



Maryland Department of Health Student Internship Project

EFFECTIVENESS OF ANNUAL AND BIENNIAL MAMMOGRAMS IN LATE-STAGE BREAST CANCER DIAGNOSIS AND BREAST CANCER MORTALITY IN MARYLAND

Summer 2024

Duration: May 28 to August 2*

CONTACT

Maryland Department of Health

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SCHEDULE AND STIPEND

This project is being offered through the **University of Maryland Strategic Partnership: MPowering the State** (<http://mpower.maryland.edu>) – a formal collaboration between the University of Maryland, Baltimore and the University of Maryland, College Park. The University of Maryland Strategic Partnership provides the funding for the program.

- The selected student(s) will receive \$5,500 to 6,500 for a 400-hour project conducted over a 10-week period in Spring/Summer, mutually defined and agreed upon by the student(s) and mentor. The stipend will be determined based on the student's education enrollment: undergraduate program students will be paid \$5,500, and graduate degree program students will be paid \$6,500.
- At the end of the term, the student will write and/or present a short white paper on their completed project to the Joint Steering Council on/about September 1. The default schedule is from **May 28 – August 2***.
- The student must be enrolled in the Fall 2024 semester to be considered a participant in the program.
- This project is expected to be delivered via a hybrid delivery approach consisting of remote activities online, through email, by phone, or by video conference, and may require some in-person activities. Travel to, and parking at MDH is the responsibility of the student. (MDH is located at state center in Baltimore City, accessible by car, bus, subway, or light rail.)

***Flexibilities to complete the 10 weeks of research may be considered on a case-by-case basis**

ELIGIBLE STUDENTS

University of Maryland, College Park (UMCP) School of Public Health students to include Master's of Public Health (MPH) students or doctoral degree (PhD) students

OR

University of Maryland, Baltimore (UMB) School of Nursing, School of Pharmacy, School of Social Work or School of Medicine (medical degree (MD), Master's in Public Health (MPH), or MD-Masters dual-degree) students



IDEAL CANDIDATE: This project would be ideal for students interested in public health, who have statistical analysis skills.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Purpose/Mission of Agency: The mission of the [Prevention and Health Promotion Administration](#) is to protect, promote and improve the health and well-being of all Marylanders and their families through provision of public health leadership and through community-based public health efforts in partnership with local health departments, providers, community-based organizations, and public and private sector agencies, giving special attention to at-risk and vulnerable populations.

Background: Historically, Maryland's breast cancer mortality rate has exceeded the national average, with 34 deaths per 100,000 women in 1990. However, there has been progress, as the rate has decreased to 21.4 deaths per 100,000 women in 2020. Despite this improvement, it still remains higher than the national average of 19.1 deaths per 100,000 women (NCI, 2020). The Maryland Department of Health's Center for Cancer and Prevention Medical Advisory Committee recommends that women with an average risk of breast cancer should receive annual screening mammograms, which is in line with the recommendations of various other organizations but differs from U.S. Preventive Services Task Force recommendation of biennial screening.

By comparing the late-stage breast cancer diagnosis and mortality rates of women who receive annual versus biennial mammograms, we can evaluate the effectiveness of our screening approach for those with average risk. For women with average risk, biennial mammograms offer a chance for more individuals to participate in the Breast and Cervical Cancer Program, given budgetary and annual reach constraints. Additionally, it gives the Cancer Screening Programs Unit (CSPU) an opportunity to assess the effectiveness of both annual and biennial mammograms in Maryland.

Examples of work the intern could accomplish during the placement:

- Collect the Maryland data from the CaST database, Maryland Cancer Registry, and Maryland All-Payers Database.
- Analyze the data using the intern's own preferred method or in partnership with the epidemiologist team.
- Present findings to the CSPU.
- CSPU will evaluate and share findings with the Center for Cancer Prevention and Control's Medical Advisory Committee to guide their recommendations

Quick Reference: National Cancer Institute (State Cancer Profile), 2020. Retrieved from <https://statecancerprofiles.cancer.gov/quick-profiles/index.php?tabSelected=3&statername=unitedstates#t=2>

To apply for this position:

Go to the [MPower-MDH Student Internship Application](#) and follow the instructions.

Applications will be accepted & reviewed on a **rolling basis**. The **final deadline** to apply is **11:59 PM on Sunday, February 25, 2024**.

If you have any questions, please contact Fiana Romero, fromero@som.umaryland.edu (Senior Program Specialist, Office of Student Research, UM School of Medicine).