/amgen_scholars
How to Reach Us

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