

## Ted Mullin Fund Scholars Program at UChicago Medicine

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In the program's seventh year, the Ted Mullin Scholar Program selected four student-athletes from across the country to conduct research with the leading physician-scientists of the Section of Hematology/Oncology at The University of Chicago Medicine Comer Children's Hospital.

This is an unparalleled program, granting undergraduate college students the opportunity to experience hands-on laboratory research and contribute to the ongoing pediatric cancer research initiatives taking place at Comer Children's. This experience has been credited by many alumni scholars as motivation and inspiration to continue on a career path in medicine. The Ted Mullin Fund is responsible for kick-starting the careers of 29 undergraduate student-athletes, including the 2018 scholars featured in the following pages.



## Brittney Colon

State University of New York at Oswego '20

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“This summer I had the unimaginable opportunity of working in Dr. Susan Cohn’s laboratory under close collaboration with Dr. Mark Applebaum where the focus was Neuroblastoma. Responsible for 50% of all cancers in infants and 8% of childhood cancers, only 50% of high-risk patients survive despite intensive, multimodal therapies.

Aside from the incredible opportunity to be a part of such cutting-edge research, I was able to see its clinical implications at UCM Comer’s Children Hospital. It was here that I was able to experience the most important side of medicine: the human story. **Upon my acceptance and completion of the Ted Mullin Fund Scholars program, I have gained a deeper understanding and appreciation for medicine.** This once in a lifetime opportunity has added fuel to my ever-burning desire to attend medical school. “



## Margaret Harrington

Vassar College '19

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“Being a Ted Mullin Scholar was an amazing opportunity to explore my interests in biomedical research. I worked on a project in Dr. Eric Beyer’s lab with Dr. Joanna Gemel and Dr. Gabrielle Lapping-Carr studying pediatric Sickle Cell Anemia. The main focus of the research was analyzing the effects of exosomes from Sickle Cell Anemia patients on the integrity of endothelial cells. This work introduced me to numerous lab skills, including exosome and microRNA extraction, immunofluorescence imaging, and working with human cell culture. I loved living in Chicago and working at UCM. Each day was a great experience and an opportunity to learn something new. I began working near the end of the sickle cell project and it was exciting to be involved in meetings for planning the abstract, figures, and the future experiments that would be needed. **I am so thankful to the Mullins and to everyone I worked with at UCM who helped make last summer such an amazing experience!**”



## Brandon Hilliard

Carleton College '18

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“My summer as a Ted Mullin Scholar offered me an extraordinary opportunity to partake in cutting edge research at one of the nation’s top pediatric research centers. As a member of Dr. James LaBelle’s lab, I examined BCL-2 regulation of cellular apoptosis and researched applications of the BCL-2 pathway in the context of graft-versus-host disease (GvHD).

Under the mentorship of Dr. Labelle and Lindsey Ludwig I was able to learn a variety of laboratory techniques and given the opportunity to apply them to research based questions. **The Ted Mullin scholars program gave me the chance to explore an entirely new field of research and work with some of the top medical professionals in the nation.** I thoroughly enjoyed my time at the University of Chicago and look forward to taking my experiences with me as I continue to pursue a career in research.”



## Grace Marshall

Carleton College '20

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“This summer I had the privilege to work in Dr. Susan Cohn’s lab at the University of Chicago. The Cohn lab focuses on neuroblastoma which is a cancer that effects the peripheral nervous system primarily in children under the age of two. I learned countless new skills in the lab and I learned a lot about neuroblastoma. However, for me the best part was going into the clinic at Comer Children’s Hospital with the doctors....I was touched and humble by each of the children I got to meet and by the strength of their families. They inspire my and make me excited to move forward with my medical career so that one day I can help kids and families like them. I will be attending the University of Rochester Medical School in the Fall of 2020 and while I am unsure what type of medicine I want to practice, **I know that the knowledge, experience, and inspiration I gained this summer [as a Ted Mullin Scholar] will stay with me wherever my career takes me.**”



The 2018 New Trier Aquatics Ted Mullin Hour of Power

# Continued Investments: Ted Mullin Scholar Alumni



**Maryellen Campbell**  
**Georgetown '16**  
**Ted Mullin Scholar 2013**

“This opportunity has affirmed my desire to become a doctor, and I encourage anyone interested in science or medicine to apply.” Maryellen stayed in contact with her mentors from her experience as a Ted Mullin Scholar, and in 2017 was accepted into medical school at Florida Atlantic. She is currently a second year, and working on research involving pediatric traumatic brain injury.

**Aleks Penev**  
**University of Chicago '13**  
**Ted Mullin Scholar 2012**

“My summer as a Ted Mullin Fund Scholar in Dr. John Cunningham’s lab at the University of Chicago Medicine, involved using induced pluripotent stem cells as a model system to study the impact of erythroid transcription factors on hematopoietic cell differentiation and development.” Aleks is currently an MD/PhD Candidate at NYU School of Medicine studying telomerase activation during human development and exploring the possibilities for how these mechanisms can be applied to the fields of cancer research and tissue homeostasis.



**Erik Klontz**  
**Carleton College '13**  
**Ted Mullin Scholar 2012**

“This experience solidified my desire to become a physician scientist. I enjoyed the research, which felt extra grounded by the opportunity to visit patients in the hospital. I am currently taking a gap year while I apply to MD/PhD programs.” Erik is now in the 5th year of his MD/PhD program at the University of Maryland. “I’m currently working towards a PhD in microbiology and immunology, studying proteins that manipulate the human immune system.”



**Geraldyn Lam**  
**Amherst College '18**  
**Ted Mullin Scholar 2016**

“The Ted Mullin Fund gave me the fantastic opportunity to perform research in the section of pediatric hem/onc at the University of Chicago.” After graduation, Geraldyn began working for Iora Health, a primary care provider that serves medicare patients, seeking to restore humanity in healthcare by changing the services, IT systems, that typical fee-for-service providers have.

# Continued Investments: Ted Mullin Scholar Alumni

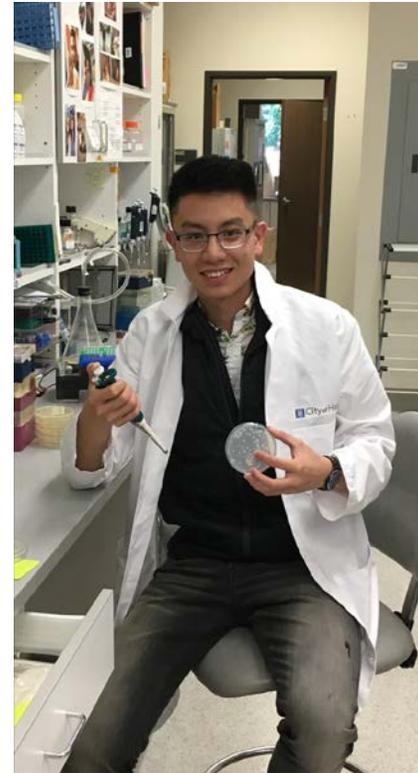


**Yifan Mao**  
**University of Chicago '20**  
**Ted Mullin Scholar 2017**

"I'm extremely grateful for this experience and amazed by what I had achieved in a short period of time. Thank you Ted Mullin Fund for funding the Scholars and giving me an amazing and enriching experience."

In the summer of 2018, Yifan interned with an ENT & facial plastics surgeon in Clackamas, Oregon where she assisted with patient intake, scribe and set up procedure rooms. Then, in August, Yifan made a Medical Outreach Trip to Cusco, Peru with Volunteers Around the World to set up a medical clinic that will offer basic health care and health education for rural regions. In just five days, Yifan and her team attended to 209 patients at their mobile clinic [pictured to the left].

"I'm so glad we were able to help out the people of Huacanchay and very grateful for this eye-opening experience to learn about another culture and their healthcare!"



**Jason Xu**  
**Pomona College '18**  
**Ted Mullin Scholar 2016**

"In addition to providing me a seminal research experience in the area of cancer genomics, the Ted Mullin Scholars program introduced me to set of outstanding physician scientists that will forever serve as my role models ... During my freshman year of college, my grandfather fought terminal cancer and, like many others, I felt a strong desire to be a part of the team that is searching for a brighter future. It feels a bit surreal to say that I will be an MD/Ph.D student at the University of Pennsylvania in the fall of 2018, the very same institution that my grandfather visited from 1986-1989."

**Edan Zitelny**  
**Brandeis University '17**  
**Ted Mullin Scholar 2014**

"I would like to personally thank the Mullin family for giving me the opportunity to explore and engage in this research program and I look forward to putting the skills I have learned in the past ten weeks into practice." Since graduating undergrad, Edan started medical school at Wake Forest University and, "could not have reached this accomplishment without the support of the Ted Mullin Fund Scholars program."



# Ted Mullin Fund Investment by the Numbers

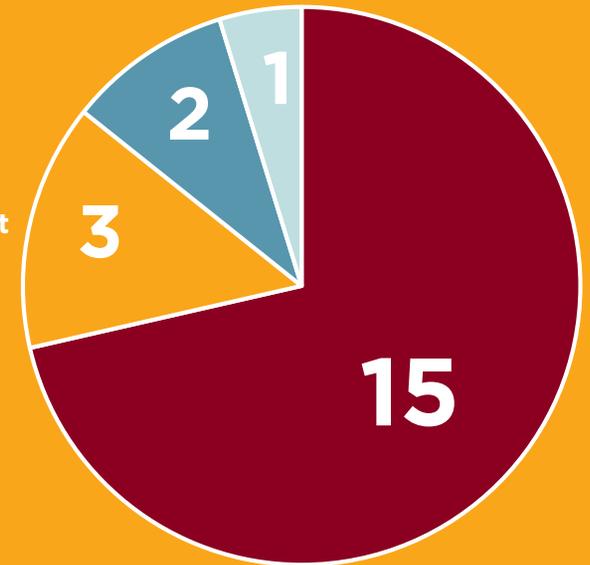
**\$1,323,357.48**

fundraised since 2006 by the Ted Mullin Fund to support the pediatric cancer research and scholar program at the University of Chicago Medicine Comer Children's Section of Hematology/Oncology.

This success is built on the countless donors and participants of the **Ted Mullin Fund Hour of Power Fundraisers** held across the country. This total is the result of over **2,400 individual donations**, from **42 different states** and the District of Colombia.

## What's Next for Ted Mullin Scholars

- Pursuing either MD, MD/PhD, or DVM
- Conducting Research in Academic or Government Laboratories
- Working at a Biotech Start-Up
- Working in Primary Health Care Delivery



The University of Chicago Medicine Comer Children's Hospital has hosted **29 undergraduate student-athletes** as Ted Mullin Scholars from across the country. Scholars hail from **14 different universities** across **7 different states** and Washington D.C.



Since 2012, Ted Mullin Scholars have contributed to research projects in the labs of the most accomplished physician-scientists, like **Susan Cohn, MD**, section chief of the Section of Pediatric Hematology/Oncology. Dr. Cohn is an award-winning clinician, prolific author, and leading educator.

**John Cunningham, MD**, chair of the Department of Pediatrics has worked closely with scholars as well. Dr. Cunningham is a world-renowned expert in the treatment and research of childhood cancers and blood diseases with a specific expertise in leukemia, lymphoma, and sickle cell disease.