

**2019 CaRES Evaluation Completed by Student Interns**  
**Summary by Drs. Allison Litton and C. Michael Brooks, Edited by Dr. John Waterbor**  
**November 24, 2019**

N=40 of 45 students responded (89%)

**Current degree in progress**

MD or DO	27 (68%)
MPH/ MSPH/DrPH	11 (28%)
PharmD	04 (10%)

\*Two students indicated more than one degree in progress

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

Responses	0	36 (90%)
	1	04 (10%)

**Experience with the CaRES website**

<b>Very Helpful= 3, Somewhat Helpful= 2, Not Helpful=1, Not Accessed</b>	<b>Mean</b>
Apply to CaRES Tab	2.82
Orientation to CaRES Tab	2.20
Current Interns Tab	2.47

**How did you hear about the CaRES program? (choose all that apply)**

	<b>N</b>
A presentation made by CaRES faculty	23
Conversation with a former CaRES student	16
Email, brochure, or flyer	15
UAB faculty member invited me to apply	04
Internet search for summer research programs	01
Faculty at another university recommended CaRES	01

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

<b>5= Excellent 4= Good 3 = Neutral 2=Fair 1= Poor</b>	<b>Mean</b>
Oriented you and gave assistance you needed during the internship	4.62
Showed interest in your development as a research investigator	4.65
Was available to supervise, assist, and advise you	4.52
Demonstrated an understanding of the goals of the CaRES program	4.40
Made clear expectations of you as an intern	4.55

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

<b>5= Excellent 4= Good 3 = Neutral 2=Fair 1= Poor</b>	
Explained how the CaRES program works	4.60
Responded to your questions and concerns	4.80
Clearly outlined expectations	4.70

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

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

Build knowledge in your project's research area	4.67
Build overall knowledge of scientific methods and the research process	4.67

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

**5= Excellent 4= Good 3 = Neutral 2=Fair 1= Poor** 4.72

**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 education, experience, and skills, you matched well with your project.	4.55
You had a positive research relationship with your preceptor.	4.57
Your preceptor should be approved again to oversee a CaRES intern.	4.57
Your stipend was adequate.	4.60
Your hours were flexible.	4.57
Your internship was an effective way to obtain a short training experience in cancer research.	4.62
The CaRES poster session allowed you to effectively communicate your research goals, methods and preliminary results.	4.42
Lectures on data presentation and interview skills were valuable components of the CaRES Seminar Series.	3.85
The CaRES seminar presentations on cancer research careers provided useful information for career development.	4.27
You became acquainted with investigators with whom you could collaborate on future research.	4.37

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

Refine	10 (25%)
Identify	14 (35%)
Solidify	6 (15%)
Eliminate options from	3 (08%)
Narrow	4 (10%)
(No Response)	2 (05%)
Decide to change	1 (02%)

**How much did the CaRES program enhance your knowledge or skills in these areas?**

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

Your general writing skills	1.37
Your scientific writing skills	1.80
Your ability to perform laboratory procedures	1.57
Your knowledge of research design	2.30
Your data analysis skills	2.05
Your knowledge about doing research in an academic setting	2.42
Your knowledge about acquiring grants and funding for research	1.35

<b>Dissemination of your CaRES research results</b>	<b>Submitted</b>	<b>In Progress</b>	<b>Planned</b>
Use your project as basis for thesis or dissertation	1	0	04
Make an oral or poster presentation at a professional meeting	5	9	17
Draft and submit a manuscript for publication	1	9	17

**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	25	(62 %)
Mostly met but not completely	13	(33 %)
Not Met	02	(05 %)

**What are your career plans?**

**Conduct research**

Full time	04
Part time	15
Undecided	21

**Practice my discipline (medicine, public health, pharmacy, etc.) in the clinic or in the community**

Full time	30
Part time	04
Undecided	06

**2019 Intern Commentary for Selected Questions**

**Themes: Strengths of the CaRES Internship**

1. Improve or learn new research skills
2. Flexible schedule
3. Mentorship
4. Networking with cancer researchers
5. Publication/ writing skills

**Themes: Weaknesses of the CaRES Internship**

1. Length of internship (too short)
2. Dissatisfaction with lecture series
3. Job responsibilities changed from original job description
4. Preceptor had too many students to supervise/lack of supervision or instruction
5. Mismatch of expectations
6. Housing

**Themes of recommendations for improving CaRES:**

1. Faculty judge posters instead of students judging
2. More oversight into application process and preceptor responsibilities
3. Hold poster session later in the summer
4. Provide educational sessions online instead of in person
5. Help with housing logistics
6. Hold a panel session with prior interns during orientation

**IRB delays: a problem in holding up any CaRES projects?**

None reported

**Comments by CaRES students from universities other than UAB:**

I think the main issue for students coming from outside UAB is finding housing within Birmingham especially near campus. I also think parking is something that can be difficult to find on campus especially when banished to far-away commuter lots, very distant from your actual workplace.

As a student from ACOM it was great, but maybe have an orientation planned for the week we arrive.

I am an ACOM student but conducted my CaRES internship at UAB's main Birmingham campus. I felt that the program could have done a better job assisting with information and how to go about parking, obtaining an ID card and exactly where certain buildings are. I wish there was an on-campus orientation to get these questions addressed in person. I believe this would greatly help alleviate stress. As an ACOM student, making the move to Birmingham, finding a place to rent and then trying to figure out parking at the school felt like a lot coming directly out of medical school final exams.

Coming from the Alabama College of Osteopathic Medicine, all the students that came from our school agreed that we need more resources for housing for the two months. All of us had a very hard time finding places to live, and at one point one student was couch surfing because of this issue.

**CaRES Response to these comments:** CaRES faculty and staff will consider and address the suggestions stated above, especially regarding housing and orientation to Birmingham and CaRES.

**THE END**