Research Opportunities for Medical Students

As a medical student at Ohio State, you will have numerous opportunities to test your interest in biomedical research or contribute to studies conducted by some of the nation’s most respected research scientists. Many of our students perform research with the aid of scholarships and fellowships designed to support their research interests while pursuing a medical degree.

Ohio State’s Medical Student Research Program connects medical students with available basic, clinical and translational research opportunities, faculty research mentors and research funding opportunities. Intramural scholarships are available to medical students through the Ohio State University College of Medicine. Extramural fellowships are available from institutions such as the Howard Hughes Medical Institute (HHMI), National Institutes of Health (NIH), Alpha Omega Alpha (AOA), Sarnoff Foundation, and many other scientific, specialty and disease-specific foundations. Students are encouraged to find a research mentor and apply to multiple funding sources to maximize funding opportunities.

INTRAMURAL RESEARCH OPPORTUNITIES
Medical student research scholarships support medical research to be performed at Ohio State under the mentorship of College of Medicine appointed faculty. These scholarships are awarded through an annual competitive application process. Students may pursue full-time research (40 hours per week) or part-time year-long research during their curriculum, as approved by their Academic Program Director. They may also apply to the Associate Dean for Medical Education or the Associate Dean for Student Life for a year-long leave of absence to pursue research for up to one year.

The Samuel J. Roessler Memorial Medical Scholarship Fund are made to students at the College of Medicine for medical research performed at Ohio State and mentored by College of Medicine appointed faculty.

The Barnes & Bennett Memorial Scholarships support medical students performing biomedical research in diverse scientific disciplines.

The Watts Mount Medical Research Scholarship supports medical students pursuing community research projects. This scholarship encourages exploration of health-related problems in Ohio’s communities in order to enhance awareness of and develop solutions for those problems through community research.

The Pelotonia Medical Student Research Fellowship Program provides one-year research fellowships for up to two Ohio State University medical students each year who want to help cure cancer.

These awards are available to medical students for medical research performed under the guidance of the faculty of the College of Medicine.

The Alpha Omega Alpha Carolyn L. Kuckein Student Research Fellowship provides an opportunity for students to conduct supported research for a continual period for clinical investigation, basic laboratory research, social science/health services research, leadership or professionalism. One candidate from each school with an active Alpha Omega Alpha chapter may be nominated.

Medical students are encouraged to apply for National Institutes of Health (NIH) sponsored TL1 Mentored Clinical Research Training Program (CCTS-TL1), offered through the OSU Center for Clinical and Translational Science (CCTS). The CCTS-TL1 program is part of a comprehensive program at OSU to advance research education and training in multidisciplinary clinical and translational investigation targeted at the improvement of human health. Medical students are eligible and encouraged to apply. Visit the CCTS TL1 award website for more information.
Research Opportunities for Medical Students (cont.)

EXTRAMURAL RESEARCH OPPORTUNITIES
Medical students are encouraged to consider applying for extramural research scholarship opportunities. The College of Medicine Medical Student Research Scholarship Application is designed to prepare students for applying to prestigious extramural sponsors, such as the Howard Hughes Medical Institute, the Sarnoff Cardiovascular Research Foundation, the Doris Duke Clinical Research Fellowship Program, and the Fogarty International Clinical Research Scholars Program.

The Howard Hughes Medical Institute (HHMI) Medical Research Fellows Program offers both a year-long and a summer mentored research training experience for medical, dental and veterinary students. As a medical student at Ohio State, you will have the option of working in a research lab at the Ohio State University College of Medicine, at another academic or nonprofit, research institution in the U.S., or at an institution abroad, if your mentor is on the faculty of a U.S. institution. Benefits include conference and professional meeting travel, group and panel discussions, networking and career advice, an annual stipend, medical, dental and vision insurance and an allowance for travel and education/research-related expenses. The summer program offers 8 to 10 weeks in the lab of an HHMI investigator, early career scientist, HHMI professor or researcher at HHMI’s Janelia Research Campus in Ashburn, VA. Learn more at http://go.osu.edu/researchfellowprogram

The National Institutes of Health (NIH) Medical Research Scholars Program (MRSP) is a comprehensive, year-long research enrichment program designed to attract the most creative, research-oriented medical, dental, and veterinary students to the intramural campus of the NIH in Bethesda, MD. http://clinicalcenter.nih.gov/training/mrsp/index.html

Sarnoff Cardiovascular Research Foundation offers research opportunities for outstanding medical students to explore careers in cardiovascular research. Applicants must be enrolled in accredited U.S. medical schools. Sarnoff Fellows conduct intensive work in a research facility located in the United States for one year. Prior research experience is not a prerequisite. More information can be found at http://www.sarnofffoundation.org.

Fogarty International Clinical Research Scholars Program
The Global Health Program for Fellows and Scholars provides supportive mentorship, research opportunities and a collaborative research environment for early stage investigators from the U.S. and low- and middle-income countries (LMICs), as defined by the World Bank, to enhance their global health research expertise and their careers.

The Global Health Program is conducted via five Support Centers based within Consortiums of US and LMIC Universities and Institutions. All five Programs include 11 months of mentored research training support at an LMIC training site and a one-week orientation and workshop on NIH Campus in Bethesda. However, each program is unique and each Consortium provides a different set of research and training opportunities.
Medical students must have completed their basic science courses and one year of clinical clerkships to apply. For details visit: http://fogartyscholars.org/

OTHER RESEARCH OPPORTUNITIES
Each year, the Office of Medical Student Research holds a Research Information Fair where interested faculty members are available to talk with medical students looking for research experiences and mentors. There is a wide variety of basic, clinical, and translational projects available from OSUMC and Nationwide Children’s Hospital.

go.osu.edu/mdsrevents

LSI-Advanced Competency Track for Clinical and Translational Science Research is offered as part of the LSI curriculum to provide Med 4 students with advanced training opportunities in biomedical research. Each student will identify a specific biomedical research topic and focused area of research. At the completion of the Advanced Competency in Clinical and Translational Research, the student will have gained an advanced comprehension of the foundational and clinical science underlying a particular topic relevant to human health and disease, as well as the research skills necessary to directly engage in discovery. For more information contact the Medical Student Research Program at Research.Education@osumc.edu

FINDING A FACULTY RESEARCH MENTOR AT OHIO STATE
The OSU College of Medicine Office of Research maintains a current listing of research opportunities available for medical student and research trainees. Interested students will find those listings arranged by department or by research area on the college’s web site at:

http://go.osu.edu/ResearchOpportunities

ANNUAL MEDICAL STUDENT SUMMER RESEARCH KICKOFF
Each year, the Office of Research Education brings together research trainees, mentors and college leaders to prepare medical students for their summer research experiences. The orientation emphasizes the importance of lab safety, increases awareness of future research opportunities for medical students, facilitates a successful research experience and prepares students for success in seeking future physician scientist career development awards.
go.osu.edu/mdsrevents

HELPFUL LINKS
NIH, “Choosing a Research Mentor:
https://www.training.nih.gov/mentoring_guidelines

More information about research opportunities at Ohio State is available at medicine.osu.edu/go/research_opportunities.