MD/Special Training in Research: Enhancing your medical education through research

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How can you remain in research?

- Undergraduate—MD/Special Training in Research
- MD/PhD
- CIP
MD Special Training in Research (MD/STIR)

• What is MD/STIR?
  – Program of requirements that oversees and recognizes research training of undergraduate medical education (UME) students
  – Think of it as an “MD with honors”
  – “MD with Special Training in Research” on diploma and transcript
  – Students that do not complete the program (for whatever reason) are not recorded. i.e. no penalty to enroll
MD/STIR research timeline options

- How do you fit research into your schedule?

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Option 1: FT Summer 1; FT 8wk of Summer 2

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Option 3: FT Summer 1; PT yr2; PT yr 3

* 2 oral presentations in Summer 1
** 1 oral presentation at time chosen by supervisor
*** Poster presentation in year 2 in FoMD Summer student research day
MD/STIR requirements

• Research component:
  – ~24 weeks of active research conducted under the supervision of a research-intensive faculty member
  – Produce and analyze data that tests a research hypothesis

• Written component:
  – Final report

• Presentation component:
  – 3 minute overview to MD/STIR cohorts at early research stage
  – 15-45 minute oral seminar to audience determined by your supervisor
  – Poster presentation at mid-point of research stage
    • To MD/STIR cohort
    • To judges at Faculty of Medicine Research Day
  – Oral presentation
    • 10 minute final seminar followed by oral defense
The benefits of participating in MD/STIR

• Research skills:
  – Hands-on research experience in your field of interest
  – Be involved in research that may one day change clinical practice
  – Critical thinking skills
    • Learn how to pose and test a research question
    • Take note of the unexpected and think about what it might mean
  – Learn cutting-edge technologies, analysis tools
  – Trouble-shooting skills
    • Make mistakes and learn from them
  – Live the research experience by immersing yourself in an active research group. Go to group meetings, journal clubs etc. Ask questions. Be curious.
MD/STIR benefits

• Written component:
  – Scientific writing skills
  – Practical experience in writing scientific proposals and reports
  – Feedback from colleagues, supervisor and faculty

• Presentation component:
  – Oral presentation skills
  – Practical experience in giving oral presentations in multiple formats
MD/STIR benefits

• Compete for a chance to present your research at an international conference
  – Top 2 UME students who win Poster Award at FoMD Research Day are chosen to present their research at the National Student Research Forum in Galveston, TX
MD/STIR application consists of:

• Research proposal
• Student CV
  – previous research experience not required
• Supervisor CV
  – Grant support, publications, trainees
• Arrangements for summer stipend support:
  – External summer studentship award
    • All students should apply to AI-HS summer studentships
  – FoMD/Supervisor combined support
    • 10 MD/STIR applicants who were unsuccessful in the AI-HS summer studentship competition
  – Supervisor support
    • Your supervisor agrees to support 100% of your summer stipends
How to participate in MD/STIR program

• Submit an application to the program by February 1, 2019
• Obtain:
  – Approval of your application
  – Acquisition of funding support for your stipend(s) in the summer
• Application and details can be found at the MD/STIR website
Questions?

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Nicole Kosturic, Program Coordinator
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• https://www.med.ualberta.ca/programs/mdstir

• Summer job database,
  https://www.ualberta.ca/medicine/research/studentships/job

• Summer studentships,
  http://www.uri.ualberta.ca/ApplyForFunding/
  https://www.wchri.org/summer-studentship-program
  https://www.ualberta.ca/cancer-institute/research/funding-opportunities