Mount Sinai Medical Student Summer Research Program

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What Is Research?

- A systematic process that uses the scientific method to investigate a question in order to produce new knowledge.
- It is NOT restricted to work done in a lab.
Types of Research

- We encourage all areas of medical research:
  - Basic
  - Clinical
  - Translational
  - Epidemiology - study of human health in populations; what causes disease, how disease is spread and controlled.
  - Health Outcomes - effect of intervention
  - Health Policy - development of policies to support the health of a population
  - Bioethics - study of ethical controversies in medicine
Only You Can Decide What Your Personal Goals Are

☐ To learn more about an area of medicine that interests you?
☐ To work on a fascinating project?
☐ To contribute new knowledge?
☐ To find a faculty mentor/role model?
☐ To explore a possible future career path?
☐ ???
In Selecting An Area, Keep in Mind…

- You don’t have to know what field you want to go into.
- Best not to be overly narrow in the project you want to do at this point.
- You are not expected to create your own project and then find a mentor to help you do it. (Why?)
Finding A Mentor

- This is the most important part of having a successful research experience.
- How should you identify someone?
  - Low tech approaches
    - Word of mouth - other students
    - Hear a good talk
    - Research Day Abstract book
    - Ask me
- When you get a lead, look up his/her departmental bio or PubMed publications to get a better idea of what s/he does.
Finding A Mentor (cont’d)

- If you find the papers interesting, send an email introducing yourself, mentioning if you have experience, and ask whether there are projects available.

- If you get a response and if the projects are interesting, try to set up a face to face meeting.
Things to Think About

- Junior vs senior mentor?
- Large vs small group?
- Is there someone to give you daily support?
- What is experience of other students with this mentor?
- Would your project be a brand new one or an ongoing one?
- When should you begin your project?
  - Ideal is during your spring elective, because this gives you a head start on the summer
  - If required, you need IRB approval before you receive funding
Obtaining Summer Funding

- The MSRO offers summer research stipends for projects done at MSSM.
  - We have no funds for projects done at other institutions within the USA.

- There is funding for research done abroad.
  - Global Health Institute (contact Dr. Anu Anandaraja @natasha.anandaraja@mssm.edu)
Funding cont’d

- The MSRO summer stipend is $3K for 8 weeks of full-time research
  - You may only do one project at a time
  - Two students may not work on the very same project
- There is support for non-citizens
- As part of receiving funding students must:
  - Submit an abstract for Medical Student Research Day on August 12, 2011
  - Attend the Research Day student talks
  - Present their work as a talk or poster
Types of MSSM Support

- Medical Student Research Office
  - Summer Research Scholars Program
    - Basic, Clinical, and Translational projects
  - Patricia S. Levinson Summer Fellowship in Interdisciplinary and Community Research
  - PRISM (Patient Research in Science and Medicine)
    - Clinical/Translational projects
- CMCA
- MSTAR
- Global Health
Funding cont’d

- There is also external funding that you hear about via emails from medicalstudentresearch or surfing the web.
How Should You Proceed?

☐ Decide the area you want to work in or identify a mentor with whom you would like to work.

☐ If you would like help with this, please contact my assistant, Grace, to set up an appointment. Email grace.oluoch@mssm.edu or 212 241 4429.

☐ Email me with specific questions karen.zier@mssm.edu.
Time Line

☐ Start looking from now until January-February.

☐ Applications for funding, in the forms of a project abstract, will be due March 14, 2011.
  ■ You need time to prepare an abstract with your mentor.
  ■ You will receive more information about this.

☐ In the spring you can work on background/leg work, i.e., reading, observing, obtaining IRB approval, so that when June comes you are ready to go.
  ■ There will be support from the Office of Clinical Research for IRB submissions.
Questions?