

**2017 CaRES Evaluation Completed by Interns**  
**Summary by Dr. Allison Litton with light editing by Dr. John Waterbor, and Revised February 4, 2018**  
 N= 89% (42 of 47 interns) responded

**Current degree in progress**

MD	21 (50%)
MPH/ MSPH/DrPH	13 (31%)
PharmD	04 (10%)
DO	02 (05%)
No response	02 (05%)
DVM	<u>00 (00%)</u>
	42(100%)

**How many CaRES internships have you completed prior to this summer?**

Responses	0	37 (88%)
	1	05 (12%)

**Please rate how well your preceptor does the following**

**5= Excellent 4= Good 3 = Neutral 2=Fair 1= Poor**

**Mean**

Oriented you and gave assistance you needed during the internship	4.4
Showed interest in your development as a research investigator	4.69
Was available to supervise, assist, and advise you	4.52
Demonstrated an understanding of the goals of the CaRES program	4.5
Made clear expectations of you as an intern	4.45

**Please rate how well the CaRES administrators and staff . . .**

**5= Excellent 4= Good 3 = Neutral 2=Fair 1= Poor**

Explained how the CaRES program works	4.73
Responded to your questions and concerns	4.9
Clearly outlined expectations	4.71

**Please tell us how the CaRES program helped you to**

**5= Excellent 4= Good 3 = Neutral 2=Fair 1= Poor**

Build overall knowledge of this particular research area	4.69
Build overall knowledge of scientific methods and research process	4.69

**Please tell us your overall assessment of the CaRES program**

**5= Excellent 4= Good 3 = Neutral 2=Fair 1= Poor**

4.76

**Please tell us how strongly you agree or disagree with the following statements**

**5= Strongly agree 4= Agree 3= Neutral 2= Disagree 1= Strongly disagree**

Based on your prior education, experience, and skills, you matched well with the project you did.	4.42
You had a positive research relationship with your preceptor.	4.64
Your preceptor should be approved again to oversee a CaRES intern.	4.54
Your stipend was adequate.	4.59
Your hours were flexible.	4.35
Your internship was an effective way to obtain a short training experience in cancer research.	4.71
The presentations by faculty were valuable components of the CaRES Seminar Series.	3.95
The presentations by faculty provided useful information for career development.	3.97
You became acquainted with investigators with whom you could collaborate on future research.	4.26
You are likely to pursue a career in cancer research once you leave school.	3.88

**The CaRES program helped me to \_\_\_\_\_my career plans when it comes to cancer research.**

Refine	16 (38%)
Identify	11 (26%)
Solidify	10 (24%)
Eliminate options from	03 (07%)
Narrow	01 (02%)
Decide to change	01 (02%)

**Tell us how much the CaRES program enhanced your knowledge or skills in these areas by selecting the appropriate response**

**3= Greatly enhanced 2= Moderately enhanced 1= Somewhat enhanced 0= Did not enhance**

Your general writing skills	1.71
Your scientific writing skills	2.09
Your ability to perform laboratory procedures	2.21
Your knowledge of research design	2.35
Your data analysis skills	2.20
Your knowledge about doing research in an academic setting	2.50
Your knowledge about acquiring grants and funding for research	1.61

**Dissemination of your CaRES research results**

	<b>Submitted</b>	<b>in Progress</b>	<b>Being Planned</b>
Use your project as basis for thesis or dissertation	0	2	07
Make an oral presentation at a professional meeting	5	7	11
Make a poster presentation at a professional meeting	8	7	16
Draft and submit a manuscript for publication	3	11	12

**Please read and reflect on the goals that you and your preceptor set in the mentoring contract.  
In general, were most of your goals met?**

Goals Met	29	(69%)
Met, but not completely	08	(19%)
Not Met	04	(9.5%)
N/A	<u>01</u>	<u>(2.4%)</u>
	<b>42</b>	<b>100%</b>

**If goals were not met, why not?**

I would definitely say us not meeting our goals was due to the amount of collaboration required to pull off this project and the delay of IRB approval. \* However, I still learned about the IRB process and about my topic of HPV-related cancers.

I am afraid that a majority of these goals were not met. This would be primarily due to the caustic relationship between me and my preceptor. For this I can accept mutual blame for claiming to be prepared for undertaking a lot of [*words deleted by JW*] background knowledge, where I could probably use some more coursework before more research experience.

The goals me and my preceptor talked about in the beginning kept changing over time. I had hoped to do more, but my preceptor expressed concerns about the short time length of a summer program. One of the big reasons I accepted this project was because my preceptor had stated that I would be able to contribute to his main project and that there would be opportunities to gain an authorship on a publication. I felt that this goal was unmet, and it was disappointing to see that the preceptor did not help me facilitate these goals that we had agreed on together before starting the project.

This is a difficult question to answer without docking from my preceptors. I feel their lack of involvement and effort to communicate with me was the reason behind goals not being met. I was able to partake in a side project since IRB approval was never obtained. \* It would be helpful if preceptors had a deadline to have applied and submitted for IRB approval though before the internship begins to avoid other projects from lacking approval and then not being able to be completed. It would be nice if all projects obtained IRB approval well in advance before the start of each internship.

***\*NOTE: In 2018 we will release any student from his / her human subjects CaRES project 30 days in advance of the student's scheduled start date, if the project has not been IRB-approved by that time; and we will place the student on another CaRES project.***

**What are your career plans?** (Students could select more than one category)

Practice medicine	23	(54%)
Cancer research	13	(31%)
Public health	11	(26%)
Pharmacy	03	(07%)

***End of Statistical Results***

## 2017 Intern Commentary for Selected Questions

### Themes of general comments about the CaRES Poster Session

Great experience (12)

Printing, food, setup, location, and interaction was easy (11)

Have it later in the summer (6)

More judges needed for posters (5)

Invite other students, wider audience (4)

Good opportunity to see other students' work (4)

### Specific concerns and suggestions:

I just wish the judges were screened for. In my row, the judge only looked at the first two posters and then refused to listen to the other three presentations. She said, "I already looked at your poster," when she obviously did not. When I asked if she would listen to my oral presentation, she refused and just walked away. Several others in my row were highly displeased with this judge.

My first judge listened to me for a couple minutes and without asking me about my research, asked me about my previous research experiences.

Extend the judging to past professors and researchers to potentially incorporate more of a lay audience. I liked the poster exhibit. I thought it was a fun experience. Seemed a little chaotic with the judging situation and I would like the judging categories to be more organized.

I think giving more detail about what should be done for and/or during the poster exhibit would have been a little better, given some of the students had never participated in a poster session before.

I think the groups could have been divided in a different manner.

I did the poster exhibit at HudsonAlpha and really enjoyed it. It was very well organized and professional. I felt very supported from the faculty there and was provided enough resources to complete the project.

I think potentially encouraging other labs to send graduate students to attend. There was a lot of time where I was just standing around hoping someone would walk by to look at my poster.

I really enjoyed this exhibit -- a great experience, without it being super intimidating or overwhelming.

I thought this was a great idea. I had personally never experienced anything like this before. It was a great opportunity to compile my research and learn how to properly present in a professional setting.

I would have liked formal times in which we could go read other student's posters.

The judges were kind and encouraging while offering constructive advice.

**Themes: Strengths of the internship**

Learning new skills (22)  
Mentorship from preceptor/ other faculty/ staff (13)  
Building relationships with faculty (11)  
Flexibility (7)

**Themes: Weaknesses of the internship**

Length of internship (8)  
Conflicting time commitments with projects (4)  
Project not clearly defined (4)  
Preceptor too busy (4)  
Lack of communication between faculty and student (4)  
Length of seminar presentations too long (2)

**Concerns:**

I had such a negative experience with Dr. X [*name withheld by JW*] for professional and personal reasons, that it is my strong recommendation he / she not be considered a viable CaRES mentor in successive terms, or that his / her position be seriously reconsidered. I hoped to be encouraged to learn certain methods and to develop pre-existing data analysis skills, but left this project discouraged to continue [in this area of] research. I felt as though Dr. X had little confidence in me as a student, and never outlined any clear expectations but would be upset if things were not accomplished. (2)

**Themes of recommendations for improving CaRES:**

Move poster presentation to later in summer (10)  
More publicity (6)  
Subsidized housing (3)  
Social settings to meet CaRES students at the beginning and end of summer (3)  
Better match with preceptors and students (3)  
Individual links for speaker evaluations / update website for evaluation (3)  
Shorter seminars (2)  
More communication to students throughout the summer (2)  
More information about cancer research already occurring at UAB (1)

**Specific suggestions for improving the CaRES program:**

We could do a dinner at the end of the summer to recognize student successes. Acknowledge publications, awards earned, presentations.

The website could be more promoting towards other schools since it is now open to students outside of UAB. This would promote more diversity in research outcomes and disciplines of learning among the students and future preceptors. Having preceptors that are in various disciplines would also be beneficial (i.e. pharmacist preceptors for the pharmacy students).

To not let PIs pick students before a certain date so they can review more than 1 application.

From my observation, the majority of the fliers are around the public health building. If fliers were strategically placed in the Hill Center or other areas with high student foot traffic, that could attract even more students!

**IRB delays: a problem on any CaRES projects?**

Yes, 2 months.

Still working on it!

We needed to obtain approval from the Comprehensive Cancer Center prior to submitting our protocol to the IRB, which is still under review currently. Also, the IRB has more recently changed to completely digital and so there is still a delay with the transition over to digital.

IRB approval was never received during my internship. I am aware that the application process was switched to an electronic system which caused some delay, but it was disappointing that this was never obtained during my entire time with CaRES. I did other work.

There were significant delays in the actual research project that I signed up for. However, my preceptor and I were able to adapt and design a new project that could be performed without IRB approval.

**Themes of comments regarding the revamped CaRES website:**

Very helpful information (29)

Well organized (4)

Still experienced problems with Blazer ID and parking (4)

**THE END**