

American College of Radiology Imaging Network
Philadelphia, PA

1 Please describe your organization briefly, including mission statement, activities, size, etc.

ACRIN – with Headquarters offices in Philadelphia - is funded by a grant from the National Cancer Institute (NCI) to develop and carry out trials related to medical imaging. ACRIN's mission is:

By conducting clinical trials of diagnostic imaging and image-guided treatment technologies to allay the fears of those who do not have cancer and improve the length and quality of lives of cancer patients.

As this mission statement indicates, ACRIN's principle activity is the development, implementation, analysis, and promulgation of the results of rigorous clinical trials. Clinical trials are the scientific means by which medicine determines the validity of replacing older diagnosis and treatment methods with newer ones, in order to translate laboratory discoveries into clinical applications.

ACRIN accomplishes this goal through an all-electronic network (Web, email, telephone) of hundreds of physicians, scientists, and methodologists and approximately 120 hospitals and imaging centers. The Network is principally U.S.-based but increasingly involves overseas participants. ACRIN currently is working on over 20 clinical trials of varying size – from just a few hundred patients to two trials of over 50,000 subjects each.

ACRIN headquarters supports the conduct of imaging clinical trials by providing project management, protocol and regulatory assistance, data management and biostatistical services, and image capture, transfer and archiving capabilities.

More information about ACRIN can be found on the website at www.acrin.org.

2 Describe **in detail** the work or project an intern will do, **please be as specific as possible**.

Multiple potential projects have been outlined below. Final project assignment will depend upon the skills and interests of the selected applicant.

1. Diagnostic Imaging Research Laboratory

ACRIN operates a research support laboratory consisting of various hardware and software platforms which are used to analyze diagnostic images that are collected as part of ACRIN clinical research trials. The resulting database of images and related data is quite rich and represents an opportunity for further advanced research. For this project, the right intern would have the opportunity to:

- a. Develop management tools to support various operational requirements
- b. Perform secondary analysis of images under supervision of qualified radiology technologists and radiologists in order to produce correlative scientific findings. Results of these efforts may lead to input into scientific publication.
- c. Document standard operating procedures and practice guidelines for both internal and external audiences

2. Development of productivity standards, organizational metrics, management reports

ACRIN is in the process of developing productivity standards and metrics related to each position in the organization. In addition, various ACRIN leadership have envisioned needs for enhanced reporting that reflects workload and progress being achieved by various scientific committees:

- a. Meet with managers to evaluate key indicators of workload and productivity
- b. Develop definitions of workload and productivity standards appropriate to each job category
- c. Develop systems to collect required data
- d. Generate reports which incorporate metrics and standards

3. Development of Retention Strategies for ACRIN Trial Participants

Many of the trials that ACRIN supports require that the study participants perform multiple tasks over a period of time, for example, have a chest x-ray every year for four years or complete and return health status surveys. Keeping participants engaged to complete all study-specific activities is important for reporting meaningful trial results. For this project, the intern would:

- a. Review participant retention requirements for all ACRIN trials.
- b. Research study retention “best practices” used by other NCI cooperative groups, in NIH multi-center trials, and in industry trials.
- c. Develop recommendations for retention strategies for ACRIN trials – both general and trial specific. Consideration will need to be given cost effectiveness and the opportunity for evaluation.
- d. Develop “participant retention tips” document for ACRIN Web site.

4. Data Quality Review

Facilities that participate in ACRIN trials submit their data via forms on the ACRIN Web site. An on-site audit is performed at each facility for most trials during which a site’s adherence to research requirements is reviewed including data accuracy, completeness and timeliness of submission. For this project, the intern would:

- a. Review audits reports for a variety of ACRIN trials and document the types of errors that most consistently occur.
- b. Work with the audit team to develop a training document that describes the most consistently occurring errors and strategies for avoiding the errors.
- c. Work with the ACRIN RA committee to gain insight into how changes in ACRIN processes might eliminate the potential for error.
- d. Complete other data analysis projects as determined by ACRIN's Quality Assurance Committee.

3 Describe any particular skills, background, or qualities you are seeking in an intern

For all of the projects described below, the ideal intern will be interested in contributing to ACRIN's mission, defining more specific work objectives with his or her supervisor that incorporate the student's specific skills and interests, and accomplishing the agreed upon objectives independently. Areas of academic focus may be, but are not limited to, public health, medicine, bio statistics and health care management.

There are required dates for this internship. Internship must start on _____ and end on _____ or most include the period _____.

Start and end dates for the internship are flexible.

The expected working schedule for this internship:

Begin __8:30__ a.m. End __5:00__p.m.

Lunch break: Length__1 hour__ specific time: Flexible__