

Emory University School of Medicine Discovery Phase

For the first time in the history of Emory Medical School, each student will complete a Discovery Project as part of the MD curriculum. While the project may be from any field, it must involve medicine and discovery (basic, translational or clinical research to creative writing). This is a fantastic opportunity for students to renew their creative energies under the tutelage of an Emory faculty member. The Discovery Phase is a minimum of a 5 month block that follows 18 months of Foundational Medical Science and a year of clinical clerkships including Surgery, Internal Medicine, Obstetrics/Gynecology, Psychiatry, Pediatrics, Outpatient Primary Care, Neurology, Anesthesiology, Dermatology, and Palliative Care. Prior to beginning the Discovery Phase, selected students may take one or two elective courses. During the Discovery Phase, the medical students will work full time with no other commitments except occasional seminars or workshops relevant their work.

THE PROCESS

A Medical Student Research Committee (MSRC), co-chaired by Drs. Maureen Powers and Henry Blumberg will oversee the Discovery process. All student Discovery projects must be submitted by an Emory faculty member via the faculty link below and will be reviewed by the MSRC committee. Students will be able to review projects that have been approved by the MSRC, contact investigators, and then arrange meetings with faculty members to discuss projects. Once a student and faculty member have agreed to work together, the student will be asked to write a brief synopsis (<2 pages) of the student's role in the project and submit it to the MSRC for approval.

We suspect that the vast majority of student projects will arise from Emory faculty submissions of ongoing research projects. However, some students may seek experience elsewhere, in the US or abroad. Students who identify projects outside of Emory will be required to find an Emory faculty member who will agree to serve as their Emory Discovery Mentor. That faculty member will submit the project via this website and agree to monitor the student's progress and approve the final paper (a 10-20 page manuscript that will be required of all students at the completion of the Discovery Phase).

FACULTY

We are seeking active investigators (basic, translational, clinical, and other fields) who are interested in supervising and mentoring a medical student in a Discovery Phase project. As this is the next step in the curriculum, the students will not be paid a stipend. We have encouraged the students to be creative in seeking out their Discovery project, but offer the following as a guide to the faculty and students:

- 1) The project must concern discovery and/or creativity and result in a product that is deemed satisfactory by the Discovery mentor. While this may occur in a clinical setting, this is not to be a clinical experience.
- 2) Almost all research projects will be part of projects that are ongoing by faculty members who already have an active research group. Most successful research projects have funding and ongoing publications.
- 3) A student project should be hypothesis driven, narrow enough to be accomplished during the 5 month period, and if possible result in the student being listed as an author for an abstract or publication.
- 4) If the project involves human subjects, it should already be IRB approved or pending approval. The investigator will be responsible for obtaining approval for the student as a co-investigator as required. IRB approval must be obtained prior to the student beginning the Discovery Phase project.

- 5) The student should not be required to seek additional funding for a Discovery Project. However, if there is special funding that may be available for students to apply to, such as Alpha Omega Alpha or others, the students may choose to do so under the tutelage of the mentor.

As a mentor, you will be expected to

- 1) Commit your time: Ideally, the mentor and student should at least meet weekly. Students should attend lab meetings, departmental seminars and any other relevant functions as would graduate students or fellows.
- 2) Provide the necessary support for the student's research (supplies, etc).
- 3) When appropriate, include the student as an author on publications resulting from their work. Please note that all expenses associated with the presentation of work at a scientific meeting will be the responsibility of the Discovery mentor.
- 4) Reviewing the student's final paper (a requirement for all students) for submission to the Medical Student Research committee.

Please click the icon below to submit a project. Faculty are allowed to submit multiple projects, but please do so by submitting the first, then re-entering via this page to submit another.

The first wave of students will begin their projects starting in March of 2010. The projects can begin between March 1st and May 1st, depending on the student's schedule. The 5 month projects will be continuous. If you are interested, please follow the link below to access the Discovery webpage. The page will give you more details regarding the Discovery Phase and allow you to submit projects.

<http://med.emory.edu/database/discovery/>