

FAQ: Minority Student Research Symposium

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Q1 What is the Minority Student Research Symposium?

The *All of Us* Research Program's Minority Student Research Symposium (MSRS) elevates the work of student researchers from underrepresented communities by engaging minority students—with the support of faculty/mentors—through use of the *All of Us* Data Browser to research, design, and display a poster presentation on their findings. Multiple touchpoints, including a professional development series, will help cultivate a mentor/ student network.

Q2 What is the purpose of MSRS?

The goal of the MSRS is to help address the lack of representation of minority populations in biomedical research, and to introduce young researchers to the field by highlighting the various research opportunities available within the *All of Us* Research Hub.

Q3 Why does the MSRS focus on underrepresented minority groups?

Underrepresented minorities are more likely than others to be familiar with, and highly motivated to, remedy health issues faced by their demographic groups. Increasing the number of minority researchers in health sciences may help reduce racial and ethnicity-related disparities. The importance of a diverse biomedical workforce is further supported by evidence indicating that diversity strengthens the STEM talent pool and ultimately contributes to greater innovation and productivity in research settings where team members engage in cooperative problem-solving.

Q4 What are some of the areas of research and professional skill development that will be addressed in the MSRS?

- Publishing in a peer reviewed journal
- Communicating research results
- Grant writing
- Formulating a research question
- Data management
- Time management

Q5 What research topics will be featured during the MSRS?

- Alcohol, Tobacco, and other Drugs
- Chronic Disease
- Physical Disabilities
- Mental Health and Disorders
- Nutrition and Weight Status
- Social Determinants of Health

Q6 Will the winner of the MSRS receive?

Winners will be selected for each student level. The first and second place winners of their tier will receive a gift card.

Q7 Will the MSRS be accessible to all audiences?

The *All of Us* Research Program is committed to accessibility and providing features that allow audiences to easily navigate and access relevant information. All menus are clearly labeled to make event navigation easier. There are also options for page narration and changes in color contrast and text size for those who are visually impaired. All sessions will have closed captions as well for those with hearing impairments.

Q8 How will this virtual event encourage networking and engagement among participants and the audience?

MSRS will engage student researchers through a variety of activities before, during and after the event including a professional development series and meetings with mentors. They will also be invited to post photos, answer polls, download relevant materials and network with other attendees. Attendees will be recognized throughout the meeting with interactive activities and a leaderboard to track audience engagement. The MSRS will also feature virtual exhibitor booths that showcase funding and external research opportunities for students as well as community partners invested in the future of diversity in biomedical research.

Q9 What is required of mentors?

Mentors will guide MSRS participants through the process of conducting research in the Data Browser. Throughout the four month process, they will participate in check-in meetings, attend the MSRS event and promote participation through their networks. A \$500 stipend is provided for their time.

Q10 Who can be a mentor?

- Have at least a Bachelor's degree in Biomedical Sciences or a related field, but preference is to have a more advanced degree (MS, PhD, MD).
- Have experience in conducting and presenting research.
- Self-identify as being from a minority community, inclusive of individuals from racial/ethnic minority groups, LGBTQ+ community and/or work at a minority-serving institution or community-based organization.
- Be available to support two students from December 6, 2021 through March 31, 2022.

Q11 What is required of student researchers?

Students will meet with their mentors, develop a research question and create a poster display, attend a professional development series and show their work during the MSRS. A \$200 stipend is provided to students.

Q12 Who can be a student researcher?

- Be enrolled as an undergraduate, graduate, or professional degree (medical, dental etc) student for the academic year 2021-2022 in the United States or its territories.
- Identify as a member of a minority community (inclusive of individuals from racial/ethnic minority groups, LGBTQ+ community, and beyond).
- Be available to conduct research in Data Browser from December 6, 2021 through

March 15, 2022.

- Complete a research project using data from the All of Us Research Hub (specifically, the publicly-available Data Browser) and present their work in a virtual poster session on March 31, 2022 during the MSRS virtual event.

Q13 How will I be paired with a mentor?

Mentors will be paired with up to two students. If a student already has a mentor who also applies, the student will be put with their preferred mentor. Students without a mentor already selected will be paired with a mentor based on aligned research interests.

Q14 How will I present my research? Do I need a paper?

Students are only required to fill out the poster presentation template that will be provided. These posters will then be displayed in the virtual exhibit hall. Students are not required to write a paper for the symposium. However, if the student chooses to do so, they absolutely can write a paper whether it is for class credit or personal development. Participation in this event does not require students to publish research.

Q15 What is the *All of Us* Data Browser?

The Data Browser is an interactive tool allowing visitors to explore aggregated data currently available from surveys, electronic health records, and physical measurements. The platform allows interested researchers to begin exploring information in an aggregate form – i.e. there is no individual-level data-- provided by participants in the *All of Us* Research Program is s This, and some other design decisions, were made to protect participant privacy.

Currently, the Data Browser does not allow you to cross-tab specific data elements with race/ethnicity. This is due to feedback we received and is part of our effort to prevent *All of Us* being used for stigmatizing research. This may change in the future, based on input and guidance from diverse communities.

Q16 What is the *All of Us* Researchers Convention?

The *All of Us* Researcher's Convention provides an opportunity for a broad spectrum of researchers using the *All of Us* Research Program data and tools offered through the Research Hub to showcase their work with colleagues, peers, and others who share a passion for advancing health research. The two-day virtual event will focus on researchers at various educational and professional career stages across two separate but linked events: the Minority Student Research Symposium (March 31) and the *All of Us* Science Day (April 1).

Q17 Why focus on underrepresented minority groups in biomedical research?

Underrepresented minorities (URMs) represent 30% of the U.S. population but less than 9% of STEM Ph.D. recipients and 7% of all physicians. The *All of Us* Research Program hopes that the MSRS will widen the professional network of URM STEM students, provide an environment that fosters exploration and professional development, and support their pursuit of a career in the biomedical workforce.

Q18 What does the day of the symposium consist of?

The virtual event will include poster presentations from MSRS participants and will feature a keynote conversation with Dr. Robert Winn, Dr. Karriem Watson and Alexander Kimbrough on the power of mentorship. More information and the agenda will be posted on the website as the event date approaches.

Q19

Who can I contact if I have a question that hasn't been answered?

If you have additional questions, please contact Kim Cantor at kcantor@pyxispartners.co or Monica Rodriguez at mrodriguez@pyxispartners.co.