# Mathematics and Skin Cancer

The Mathematical Biology program at the University of Utah will be conducting a mathematical biology research project for undergraduates during the **2010-2011** school year. We are looking for **1-2 math majors** and **1-2 biology majors** who are interested in working together in an interdisciplinary group.

Skin cancer accounts for nearly **50% of all cancers** with more than **2 million new cases** diagnosed each year. One person dies from melanoma almost every hour. **One in five Americans** will be diagnosed with skin cancer in their lifetime. **Just one bad burn** increases the risk of developing melanoma later in life.

What causes normal skin growth to turn cancerous? How do cancerous lesions grow? How is childhood ultraviolet exposure linked to adult skin cancer prevalence? Skin cancers tend to grow faster and are more deadly in people with weakened immune systems. How can we use the immune system to help our bodies fight back against cancer?

Use mathematical modeling to gain new insight into the evil inner workings of cancer development. This is your chance to develop new skills and learn to work individually and collaboratively to tackle a problem of medical significance!

"If I could offer you only one tip for the future, sunscreen would be it." Baz Luhrmann
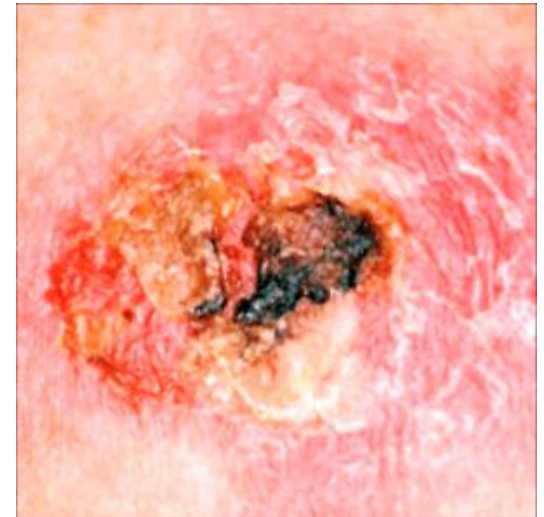
Application deadline:
September 7, 2010

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Mathematical Biology Research Experience for Undergraduates