Title of Program: Bench to Bedside Research in Liver Disease

Dept/Center/Lab: Liver Pathobiology Laboratory

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Summary Description:
Our laboratory conducts molecular and cellular biological research designed to improve our understanding of the liver and its many functions and roles in health and disease. Our principal research focus is performing bench research that is directly applicable to the bedside. Research projects integrate expertise of hepatologists, surgeons, oncologists, and bench researchers. Areas of research interest include 1) delineating mechanisms of hepatic fibrogenesis/cirrhosis due to varying etiologies (e.g. alcohol, viral infections, drugs, toxins) and establishing therapeutic treatments, 2) investigating the pathogenesis of viral hepatitis C and its therapy with drugs and natural products (e.g. milk thistle, gingko, traditional Chinese medicines), and 3) investigating the progression of HCV to hepatocellular carcinoma.

Expectations and Role of Student:
The successful student will be expected to bring enthusiasm, inquisitiveness, hard work, and passion. The student will be expected to learn well at least one aspect of an ongoing project in the laboratory, to frame and refine an important hypothesis and to design and perform experiments to confirm or refute the key hypothesis. The student will present oral and written summaries of his/her research, critique peer research projects, and participate in lab meetings and journal clubs. At the culmination of the summer, the student will be required to give a PowerPoint presentation his/her research findings at the Student Scholar Research Day.