Company Name: Sound Choice Pharmaceutical Institute

Company Address: 1749 Dexter Ave N, Seattle WA 98109

Contact Email: rederer@soundchoice.org

# of hours/week: minimum of 17 hours/week

Intern Earns: Class credit unpaid

Company Description.
Sound Choice Pharmaceutical Institute exists to shed light on unethical research practices that have been kept in the dark for too long. We exist to perform research, educate the public and support the research and development of biomedical products that will be a part of ending human exploitation in biologic materials.

Our Focus
• Research
• Education
• Support

About Us
• We study the health and pathologic consequences of residual fetal human DNA, cellular debris, and retroviruses in medicines
• We promote awareness of the widespread use of human trafficked material, particularly fetal human material in drug discovery, development and commercialization, and the rights of every medical patient to know what is in their pharmaceutical products
• We support ethical cell research

Internship Opportunity Description.
The production of vaccines involves growing a virus in living cells. Historically, for human use vaccines have been manufactured by using animal cell lines that contain the DNA of that animal. Within the final product some residual DNA remains as a contaminant in the vaccine as it cannot be completely removed. Since vaccine manufacturers switched from animal to human cell lines decades ago, potentially disease triggering trace amounts of human fetal DNA are present in currently used vaccines for humans. This project is designed to evaluate the levels of anti-DNA antibodies specific to the contaminants in the vaccines (derived from the MRC-5 and WI-38 cell lines) in autism cases, compared with normal age and gender matched controls.

The intern will learn mouse handling skills, lab report writing, following Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) and sterile tissue culture techniques.

Internship objectives.
Optimization of DNA extraction as well as assay development SOPs to ensure a successfully conducted enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay (ELISA) for each patient.

Example tasks:
Operating/ balancing centrifuges, DNA extraction from human/mouse whole blood, performing ELISAs, sterile working, data acquisition, summary and evaluation, presentation of results to staff (oral and written).

Intern qualifications.
(1) Background in life sciences preferred.
(2) Previous lab experience preferred, but not absolutely necessary.
(3) Attention to detail.