

In July, UCLA hosted students in the Urban Health Scholars Program, a summer program for high school students sponsored by the California Wellness Foundation and organized by the Social Justice Learning Institute (www.sjli.org). During the 5 week program, 15 high school students came to UCLA over 6 days, hosted by Dr. Linda Baum and Dr. Omai Garner. One group of students spent time with Dr. Garner in the Clinical Microbiology Laboratory, learning the basics of microbial pathogenesis and touring the Brentwood lab. Another group of students spent time with Dr. Dawn Ward and Dr. Alyssa Ziman in the Ackerman Donor Center, Component Processing and Blood Bank areas of Transfusion Medicine, where they met donors, followed a unit from donation through processing, and learned the steps involved in blood typing and cross-matching. All students participated in a Career Day, where representatives of various allied health fields spoke with them about the training required for various types of careers and the types of jobs available in their fields. Elsa Tsukuhara from Pathology and Laboratory Medicine presented career paths for phlebotomists, Medical Laboratory Technologists and Clinical Laboratory Scientists. Jeff Davis from Respiratory Therapy described the clinical settings in which Respiratory Therapists work and also gave the students an opportunity to perform intubation on a mannequin (see photos). Sergio Godinez and Patrick Hale from Radiology discussed the use of radiographic imaging in patient care, the types of imaging modalities and the training required to work in the field. The students also spent a day with the Emergency Medical Technicians team at the UC Police Dept., where they received training in CPR. The students were excited to learn about the different opportunities for a career in health care – as one student said “I didn’t even know these careers existed!”



