Cancer Prevention Internship Program

INITIATIVE

The Oncological Sciences Center led the development of the interdisciplinary Cancer Prevention Internship Program. Supported for five years by $1.5 million for five years by an NIH grant, the program is a partnership with the Discovery Learning Center and led by Dorothy Teegarden (Department of Nutrition Science). Aimed at both undergraduates and graduate students, the program will increase interest in the pursuit of graduate studies and subsequent careers in cancer prevention research. The program, with rigorous outcome assessments, exposes students early in their academic careers to the broad aspects of cancer prevention, from basic science and engineering to behavioral and social sciences to better equip students to include interdisciplinary strategies on their own. The long-term goal is to create a pool of researchers who can develop maximally functional interdisciplinary teams to optimally further cancer prevention research. The program will create a new pool of scientists to address research problems in cancer prevention and with skills to lead effective interdisciplinary research teams focused on cancer prevention.

IMPACT

- The program continues to improve on an interdisciplinary curriculum for training undergraduates and graduate students. This program focuses on cancer prevention, but the knowledge gained will be broadly useful for designing interdisciplinary educational programs.
- The program has supported and trained over 25 graduate students and 60 undergraduates over six years.
- The program has proved successful in recruiting students and faculty across disciplines. In year six, another six exceptional undergraduates were matched with faculty mentors from four colleges. In addition, two graduate students, from two colleges, will be supported in the coming year to participate in the Cancer Prevention Internship Program.

Funding for Cancer Prevention Internship Program

Principal Investigator: Dorothy Teegarden, Ph.D.
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