



## NEWS RELEASE

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### **American Cancer Society Accepting Applications for High School Research Internships**

SPRINGFIELD – March 18, 2008 – Through March 31, the American Cancer Society is accepting applications for its annual summer high school research internship program.

Now in its sixth year, the program allows a select group of Illinois high school juniors to experience life as a professional research scientist. Students participate in hands-on work in cancer research laboratories as they follow the direction of established researchers at some of Illinois' leading research facilities. Last year, 25 students from throughout the state were chosen to participate in the eight-week program, including one student from Champaign County.

As part of the organization's mission to support cancer research, the American Cancer Society high school research program has been hugely successful in bridging many of Illinois' finest students into the future of science.

"This program is a unique opportunity for students to nurture their passion for science while making a difference in the fight against cancer," said Dr. K. Thomas Robbins, Regional Board President, American Cancer Society, Western Region and Director, SimmonsCooper Cancer Institute at SIU School of Medicine. "This internship will not only expose them to the field of cancer research, it will provide them with a sense of what it is like to funnel their knowledge and efforts into something extraordinary."

The Southern Illinois University School of Medicine has hosted these interns in the past and looks forward to the opportunity to host others in the future.

Students chosen for the program are assigned an independent, limited and achievable research project to work on four days per week. On the fifth day, they attend various lectures and present project updates. At the end of their internship, students also present a collective report of their findings.

In the past 50 years, the American Cancer Society has awarded approximately \$30 million in research grants in Illinois.

For more information on the American Cancer Society's high school research program, contact Tyharrie Hill at 312-279-7392.

The American Cancer Society is dedicated to eliminating cancer as a major health problem by saving lives, diminishing suffering and preventing cancer through research, education, advocacy and service. The Society's Illinois Division has more than 120,000 volunteers and staff members fighting cancer in the state. For cancer-related information 24-hours a day, call 800-ACS-2345 or visit the American Cancer Society Web site at [www.cancer.org](http://www.cancer.org).

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