



## OPPORTUNITIES FOR MEDICAL STUDENTS IN CLINICAL RESEARCH

Clinical research requires a unique blend of medical and research skills. The Doris Duke Clinical Research Fellowship (CRF) Program is designed to support this blending of skills by giving medical students training in research while they are in the midst of developing their medical proficiency. CRF fellows take a year out from medical school, typically after the third year, to experience clinical research firsthand in a program that combines a mentored research project and didactic training. The long-term objective is to increase the number of physicians capable of combining their medical and research skills to effectively investigate new treatments, preventions, and cures for human diseases.

### History & Description

The CRF program was established in 2000 when seven medical schools were chosen through a competitive peer review process to receive grants to support clinical research fellows. Three additional schools were added in 2001 and two more were added in 2007, resulting in 12 sites:

- Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons
- Harvard Medical School
- Johns Hopkins School of Medicine
- Mount Sinai School of Medicine
- University of California, San Francisco School of Medicine
- University of Iowa Roy J. and Lucille A. Carver College of Medicine
- University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill School of Medicine
- University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine
- University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine
- University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center at Dallas
- Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis
- Yale University School of Medicine

Program leaders at each school oversee selection of applicants from any U.S. medical school, assignment of fellows to clinical research mentors, professional development, and coursework. Most fellows conduct research at the hosting medical school, but a few opportunities are available in developing countries. Over the years, fellows' research has been recognized by outstanding awards and publications. Since the first class in 2001-2002, eight classes and 625 fellows have taken part in the program.

### 2010-2011 Fellowship Details

Applications for the 2010-2011 year will be available in the fall of 2009 up to the deadline of January 6, 2010. A minimum of 60 fellowships will be offered to conduct research at the 12 participating schools. An additional 12 fellowships are available for students wishing to conduct clinical research in developing countries. The following schools offer fellowships abroad: Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons, Harvard Medical School, University of California, San Francisco School of Medicine, University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill School of Medicine, and Yale University School of Medicine.

The fellowship term is from July 1, 2010 to June 30, 2011. Benefits include a \$27,000 stipend, health insurance, financial support to attend the year-end CRF meeting and supplemental research and training funds. Eligible applicants can be enrolled at any U.S. medical school, but should have completed two or more years. There are no citizenship requirements.

**For additional information, visit our website at [www.ddcf.org/mrp-crf](http://www.ddcf.org/mrp-crf)**



## What Past Fellows Are Saying:



"This one year has provided me with knowledge and experience to last me a lifetime. I knew going into the fellowship that I wanted to do academic medicine, but I could not have anticipated how valuable the firsthand this experience could be. The last 12 months have really helped me to shape the

trajectory of my medical career."

-Naeema Ginwala, 2007-2008 Fellow

University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine, matriculated at State University of New York Upstate Medical University

Project: Patterns of Candidate Gene Associations with Acute vs. Chronic Coronary Artery Disease



"This has been the most rewarding academic experience of my life. I have decided to defer medical school another year to pursue a degree in Clinical Epidemiology and Biostatistics"

-Shanu Kohli Kurd, 2006-2007 Fellow

University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine, matriculated at Jefferson Medical College at Thomas Jefferson University

Project: The Safety and Efficacy of Curcuminoids CS Complex in Patients with Chronic Psoriasis Vulgaris



"I began the year a clinical and research novice, struggling to define my research question. Through both didactic and practical experiences I have carved out a set of skills that have allowed me to undertake and complete several projects. The biggest surprise occurred

when fellows and attendings in my division began asking me questions about study design and analysis."

-Michael O'Byrne, 2005-2006 Fellow

Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons, matriculated at Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons

Project: B-type Natriuretic Peptide Increases with Severity of Heart Failure in Pediatric Dilated Cardiomyopathy

## Evaluation and Selection

Each year, medical students in good standing at any U.S. medical school apply for CRF positions at the participating schools. CRF positions are awarded based on the applicant's academic record and promise for a clinical and translational research career. Each school runs its own selection process and has specific selection criteria. The 2009-2010 class has 108 fellows from 41 medical schools.

## Areas of Research

Fellows work with program leaders at each participating medical school to design a research plan and select a mentor. Research projects focus on clinical research questions and cover a wide range of topics from pathogenesis of disease to health outcomes. The Doris Duke Charitable Foundation does not fund research that uses animals.

## Conditions of the Fellowship

Fellows must conduct clinical research and participate in instructional programs for one year under the direction of one of the participating medical schools. In addition, the fellows write an abstract and attend an end-of-the-year meeting to share their research experiences.

For additional information, visit our website at [www.ddcf.org/mrp-crf](http://www.ddcf.org/mrp-crf)



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