Monarchs Maximizing Access to Research Careers (M-MARC) Undergraduate Student Training for Academic Research (U*STAR) supports students’ academic and research activities while they train to enter Ph.D. programs. M-MARC Trainees begin the program when they are Juniors majoring in Biological Sciences, Chemistry and Biochemistry, Computer Science, or Psychology. They receive excellent financial benefits, exceptional professional training and research experiences, and participate in outreach activities. M-MARC Trainees make exceptional candidates for doctoral program admission and are very strong candidates for the NSF Graduate Research Fellowship, and other discipline specific fellowships.

Specific benefits of being an M-MARC Trainee include:

**Research Opportunities**
- M-MARC Trainees obtain “hands-on” research experience in research laboratories at ODU and participate in an extramural summer research experience in the summer before their senior year.
- M-MARC Trainees dedicate 15 hours per week to professional development activities and research.

**Honors College Benefits**
- M-MARC Trainees are required to apply to the Perry Honors College. If accepted, M-MARC trainees will receive benefits reserved for Honors College students, including Honors housing, Honors advising & priority registration, scholarship, and travel grant opportunities.

**Financial Benefits**
- The M-MARC program is an NIH T34 National Research Service Award and provides a stipend to M-MARC Trainees which is approximately $1000 per month.
- M-MARC Trainees are provided with 100% of their tuition & fees.
- Travel and conference expenses.
- Travel, housing, and a stipend during external summer research experience.

**Professional Development Opportunities**
- Critical thinking, verbal, & quantitative skills workshops
- Hands-on research training by the Biomedical Mentors
- Departmental seminars & scientific colloquia
- Weekly journal club
- Networking opportunities with faculty & students
- Conferences attendance
- Summer research experience
- GRE, MCAT, and discipline specific Graduate Research Fellowship application preparation assistance
- Understanding the structure of graduate school applications

For more information about your eligibility** for the Monarchs Maximizing Access to Research Careers (M-MARC) U*STAR Traineeship program, and to request an application for Fall 2021 please contact Dr. Desh Ranjan, Professor of Computer Science (e-mail: dranjan@odu.edu) or Dr. Alvin Holder, Associate Professor of Chemistry (e-mail: aholder@odu.edu).

**M-MARC applicants must be interested in pursuing a Ph.D. degree in Biological Sciences, Chemistry and Biochemistry, Computer Science, or Psychology, and be underrepresented in the sciences for one of the following reasons:
- Black/African-American, Native Hawaiian/other Pacific Islander, Hispanic/Latino, Native American/Alaskan Native
- Financially disadvantaged (eligible for Pell grants or equivalent)
- Disability recognized by the ODU Office of Educational Accessibility
- Funding for the M-MARC U*STAR program at ODU is provided by the National Institutes of Health.

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