

### **3 Year Clinical Research Track**

#### **Goals**

- To gain an in-depth understanding of patient-oriented research projects
- To obtain structured patient-oriented-research training (Master of Science in Clinical Investigation, Master of Public Health or similar)
- To conduct patient-oriented research project(s) with direct hands-on involvement
- To conduct a research project that results in a peer-reviewed scholarly publication (original research article).
- To submit an intra- or extramural fellowship grant application or career development award

#### **Summary:**

Fellows have the option of doing 12 months of clinical rotations and 2 (or more) years of additional clinical research training. The decision to allow a fellow to pursue a clinical research pathway will be contingent upon fulfilling the competency for the clinical fellowship and the potential for future career as a physician scientist. A higher than usual competency level can be expected for qualifying for this competitive pathway.

During the research fellowship, the clinical research project(s) will be defined by the faculty mentor and completed by the fellow during his/her research tenure. In addition to specific finite projects, participation in ongoing clinical trials is an option, especially for fellows interested in the MPH Program. There are also clinical research-training opportunities outside the Nephrology division, including opportunities to pursue Masters in Public Health (MPH) or Master of Science in Clinical Investigation (MSCI) for those fellows who have a keen interest to develop those highly specialized skills. All fellows who opt for the Clinical Research Track will be encouraged to complete one of these programs. All projects pursued by a nephrology fellow require nephrology faculty mentor involvement although this can be done in collaboration with a mentor(s) outside the renal division.

Funding for the MPH and MSCI is the responsibility of the fellowship program with significant effort commitment by the fellow. The Masters Programs are primarily available to fellows who select the research 3 or more year pathway. In addition, there are a variety of short educational programs such the Clinical Research Boot Camp, REDCAP clinic, BIOVU and others through STARBRITE.

Divisional funds are available to support fellows' participation in these programs; however, are not limitless. Fellows interested in participating in one of the Masters Programs should submit a CV and a brief personal statement describing their academic career goals and their personal goals for the specific Masters Programs. Awarding of funds for the Masters Programs will be by the Clinical Competence Committee based on the following criteria:

- (1) Available funds
- (2) Fellow performance in the clinical year: target is that applicants will have mean average or above average scores on their monthly evaluations compared to other first-year fellows
- (3) Review of applicant's personal statement
- (4) Commitment to an academic career
- (5) Performance on in-training examination

There will be a mentoring committee (nephrology and outside faculty, as applicable) to whom a written and oral progress report and presentation of the clinical research performed during the two year period must be submitted for review and approval. This committee will meet every six (6) months and it is the responsibility of the fellow to organize these meetings. The fellow will also be asked to present their work at the Renal Research Conference and Renal Grand Rounds depending on which is more appropriate based on their experience. During the training period, the fellow will also be required to submit a grant application, either for fellowship training funds or a career development award.

The publication requirements which are applicable to all fellows will obviously also apply to the clinical research fellows. Specific requirements will be defined by the primary mentor. Nevertheless, in order to successfully complete the nephrology fellowship (either the two year or three year program), the fellow must submit a manuscript by the time they complete the program. This should be an original research work submitted to a peer reviewed journal for Clinical Research Track fellows. Failure to successfully submit a manuscript for publication could lead to the fellow being unable to sit for the Nephrology Boards because of having not completed a requirement of the fellowship program. Further, the fellows must present their work in one of the conferences, either as work in progress or completed research. Fellows should be aware of this and begin to plan early in their fellowship for a publication to be submitted. It takes on average a minimum of 6 months to complete even the simplest of manuscripts, so it is the fellow's responsibility to choose a faculty mentor and begin work on this in a timely fashion.

While the clinical responsibilities of the fellow must be limited to < 20% effort, it should be noted that clinical research requires patient contact and additional clinical

activities during this period (i.e. inpatient or outpatient coverage) within the scope of the fellowship might be necessary. Every effort will be taken to coordinate these activities within the limitations of educational (i.e. MSCI or MPH course work) and research commitments. Accordingly, it is highly recommended that 3 year clinical research fellows are also engaged in limited clinical activities although it is not mandatory.

Please access our faculty's information on the Nephrology Division web page regarding materials for potential clinical research faculty mentors and opportunities.