

**REU Injury Science Site
Program Description, Objectives & Goals**

Program Description

The Center for Injury Research and Prevention (CIRP) at The Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia (CHOP) is a National Science Foundation Research Experiences for Undergraduates (REU) Site and a leading multi-disciplinary center engaged in collaborative research toward the prevention of child and adolescent injury. The REU program seeks to provide the best education possible to a diverse pool of talented students and inspire them to pursue careers in injury research.

This opportunity will allow for foundational, hands-on research experiences in the fields of engineering, behavioral science, education, population science and statistics as related to pediatric injury science (e.g., the prevention of childhood injury, secondary prevention of traumatic stress following pediatric injury). With mentoring from a well-established team of highly trained, integrated and established child-focused researchers, REU trainees will help build the scientific foundation for injury interventions, translate them into practical solutions, and evaluate success. Through immersion in CIRP, undergraduate students will gain sound research experience, learn how to integrate knowledge from other fields of study, appreciate the value of interdisciplinary work in creating a broader understanding, and see practical applications of research results to real-world prevention efforts. Students’ findings will inform interventions to reduce injuries and deaths in children, adolescents, and young adults nationally and internationally.

During this 10 week summer program, students will work on a focused research project with an assigned CIRP mentor, receiving formal training on presenting research, ethics and technical writing. Students will also attend formal workshops, meetings, field trips, and seminars, and will have a unique opportunity to apply for a grant for student-initiated research for the trainee to continue at his/her home institution.

Each REU student will receive a stipend and a contribution toward travel expenses to/from Philadelphia is available. Students will live together in the University of Pennsylvania dorms, and participate in informal social events.

REU students will be selected individually through an application and interview process. Upon acceptance into the program students will be paired based on their research interest and assigned to mentors.

Injury Science REU Site Objectives and Goals

Program Objectives:

We aim to develop a diverse, internationally competitive, and globally engaged science and engineering workforce with a focus on injury prevention. In particular, we aim to create a growing cadre of talented new researchers who will help to ensure the growth, innovation, and continuity of the field of injury prevention with a focus on youth.

Specific REU Injury Science Site Goals:

- 1) Increase CIRP's ability to provide research experiences for underrepresented undergraduates
- 2) Increase students' knowledge and interest in science and engineering
- 3) Increase students' interest and knowledge in injury science
- 4) Advance individual students' professional development
- 5) Provide foundational, hands-on research experience to encourage students to pursue science degrees and careers, integrating injury science