Global Genes®
RARE Compassion Program

2023 RARE Compassion Program Overview
MEDICAL STUDENTS

RARE COMPASSION PROGRAM OVERVIEW

It is estimated that around 400 million people globally and 1 in 10 in the United States are living with a rare medical condition. Although understanding the experience of a person with a rare disease can enable improved health, faster and more accurate diagnosis, and better care for individuals and families living with rare diseases, healthcare professionals often do not receive training to recognize a patient with one of the nearly 10,000 identified rare diseases.

For the past 7 years, the RARE Compassion Program has provided a unique opportunity for medical students to develop relationships with individuals and their families experiencing a rare disease diagnosis, with the goal of developing compassion and awareness for the challenges that individuals diagnosed with a rare disease are faced with everyday. The program helps to foster meaningful patient-doctor relationships, improve cultural congruence, and nurture future advocates in rare disease.

By providing an opportunity for healthcare students to better understand the importance of diversity and inclusion in providing care for individuals with rare diseases, and how health inequities, including systemic biases in medical practice and lack of quality care and specialized support resources, greatly affect this unique group of patients, we hope to continue to improve patient care within the rare disease community.

RARE COMPASSION ALUMNI COMMUNITY

Healthcare student participants will have the opportunity to join the RARE Compassion Professional Network community to connect with other clinicians and researchers in the rare disease community who are accelerating breakthroughs in the diagnosis, treatment, and care of rare disease patients. Students who participate and complete the program will be provided a certificate of completion and be invited to join the alumni community.

DAVID R. COX SCHOLARSHIP FOR RARE COMPASSION STUDENT PARTICIPANTS

Students will also have the opportunity to apply for the David R. Cox Scholarship upon completion of the RARE Compassion Program. Students can submit an essay and optional video about their experience with their individual / family partner for a chance to win upwards of $7,500. More details will be provided about how to apply at the end of the program. You can read the winning essays from 2021 here.

STUDENT-PATIENT PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Students will be paired with 2 patient partners for each 4 month rotation for the duration of the 8 month program. We will do our best to connect students and patients based on commonalities related to disease/ disease interest as well as geographic location, and preferred spoken language. Both students and patients are expected to collaborate on a consistent basis in order to build a meaningful relationship with one another and better understand each other's story.

If you are interested in participating in the RARE Compassion Program, please visit www.globalgenes.org/compassion to learn more. If you are interested in applying for next years program, please fill out the interest form found here. Applications will open January 16, 2023 and close February 17, 2023.

Thank you for your interest and support of the rare disease community!

If you have any questions, please email us at *compassionprogram@globalgenes.org.*

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About Global Genes®
Global Genes is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization dedicated to eliminating the burdens and challenges of rare diseases for patients and families globally. In pursuit of our mission, we connect, empower and inspire the rare disease community to stand up, stand out, and become more effective on their own behalf – helping to spur innovation, meet essential needs, build capacity and knowledge, and drive progress within and across rare diseases. We serve more than 400 million people around the globe and nearly 1 in 10 Americans affected by rare diseases. If you or someone you love has a rare disease or are searching for a diagnosis, contact Global Genes at 949-248-RARE or visit our resource hub.