

Dear Postdocs,

The MSK/WCM High School Catalyst Program is looking for postdocs and post-ACE graduate students to serve as mentors for this upcoming summer! The High School Catalyst Program is a partnership between the Weill Cornell Graduate School and the MSK Postdoctoral Association and in the past has offered hands-on biomedical research experience to New York high school students often from self-reported underrepresented minority, disadvantaged, and/or first-generation immigrant backgrounds.

Our program handles ALL onboarding procedures for our mentors according to Cornell Ithaca's updated standards for working with minors. This includes background checks, mentoring sessions/courses, and ALL fees involved. We have worked very closely with the WCM legal team, the DEI Office, and HR to make this as simple for the hosting labs as possible.

2024 Catalyst Program Requirements

- **Tentative start date: July 8th, 2024**
- **Tentative end date: August 16th, 2024 (6 weeks)**
- **FULLY IN-PERSON PROGRAM**
- High school student mentees are expected to be in the laboratory for approximately 25 hours a week with their mentor to advance their research skills and obtain hands-on experience planning and performing experiments.
- High School student mentees are expected to attend their mentor's lab meetings (with permission from the lab head) as well as program journal clubs, panels, and workshops throughout the program.
- High school student mentees will present their research to their peers at the conclusion of the program in the form of a poster.
- **Students will receive a stipend** for their 6 weeks of research and efforts in the Catalyst Program.

Mentor Specific Requirements:

- Mentors will be required to attend a **formal mentoring session/workshop** in order to set expectations as well as equip mentors with the skills to educate and support their students prior to the start of the program. (Details and date of this workshop TBA).
- Mentors will need to complete two short online courses through CULearn **by the start of the program.**
- Background checks will be required for those directly working with the mentee at **no cost** to the mentor.

See the attached PDF for the full program description and expectations.

If you are interested in serving as a mentor this summer, please fill out this brief interest survey. <https://forms.gle/hRG2Gt3MCjAxqd1f6>. By filling out this form, you will receive important updates in the coming months and are first in line to mentor a student this summer.

If you have any questions, please contact the program Co-Presidents, Clare Cahir (cwc4001@med.cornell.edu) and Victoria Rasmussen (vir4003@med.cornell.edu).

Warm regards,

Catalyst Leadership

Co-Presidents, Clare Cahir (TPCB) & Tori Rasmussen (TPCB)

Noah Yardeny (TPCB)

Charles Warren (TPCB)

Juan Sebastian Andrade Martinez (CBM)

Colin Burdette (TPCB)

Zirong Chen (TPCB)

Advisor, Gabriella Chua (TPCB)

Charles Warren

Ph.D. Student

Geri Lab

Weill Cornell Medicine

Tri-I Chemical Biology Program