

Attend the National PROPEL Virtual Matchmaking Event

Recruit top talent nationally for your lab.

At the event, meet up to 8 postbacs interested in research experience via a series of 10 min mini-interviews.

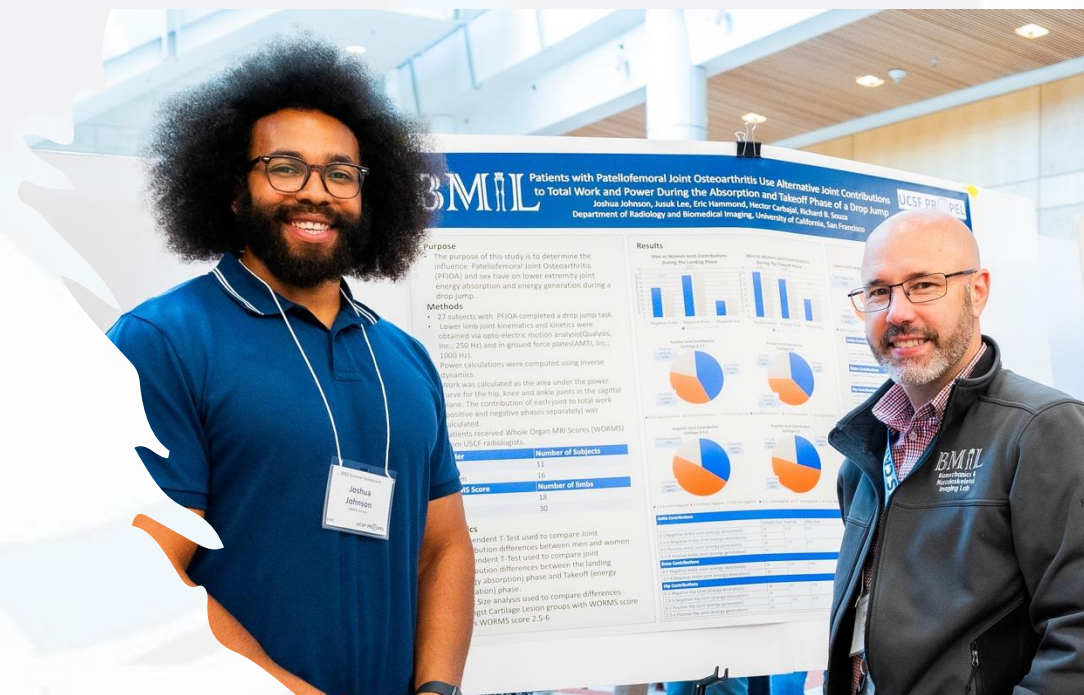
Your local postbac program will offer:

- Additional mentorship
- Curriculum to support scientific development
- Community (especially important for out-of-state hires)
- Grad application support

What you would need to provide:

- Full-time, paid research position (1 -2 years)
- Access to independent research project (can be combined with other lab duties)
- <10% release time to participate in program activities

Apply by Dec 5th, 2025



Attend the National PROPEL Virtual Matchmaking Event

Recruit top talent nationally for your lab.

Meet potential postbacs interested in research experience via a series of 15 min mini-interviews.

ICARE Program will offer:

- Additional mentorship
- Professional development
- Career development
- Grad application assistance

What you would need to provide:

- Full-time, paid research position (1-2 years)
- Access to independent research project (can be combined with other lab duties)
- <10% release time to participate in program activities



Iowa Cancer Research Experience (ICARE) Program

Eligibility

- US citizen or permanent resident
- Must hold a bachelor's degree in 2025 or by summer of 2026
- Full-time postbac research position at Iowa
- Interested in pursuing a doctoral degree, health profession, graduate school, or medical school
- 1-2 year commitment to the program

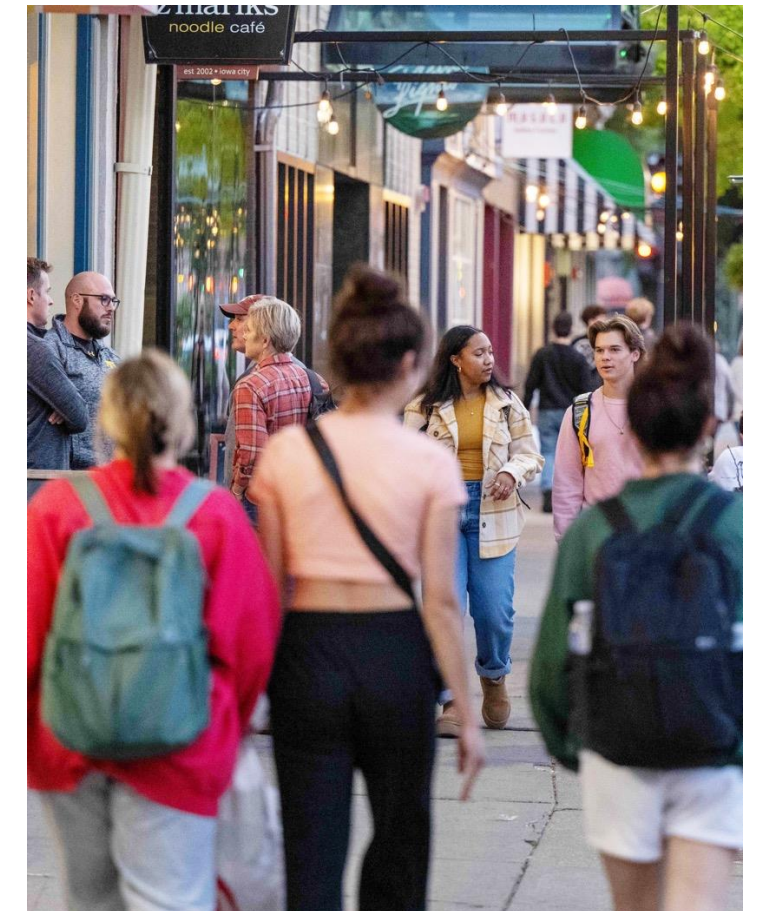
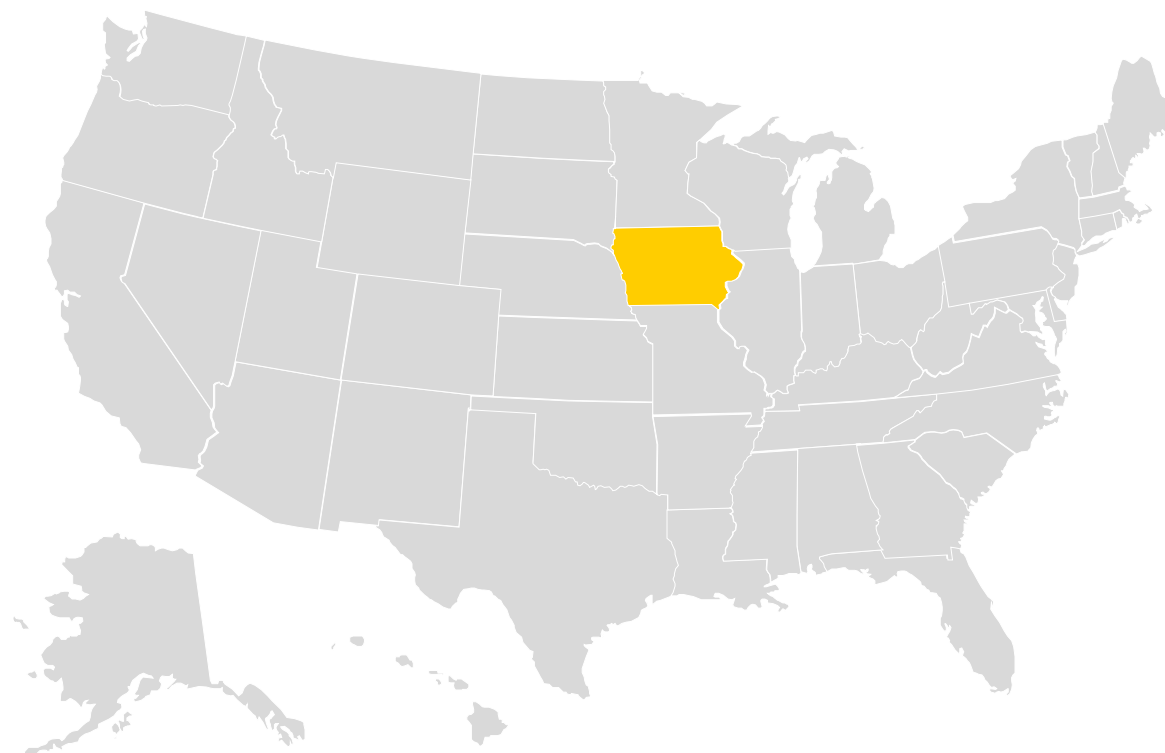
Questions? Contact HCCC-ICAREPostBac@uiowa.edu

What ICARE offers:

- A lab funded paid research experience (\$38,755 + benefits) with laboratory mentorship at Iowa
- Mentorship, career and professional development training sessions and preparation for graduate school and medical school

Process:

- Applicants participating in PROPEL MME do require submitting the ICARE Program Application and additional interview with you
- Departmental HR units to send offer and appointment in the system
- Program begins in August of 2026



ICARE Leadership



**Jessica Sieren,
PhD**

ICARE Director
Principal Investigator
Associate Director for
Career Enhancement



**Andrean Simons-
Burnett, PhD**

ICARE Co-Director
Director, Free Radical and
Radiation Biology Graduate
Program



Amy Candelario

ICARE Program
Administrator

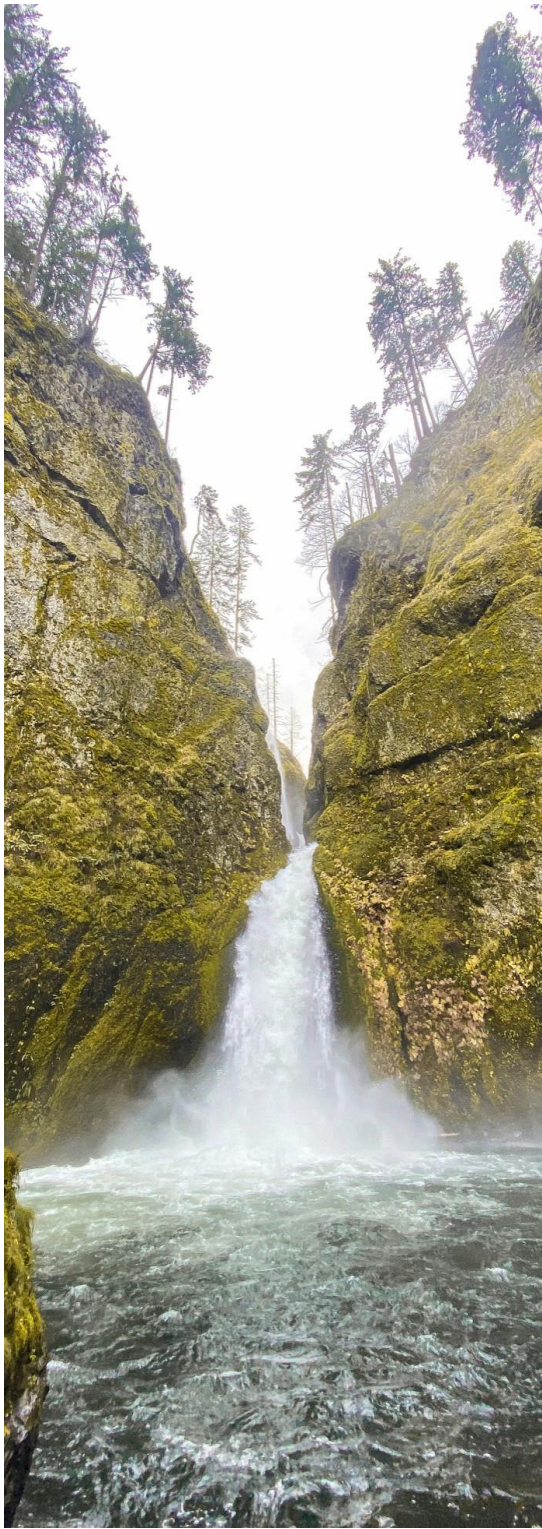


PROPEL

Postbac Research Opportunity Mentor Information Session

PRESENTED BY: JOYCE PIERETTI | Program Manager PROPEL
KATHRYN GOFORTH | Sr. Admin, OHSU Research & Innovation
CONTACT US: propelgrad@ohsu.edu

NOV 14 2025



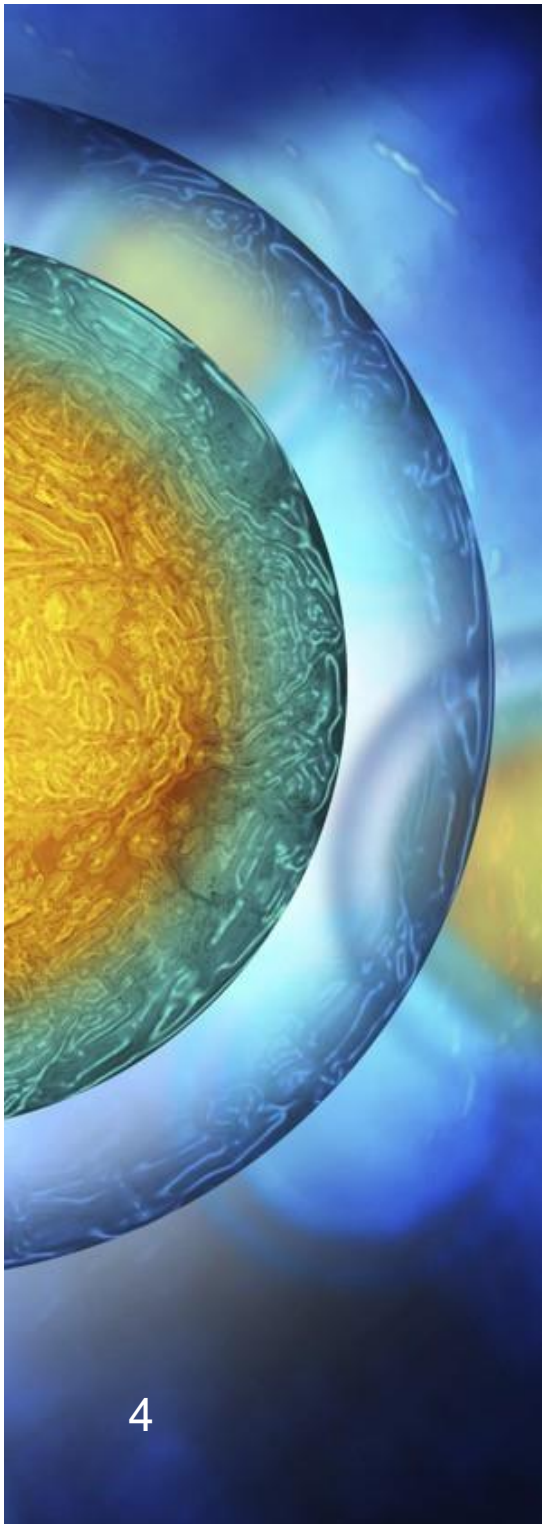
Welcome!

- Introduction to the PROPEL program, goals and partnership benefits
- Program highlights and mentor activities
- Program structure
- Hiring process, program timeline, PROPEL scholar eligibility

OHSU PROPEL Administration – People & Support



- **Bonnie Nagel**, PhD | Interim Chief Research Officer & Executive Vice President, OHSU Research & Innovation (Institutional support)
- **Letisha Wyatt**, PhD | Associate Professor of Neurology, PROPEL Co-Director
- **Gary Westbrook**, MD | Professor, Vollum Institute, PROPEL Co-Director
- **Joyce Pieretti**, PhD | OHSU PROPEL Program Manager
- Solve for Science | PROPEL National



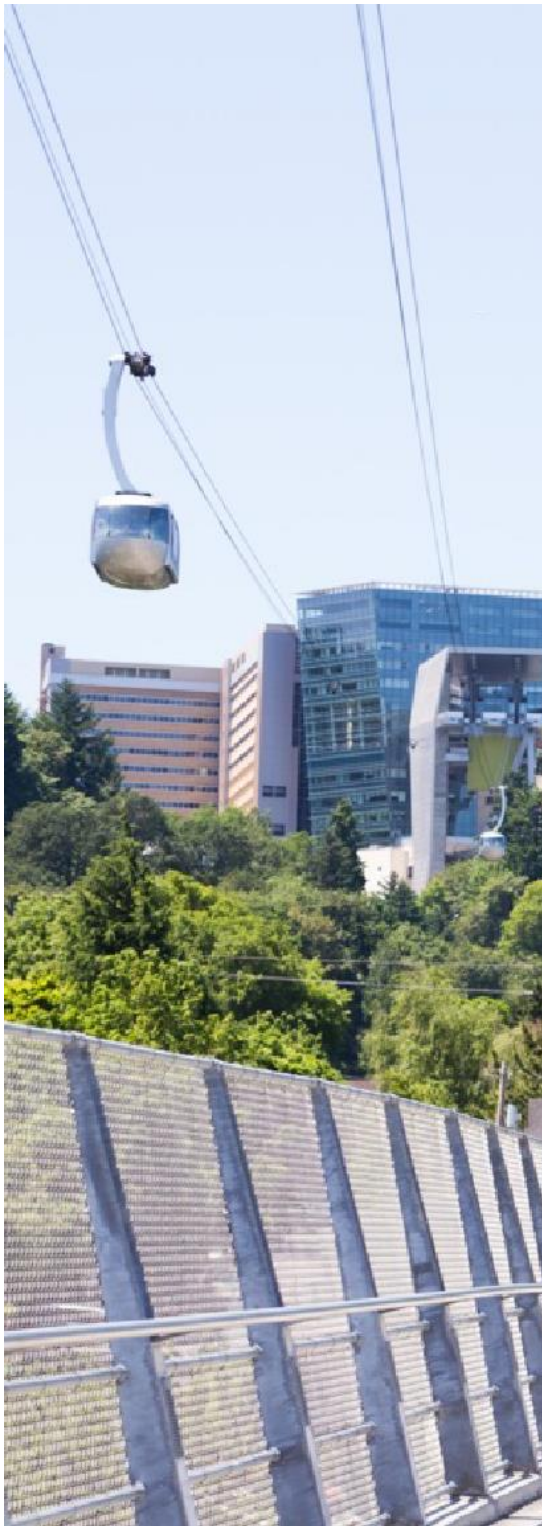
About OHSU PROPEL

PROPEL is a **workforce training program** aimed at broadening access to careers in biomedical research. Our efforts involve broadening participation in STEM by creating safe and inclusive communities where postbacs can celebrate their achievements. We support OHSU RAs who are intent on earning a STEM PhD as part of their long-term career goals.

The primary aims of OHSU PROPEL are to:

1. Provide transformative research experiences in a milestone-driven structure that closely mirrors the experiences of graduate students; and
2. Promote career exploration and long-term career self-efficacy by integrating a comprehensive mentor network and tailored career exploration strategies.

OHSU PROPEL activities promote scientific identity formation and empower scholars to effectively navigate their career transitions.



Why Partner with Us

- **Matchmaking Event:** Facilitating connections with a broad pool of highly motivated candidates interested in biomedical research
- **OHSU PROPEL:** Complements lab research activities by providing trainees with structured professional development programming
 - Helps reduce mentoring and advising load on PI
 - Integrates trainees with other postdocs to further their scientific experience
 - Engaged contributors: RAs motivated to advance your research, not just fill a role
 - Dynamic, multi-tiered research environment

Program Highlights

Outstanding scholar community

- 88% have matriculated into graduate programs including at Johns Hopkins University, Stanford, UCSD, UCSF, University of Washington, and more!
- Have retained 9 scholars in graduate programs at OHSU.
- Published postbac research, awarded competitive fellowships, serve as leaders on campus.

Noteworthy accomplishments

- **Yessica Santana**, 2020 Scholar (PI: Kevin Wright) – HHMI Gilliam Fellow, OHSU NGP PhD Candidate
- **Bryan Ramirez**, 2023 Scholar (PI: Tim Nice) – Co-author in two publications based on postbac research, UCLA Molecular Bio PhD student
- **Mariel K. Micael**, 2024 Scholar (PI: Marc Freeman) – NSF GRFP honorable mention, UCSD Neuro PhD student

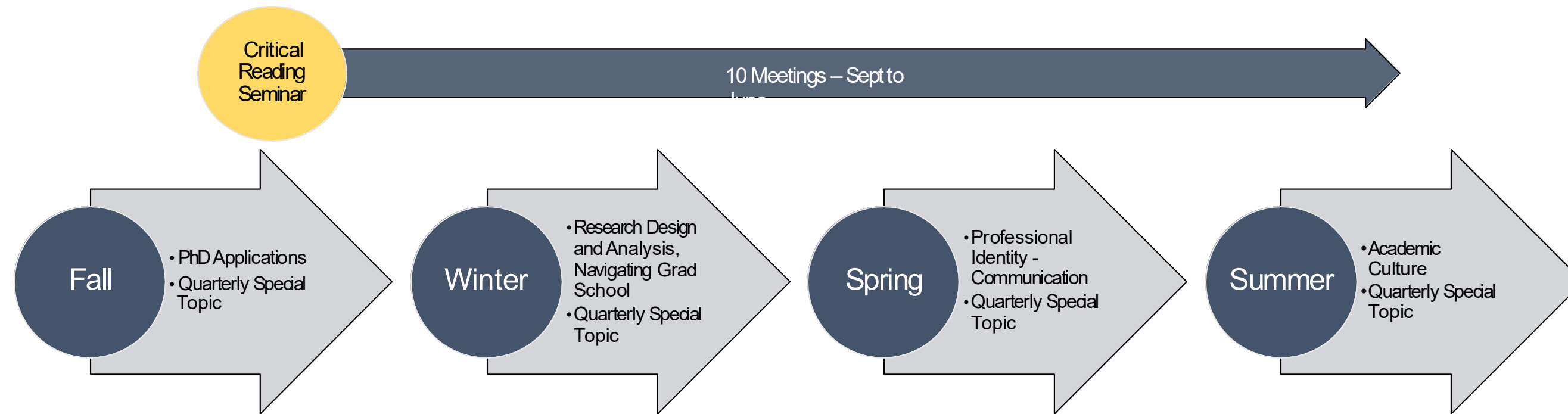




PROPEL Mentor Activities

- Mentorship meetings with scholars involve:
 - Creating an individual development plan covering the scholar's research project and customized professional development during PROPEL year.
 - Facilitating research productivity (e.g., support in writing activities, involvement in projects, goal-setting, etc.)
 - Advising on the scholar's presentation of their research (e.g., final approval of abstract, poster, oral presentation, or other writing)
- Helping promote excellence in mentoring through participation in the OHSU Mentorship Academy and professional development activities such as attending and/or leading Equity Journal Club, as able.

Program Structure (beyond the lab)

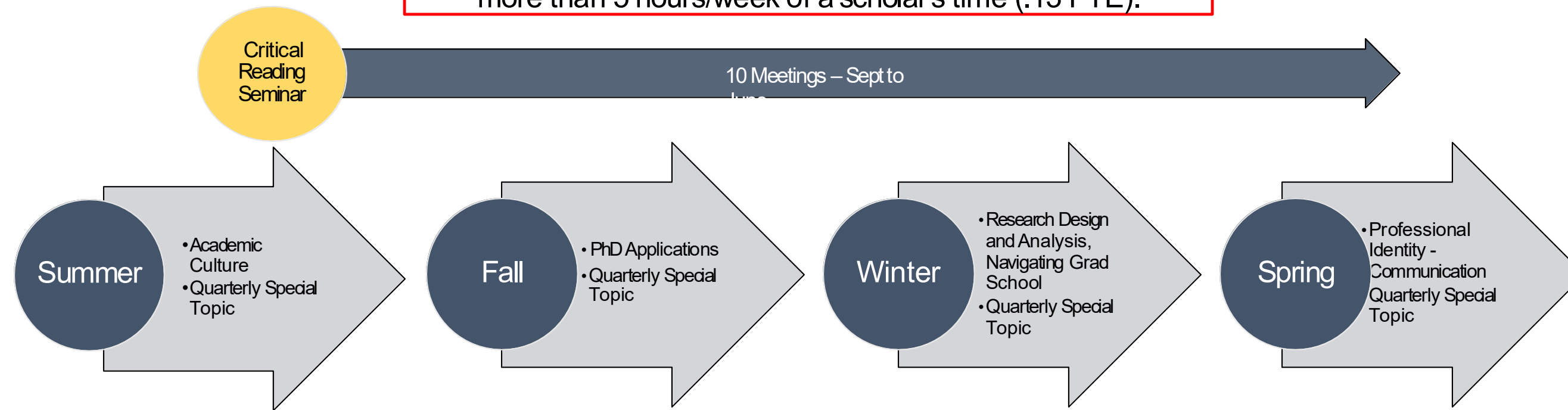


Program Milestones:

- Graduate program applications submitted
- Abstract submission and poster presentation for OHSU Research Week
- Oral presentation at program symposium
- Research paper completed

Program Structure (beyond the lab)

PROPEL scheduled programming is expected to take up no more than 5 hours/week of a scholar's time (.13 FTE).



Program Milestones:

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Hiring Process

PROPEL research mentors host the postbac scholar and commit to covering at least 12-months of salary and benefits while the scholar works as a RA in their lab.

- Work with your Dept. Admin. to begin the position approval & posting process
- PROPEL's general recommendation: Post the recruitment on OHSU's employment page by **May 1** to aim for a July 1 start date, allowing for:
 - The job posting to be open for the required *minimum* of 7 calendar days, reviewing applications, interviewing candidates, and time for a background check for finalist
- Typically, after a candidate finalist has been identified for hire:
 - Department submits offer request
 - Talent Acquisition (TA) reviews request, determines a wage quote, and makes a verbal offer within 2 business days
 - Background check is initiated, which can take up to 14 days
 - Finalist form is submitted by hiring department
 - TA sends offer letter, candidate accepts offer, onboarding steps continue



If you find a promising candidate

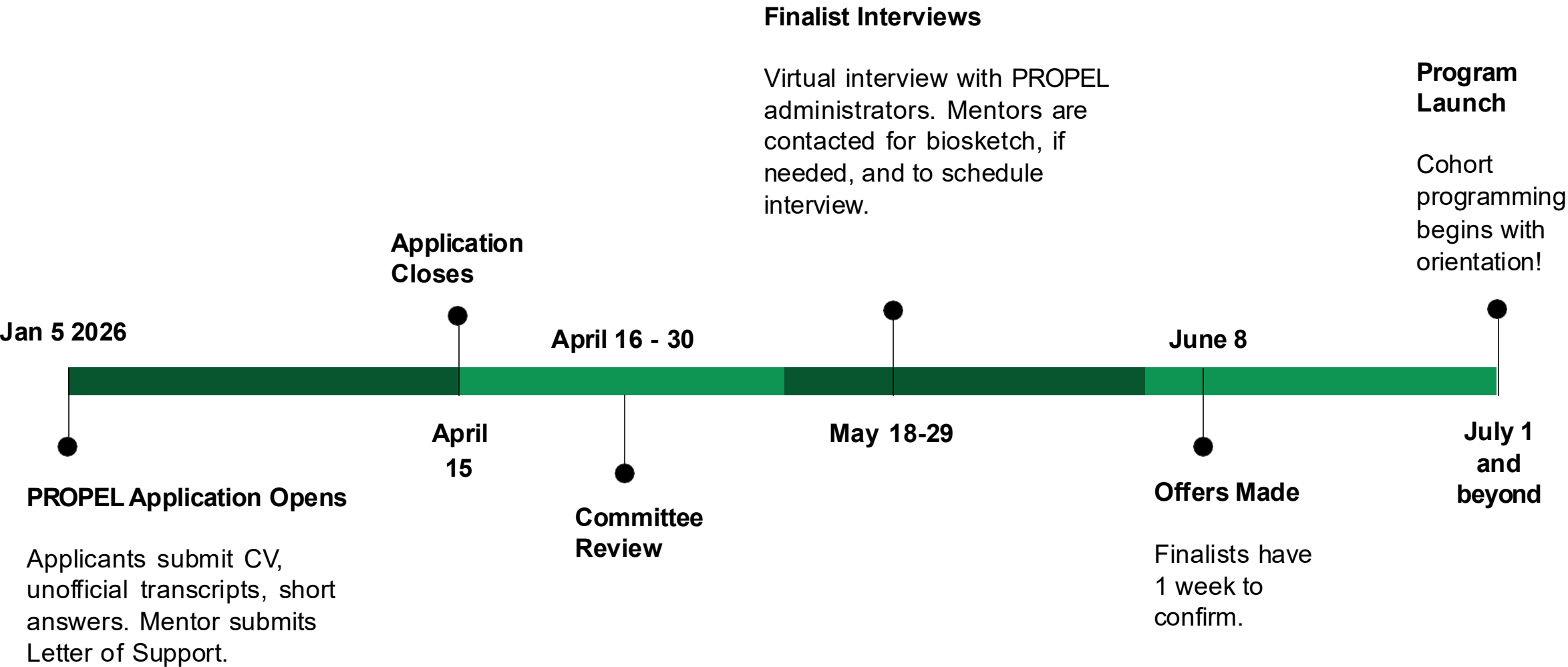
Via Matchmaking Event

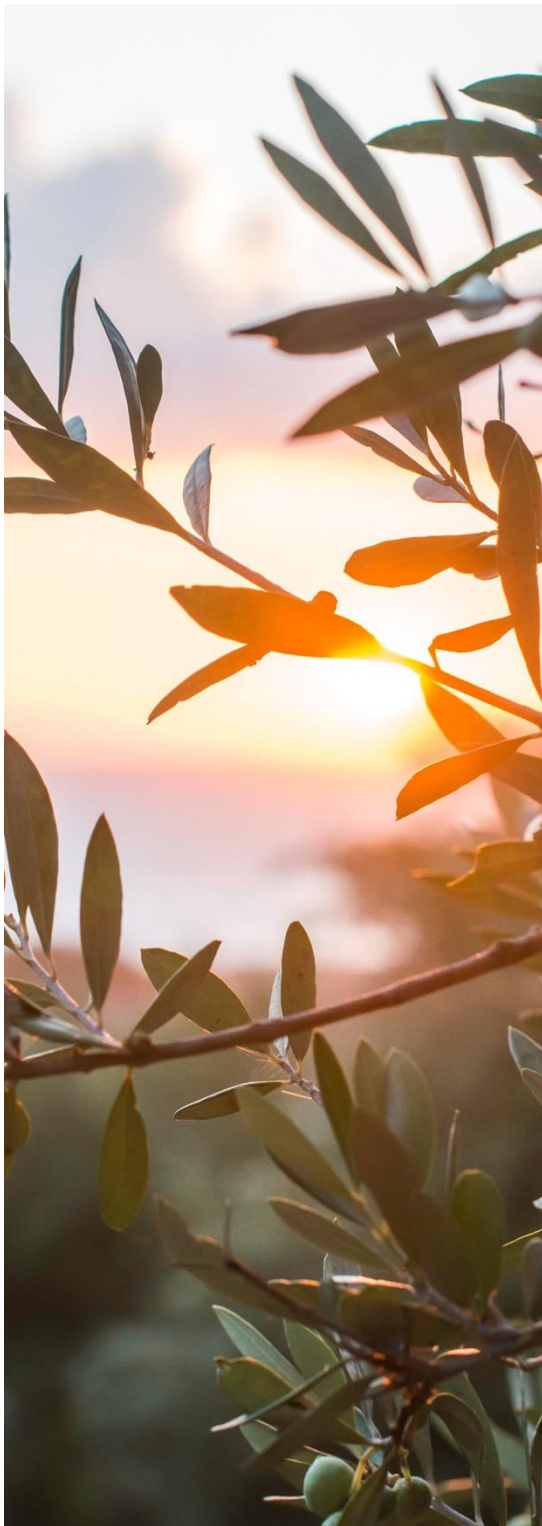
- Begin hiring process
- Encourage trainee to apply to PROPEL

Other Pathways

- In the event you ID a promising candidate outside of the Matchmaking Event, consider having them apply to PROPEL

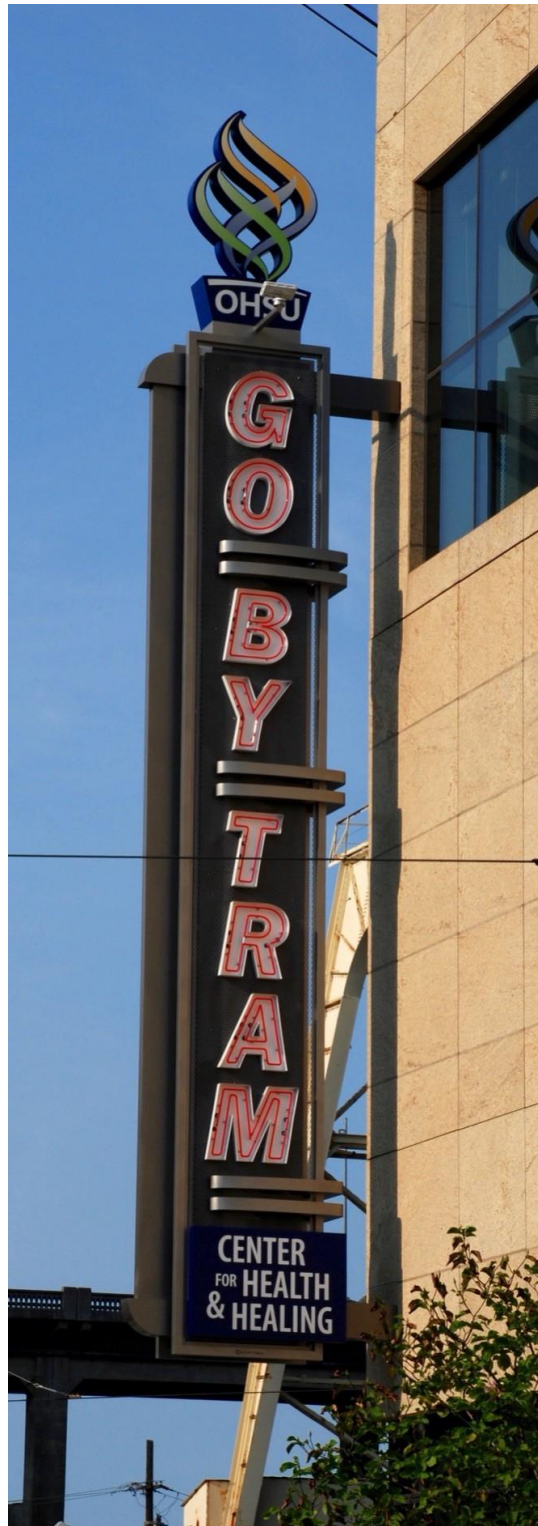
OHSU PROPEL Application Timeline





Program Eligibility: Scholars

- Must be working as a full-time research assistant (e.g., Research Assistant 2, Senior Research Assistant, etc.) in the lab of an OHSU faculty member
- Must have earned an undergraduate degree from a U.S.-based, accredited institution in a biomedically relevant discipline
- Be intent on pursuing a doctoral degree in biomedical science (PhD or MD-PhD)
- Must commit to participating in program events for at least one academic year

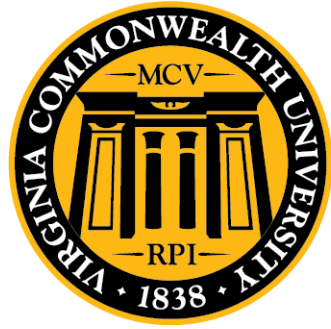


Questions?

Contact us at:

preptograd@ohsu.edu

Stay tuned for OHSU PROPEL
Mentor Information Sessions –
Winter 2026



VCU

Prep for PhD

In the Biomedical Sciences

Recruit Technicians that are on a path to the PhD

VCU's new post-baccalaureate program is designed for motivated bachelor's-level science graduates working in research labs who aspire to pursue a PhD. This program prepares them for the rigor of graduate training—while keeping them engaged in your research program.

Benefits for your Technician:

- Immersive research training
- Mentorship & career development
- PhD application support
- Integrative program that blends seamlessly with a technician's workday

Benefits for your lab:

- Motivates and retains skilled technicians during their transition year.
- Provides structured support for career development outside of lab time.
- Strengthens VCU's research pipeline with prepared, competitive PhD candidates.

For more information, email
Rebecca.Martin@vcuhealth.org