**MEDICAL STUDENT SCHOLARS PROGRAM IN CHILD AND ADOLESCENT HEALTH 2023-24**

**UNIVERSITY OF CINCINNATI COLLEGE OF MEDICINE**

**I. General Description of the Program and Information for Students**

The Medical Student Scholars Program (MSSP) in Child and Adolescent Health (Pediatrics) recognizes medical students who excel in scholastic exploration of the field of pediatrics. In conjunction with the UCCOM Pediatric Interest Club, students recognized by the program are expected to have expanded their knowledge in pediatrics, gained experiences in a variety of clinical shadowing opportunities, participated in advocacy and leadership roles, and dedicated time to a scholarly product from pediatric-focused scientific research.

**II.** **Criteria to be designated a Pediatric Scholars Student**:

1. **Scholarly Project**

Students will identify a research mentor and research project during their first year of medical school. The research should be focused on a specific pediatric-related topic and may include any type of research activity including laboratory, clinical studies, comparative effectiveness, quality improvements, and clinical outcomes. While it is generally expected that student research will be conducted at CCHMC, students can choose to pursue research at another institution with prior approval of the scholars program student research director, but will not be supported by internal CCHMC stipends.

Students must work on their scholarly project full time for a minimum of eight weeks during the summer between M1‐M2 year. Students should refrain from taking other jobs or classes during the summer to concentrate on their research experience. At the end of the summer each student will provide an oral presentation of their summer research project to the Pediatric MSSP group. By the fall of M2 students are expected to produce an abstract for The University of Cincinnati College of Medicine Annual Research and Service Symposium. Students are highly encouraged to continue developing their research project throughout their medical school education. Students are also encouraged to produce a scholarly end‐product which is suitable for dissemination or publication. This can be a poster or oral presentation at a national medical conference, a manuscript submitted for publication to a peer-reviewed medical journal, or a book chapter. To meet the scholarly product requirement research must be entirely performed during medical school, not prior to matriculating to UCCOM.

Student research mentor expectations include involvement in all relevant meetings and training sessions, guidance through the creation of an end‐product. Mentors are expected to meet regularly with students while they remain actively engaged in the scholarly project. While these meetings are intended to be focused on the student’s scholarly work, faculty mentors are encouraged to provide additional guidance for professional life in pediatrics.

During the summer between M1‐M2 year students are expected to complete the UCCOM Research 101 series which introduces trainees to multiple topics that are relevant to the conduct of research.

Topics include:

* Introduction to research
* Aligning expectations
* Identifying a research mentor and a research project
* Introduction to human subjects research and protections
* Submitting an Institutional Review Board (IRB) protocol at UC
* Conducting a literature search
* Effective writing for publication
* Transparency, rigor, and reproducibility in research
* Study design and data analysis basics
* Presenting your summer research
* Evaluating the literature and presenting a journal club
* Data collection instruments and REDCap

1. **Clinical Experience**

All students are required to shadow in pediatric clinical activities during their pre-clinical years. The minimum requirement for clinical experience is 10 hours/year for M1 and 10 hours/year for M2. A shadow experience generally constitutes a three to four-hour session with a clinical preceptor. A sequence of shadowing experiences recommended is noted below, but there is no a requirement on the exact sessions done. Students should diversify their shadowing experiences as much as they are able.

The first-year emphasis of the clinical shadowing experience should be on “normal children and adolescents.” Emphasis on the normal physical findings and the normal clinical history of children and adolescents should be stressed. Suggested areas for shadowing in year 1 include the following:

* General Pediatrics (both CCHMC clinics and private offices)
* Adolescent Medicine
* Genetics
* Developmental Pediatrics
* Emergency Medicine
* Neonatology/Normal Newborn Nursery

As medical students will have completed more of their coursework, students will have a better understanding of disease processes. Specialty areas include but are not limited to:

* Neonatology Intensive Care (NICU)
* Gastroenterology
* Pulmonary Medicine
* Cardiology
* Nephrology
* Endocrinology
* Allergy/Immunology
* Rheumatology
* Hematology/Oncology/Bone Marrow Transplant

A list of faculty/sites at Cincinnati Children’s that are available for shadowing is maintained by The Pediatric Interest Club. Students will be responsible for contacting each preceptor to set up a mutually suitable time. Students may shadow during the summer between M1‐M2 year which will count only toward the shadowing requirement for the M2 year.

Students will take an elective or Acting Internship in pediatrics at CCHMC during the fourth year. The elective can be a two- or 4-week elective. The elective does not have to count as Intensive Clinical Experience (ICE) credit for fulfilling this criterion. Away pediatric electives that qualify as Intensive Clinical Experience (ICE) credit at UCCOM can also be submitted for this requirement.

1. **Didactics**

Students are expected to attend pediatric-focused meetings or lectures. The minimum requirement for didactics is 15 hours combined during M1 and M2 years. This requirement can only be fulfilled by attending either the meetings of the Pediatrics Interest Club in the pre-clinical years of medical school or the pre-specified lectures and meetings available to the MSSP students during the summer between M1‐M2 year.

1. **Leadership** **and Service**

Pediatric MSSP students are expected to take an active role within the College of Medicine and the Cincinnati community. All students must participate in a service project in the community for a minimum requirement of 8 hours combined during M1 and M2. Service projects do not need to be pediatric focused, and a list of opportunities is maintained by The Pediatric Interest Club. Students are also expected to serve a minimum of one year on either a College of Medicine committee (admissions, curriculum review, etc.) and/or leadership in a recognized UCCOM organization (Pediatric Interest Club, etc.).

**III. Summary of Required Criteria:**

1. 8 weeks full-time summer pediatric research.
2. Completion of Research 101 training
3. Oral presentation of summer research to Pediatric MSSP students at end of summer
4. Abstract presentation of research performed during medical school at local or national meeting or manuscript submission to peer review journal by fall of M4 year.
5. Complete 10 hours of shadowing per year as M1 and M2.
6. M4 elective or M4 AI in Pediatrics
7. Complete 15 hours of didactic requirements between M1‐M2 years.
8. Complete 8 hours of community service between M1‐M2 years.
9. Service to College of Medicine on UCCOM committee for one year or leadership for one year for recognized UCCOM organization.

**IV. Designation as a Pediatric Scholar**

Students will be noted as a Scholar in the graduation program after the candidate student’s MSSP portfolio is evaluated by a faculty committee from the Department of Pediatrics. In addition to the criteria listed above, students must remain in good academic standing with the College of Medicine for all 4 years of medical school. Students may be removed from Scholar standing should they fall into Academic Warning or similar categories with the College of Medicine. Students will be removed from Scholar standing if they do not accurately self-report their MSSP activities.

**V. Application Information**

Acceptance into The Pediatrics MSSP may be competitive based on the number of applicants. Following the submission deadline, applications will be scored based on their interest in pediatrics and research. However, students who have not had prior research experience are strongly encouraged to apply as it is recognized that most students have not had prior opportunities to perform pediatric research prior to matriculating into medical school.

Following review of applications students will be notified of acceptance. All students who are accepted must identify a research project and mentor by winter of the M1 year. The Department of Pediatrics will provide stipend support for summer research, but this funding is not expected to provide stipends for all the students interested in The Pediatrics MSSP program. Some students will be accepted into the MSSP with funding from The Department of Pediatrics guaranteed provided their research project is pediatric focused. Other students who are accepted into the MSSP but are not funded directly from The Department of Pediatrics can meet the scholarly project requirements only if they complete their summer research with funding from either the Summer Medical Student Research Fellowship (SMURRF) at CCHMC or Medical Student Summer Research Program (MSSRP). Notification of which students will receive Department of Pediatrics funding will be made available at the time of acceptance into The Pediatrics MSSP program.

**VI. Contact Information**

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