

UMDNJ-NJMS Department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation Research and the Student Scholar's Program in PM&R

Scholar's Program in PM&R

NJMS students can take part in the student Scholar's Program in Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, an elective designed to expose students to the scholarly aspects of the discipline of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation by having students participate in research and research related clinical topics pertinent to Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation. Students may participate for 1 to 4 years in the program (minimum 1 year) culminating in a scholarly presentation as part of our annual resident and fellow research presentation day and a peer-reviewed article submission and/or thesis. Hours accumulated in the program throughout medical school are credited as a fourth year elective (40 hours per credit) at the end of 4th year. An individual mentor will be assigned to each scholar and the program will be tailored to the level and interest of each student. Research opportunities will be offered in sports medicine, musculoskeletal medicine, pulmonary physical medicine, neuromuscular habilitation, and quality of life/ethics. The student will keep an accounting of the time spent in the program and review this as part of monthly progress sessions with the department's Director of Medical Student Education and his/her mentor. Time recorded on the portfolio can be applied to obtain credits toward the program commensurate with time requirements of other NJMS electives. e.g. 40 portfolio hours would equal 1 week elective or 1 credit. Credits will be applied in May of the fourth year of medical school, similar to other NJMS programs that apply longitudinal credits in fourth year. Student transcript will reflect the duration of the student's participation in the Scholar's Program.

If a student chooses to use other existing electives to work on their project, (e.g. use a fourth year research elective to work further on their manuscript), credits for such electives cannot be counted towards the scholar's program elective credits (i.e. credits cannot be counted twice). In addition, any time for which the student receives a stipend (such as summer research) may not be used toward the elective credits of the Scholar's Program, although such a summer program could enhance the scholar's project. Likewise, if a student uses existing credit or non credit elective service activities as substrate for their scholarly project, time spent in the service activity itself cannot be counted toward the elective credits of the Scholar's Program. However, time spent on the scholarly activity associated with the service will be counted.

A maximum of 4 weeks of credits can be applied to fourth year. A minimum of one year participation in the Scholar's Program is necessary to ensure appropriate rigor and completion of at least a basic scholarly project (as described above) and to obtain credit for the Program. For a typical student, credits are reported to the registrar's office by March of the fourth year of medical school for credits to be awarded in May of the fourth year. Therefore, the latest a typical student can enter the Scholar's Program is March of the third year. In order to be actively enrolled in the Scholar's Program, a student needs to remain in good academic standing at all times.

Benefits of this program include longitudinal mentorship and support from other scholar's, getting 4th year credits for time spent in the scholar's project, getting experience in academic presentations, submitting a manuscript/thesis and Curriculum Vitae building, and a note on the final transcript that indicates length of participation in the program.

Objectives: At the conclusion of this elective the student will be able to:

1. identify the clinical material pertinent to the research focus
2. plan, organize, and carry out clinical/lab research
3. design research proposals for the institutional review board
4. write research articles for journal submission
5. evaluate the pertinent medical literature
6. prepare research papers for publication
7. present the research during our annual residents' research day
8. optional: attend the annual research course given for our residents
9. summarize the rationale, methods, results, and outcomes into a thesis

Learning outcomes & evaluation methods:

1. describe issues concerning the use of experimental interventions in clinical practice
2. acquire proficiency in research design, organization, and execution
3. develop proficiency in diagnosis and clinical management of the diagnoses of the research subjects

Grading will be pass, fail and based on the achievement of the above 3 outcomes, publications, and final summary report/thesis as determined by his/her mentor.

Key responsibilities:

The student will attend the research laboratory/outpatient clinic/s or inpatient services of the subjects of the focused research, take part in their evaluation, data collection, and counseling. The student will help design research, obtain IRB approval, carry out the research, collect the data, and take part in writing subsequent publications. The student will present the research in research symposia and write a summary report of the activities.

First day reporting instructions: to the assigned mentor.

Prior approval required: Yes

Curriculum hours: determined over 1 to 4 year period

When is the elective offered:

1. throughout the academic year in accord with the faculty mentor.

Maximum total number of students – as per the faculty mentor.

Grades will be pass/fail.

