

2022 LEAD Capstone Poster Session

Medical Gateway Program

Developing a Research Internship Program for Future Doctors from Underrepresented Populations

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Abstract

In academic medicine, clinical research assistants (coordinators) are <u>expensive</u>, in high-demand and have high employment turnover. Clinical scientists and departments are constantly recruiting, seeking funding for and growing their clinical research support. Clinical research support <u>increases productivity</u> in academic research programs. Matching future physicians with opportunities to support clinical research benefits both the students and research programs.

Student Needs

Experience
Employment
Education
Exposure

Research Needs

Motivated Staff
Cost Effective Support
High Commitment
Study Support



Objectives

Student Benefits:

- 1. Provide paid internship opportunities to those who otherwise may not have a connection to the medical community.
- 2. Provide clinical research education, experience and clinical observation opportunities to individuals interested in a career in healthcare.
- 3. Offer meaningful use of time immediately after graduation (gap year) prior to pursuing a career in the health care.

Research Program Benefits:

- 1. Increase productivity in a research team while offering a future health care providers the opportunity to participate and possibly publish research.
- 2. Raise awareness, interest and expertise in clinical research in future physicians and healthcare providers.



Background Information

A similar program employing "Clinical Orthopaedic Research Assistants" (CORA) has been implemented at Scottish Rite for Children. In 2022, the program has already shown to improve department morale, reduce costs, increase productivity and stimulate progress of ongoing and new projects. Current and prior participants in the program are engaged and excited about the work they are doing and the relationship they are building with physician and staff mentors.

To date, the CORA program has not focused on the underserved or those who are underrepresented. This proposal addresses those populations specifically.



Project Plan

- 1. Develop a plan to recruit applicants of different socioeconomic background, ethnicity or geography.
- 2. Program will include:
 - o didactic programming to introduce the scientific methodology.
 - o opportunities to observe and interact in the clinical setting.
 - o assignment to a clinical research team to work on an existing project or develop a novel study.



Proposed Budget

- Project Initiation
 - o Application platform/license \$500
 - o Marketing allowance \$1000
- Educational Curriculum Intro to Research
 - o 8 sessions @ \$500 per session \$4000
- Stipends for 6 Students
 - o \$45,000 per year per student
 - o \$2000 per year travel per student
- Total budget = \$287,500

			Extended
Recruiting/Application			\$500
Marketing allowance			\$1000
Education session	(8)	\$500	\$4000
Stipend	(6)	\$45,000	\$270,000
Travel allowance	(6)	\$2000	\$12,000
TOTAL			\$287,500



Innovation and Significance

Some undergraduates seeking a career in a health care field have access to a mentorship or a connection to an academic center through school programs or relationships in their community. Unfortunately, many undergraduates may not due to background, education or geographic limitations. This program will help to identify and mold individuals that may not otherwise have the confidence or access to a robust internship experience in a health care field. Overall, this program will help to contribute to diversity in a variety of health care professions.











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