



INFORMATION FOR MENTORS OF MEDICAL SCHOLARS PROGRAM STUDENTS

The Medical Scholars Program at the AU/UGA Medical Partnership offers the opportunity for all medical students in good academic standing to engage in research activities, and considers research experiences as a valuable component of medical student education, regardless of student's ultimate career choice – academic medicine, private practice medicine, or biomedical research scientist.

The following suggestions are offered to ensure a better understanding of the expectations of the research mentor's role:

- The research project must be based on a specific hypothesis that addresses an original question. Clinical chart reviews are permitted, but only if they are designed about a specific and testable hypothesis. Findings should be subjected to statistical analysis (if appropriate) and the conclusions of the research should support or lead to the rejection of the original hypothesis. Literature reviews are not permitted.
- The student's project should be of a scope to ensure the likelihood that the student will be able to obtain results that confirm or negate his/her hypothesis within the Program's timeframe – 9 to 10 weeks.
- It is not necessary that the research problem or idea originates with the student, but it is critical that the student undertakes a research problem that he/she can develop a sense of "personal ownership and commitment" and make a meaningful intellectual contribution.
- The student is expected to contribute significantly to the crafting of the research proposal under the guidance of their mentor and should not be viewed as only "a pair of hands" or "help" for another's research efforts.
- The research proposal should describe the student's project specifically, NOT the broader scope of the mentor's research program or grant and should adhere to the word limits indicated on the application form.
- During the research period, the student and the mentor should meet at least weekly to problem-solve and trouble-shoot student efforts, and to set and review project goals and expectations.
- The mentor should facilitate the student's participation in regular group meetings, journal clubs or other research activities that enhance the student's scientific and communication awareness.
- The mentor should discuss with the student how the projects goals and accomplishments should be organized and presented in the Scholarly Abstract as well as in the research poster presented at the Annual Medical Scholars Symposium. The final poster must be reviewed and approved by the mentor.
- The mentor is responsible for all research direction and efforts as well as experimental results.