

Unique Engagement Grant

Date::

June 6, 2017

An engagement grant that brings together the UA Physiology Club and the Stroke Resource Center of Southern Arizona has been funded for the 2017-2018 school year.

The purpose of this project is to support the partnership of the University of Arizona Physiology Club and the Stroke Resource of Southern Arizona in order to provide students with a quality community engagement experience and to aid the SRCSA, which supports those in the community who are touched by stroke.

This is a brand new collaboration between the existing Physiology Club (Dr. Zoe Cohen, club advisor, College of Medicine, Department of Physiology) and the Stroke Resource Center of Southern Arizona (Dr. Leslie Ritter, College of Nursing and Dept. of Neurology and the William Feinberg Endowed Chair for Stroke Research).

The idea of the project was initiated by Dr. Zoe Cohen wanting to offer more outreach and engagement opportunities related to public awareness of disease, disease prevention and disease follow-up for the students in the club and by Dr. Leslie Ritter wanting to explore ways to expand the reach of the SRCSA. The project is a non-credit applied learning experience.

Students will receive formal and informal mentoring from Cohen and Ritter, hands-on experience with community dwelling stroke survivors and caregivers in a variety of community settings, and learn how to work as a team, interact with other health professionals as well as school age children. In addition, research opportunities for students may occur as a result of their participation in the project activities (but would not be part of this non-credit project experience). Both Cohen and Ritter have mentored numerous undergraduate honors projects (some as co-mentors). The Stroke Resource Center will benefit from the involvement of student volunteers who bring their intellect, creativity and enthusiasm to any work environment. The reach of the SRCSA has been limited on occasion due to the lack of volunteers to expand current activities and to add new activities. Without a doubt, partnering with the Physiology club will significantly expand the SRCSA's ability to serve a larger stroke community.

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