

# NIH Medical Research Scholars Program (MRSP) Webinar

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# NIH Medical Research Scholars Program (MRSP) Webinar Speakers



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# Questions?

➤ Please Submit via MRSP Webinar Chat box

OR

➤ MRSP mailbox: [MRSP@mail.nih.gov](mailto:MRSP@mail.nih.gov)

# NIH Medical Research Scholars Program (MRSP)



- A comprehensive, year-long residential research enrichment program for medical, dental, and veterinary students
- Located on the NIH Intramural Research campus in Bethesda, MD
- Co-sponsored by the NIH and private partners via contributions to the Foundation for the NIH
- Scholars are engaged in a mentored basic, translational, or clinical research project in an area that matches their personal interests and career/research goals

# NIH Medical Research Scholars Program Curriculum

- Presentations highlighting the continuum of scientific discovery
- Training in the understanding of clinical protocol development and the conduct of human subjects research
- Focused clinical teaching rounds with patients participating in research protocols at the NIH Clinical Center
- Leadership workshop

# NIH Medical Research Scholars Program: Eligibility Criteria

- Ideally for students who have completed their initial clinical rotations
- Does not exclude students with strong research interests from applying prior to taking any or after completing all of their clinical rotations (2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, and 4<sup>th</sup> year students)
- U.S. citizens or permanent residents
- Good standing in medical, dental, or veterinary school

# NIH Medical Research Scholars Program: Eligibility Criteria

- Approval from Dean of Student Affairs to participate
- Candidates in dual degree programs are eligible
- Prior research experience is desirable but not required
- Applicants in their 4<sup>th</sup> year who are selected must make arrangements with their school to defer graduation until completion of MRSP

# NIH Medical Research Scholars Program: Benefits

- 12-month stipend (currently \$34,050)
- Relocation expenses to and from Bethesda
- Residential housing on or proximal to NIH campus
- Domestic conference travel expenses
- Health insurance
- Tuition support for scientific courses and textbooks

# NIH Medical Research Scholars Program: Application Process

- Applicants apply on-line and the application consists of:
  - Cover letter/personal statement
  - Curriculum Vitae
  - Three letters of recommendation
  - Transcript from medical/ dental/ veterinary school and undergraduate institution

# NIH Medical Research Scholars Program: After Acceptance

- Scholars are assigned an advisor (tutor) who oversees the Scholar's training, helps to identify a research mentor, and offers guidance throughout his/her tenure in the program.
- Mentors can be selected before arrival in Bethesda or shortly thereafter. Mentor selections must be approved by the Scholar's tutor, the scientific director of the selected institute/center (best to pick a pre-approved mentor), and the MRSP director.

# 2012-2013 MRSP Scholars



# 2013-2014 MRSP Scholars



# 2014-2015 MRSP Scholars



# NIH Medical Research Scholars Program: Housing



**Building 60 on the  
NIH Campus**

# NIH Medical Research Scholars Program: Housing (con't)

- MRSP scholars are required to live in the assigned housing for the entire 12-month period
- Final housing assignments are based on indicated preferences and a lottery system
- No pets allowed

# 2015-2016 NIH Medical Research Scholars Program Timetable

<b>October 1</b>	<b>Application Site Opened</b>
<b>January 31</b>	<b>Application Deadline</b>
<b>Mid February</b>	<b>Notification of Interview</b>
<b>March 2nd</b>	<b>MRSP Interviews (on the NIH campus)</b>
<b>March 13</b>	<b>Notification of Selection</b>
<b>March 20</b>	<b>Uniform Deadline to Accept Offer (MRSP, HHMI Fellows, Sarnoff, and Doris Duke International Clinical Research Fellowship)</b>
<b>July thru August</b>	<b>Students Arrive at the NIH</b>

# NIH Medical Research Scholars Program: General Tips for a Successful Application

- Strong personal statement articulating why you want to participate in the MRSP, including past experiences that led to this decision, and future career plans
- Research experience helpful but not essential for acceptance into program
- The three best letters of recommendation possible

# More Information After Webinar

To find out more about the NIH Medical Research Scholars Program, and to apply, visit the NIH Office of Clinical Research Training and Medical Education website at:

<http://www.cc.nih.gov/training/mrsp/index.html>

or contact: Mr. Kenny Williams at [mrsp@nih.gov](mailto:mrsp@nih.gov)

or by phone at: 301-402-9863

To find out more about the National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities (NIMHD), visit the NIMHD website at: <http://www.nimhd.nih.gov/>  
or contact:

Dr. DeLoris Hunter

Senior Program Manager

[Hunterd2@mail.nih.gov](mailto:Hunterd2@mail.nih.gov)

301-594-8566

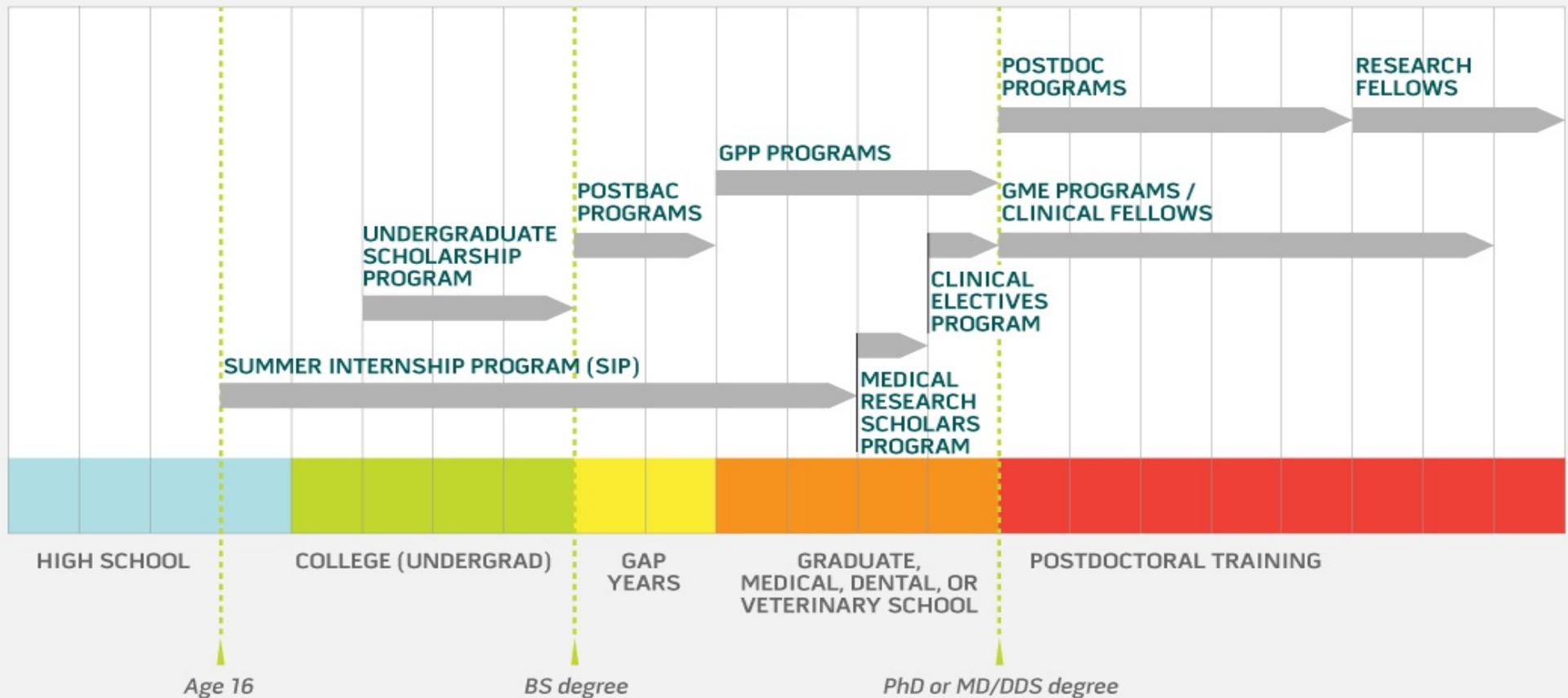
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Director, Division Scientific Program

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301-594-8704

# Portfolio of Clinical Research Training Opportunities at the NIH



# Questions & Answers

**Question:** Does the program disrupt the residency pathway?

**Answer:** The MRSP does not disrupt the residency pathway. Accepted scholars are required to defer a year of health professional school to participate in this 12-month residential program. MRSP scholars who are in their fourth year of professional school are able to participate and interview in the National Resident Matching Program during their MRSP fellowship. However, those fourth year students must defer graduation if they are participating in the MRSP.

**Question:** Is there a limit on the amount of funds available for scientific courses and text books?

**Answer:** Yes, each scholar has a personal education fund of up to \$2,000 that s/he can spend on courses, books, and conferences.

# Questions and Answers

**Question:** What should be included in the cover letter and personal statement?

**Answer(s):** Applicants to the MRSP should explain why they want to participate in the MRSP. The personal statement should include past experiences that led to this decision; these could be personal or family experiences, as well as prior research experiences (prior research experience is helpful but not essential). Applicants should also be clear and articulate in expressing their research interests and future career goals. The personal statements should be limited to one page, so please aim to make it as strong and comprehensive as possible.

**Question:** Can students participating in the Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine (D.O.) schools apply to this program?

**Answer:** Yes, students who attend osteopathic medical schools are able to apply to the MRSP.

# Questions and Answers

**Question:** Is scholarly publication and/or research weighted in the application consideration?

**Answer:** Prior research experience is recommended, but definitely not necessary. A strong personal statement and strong letters of reference are of equal importance as prior research. Scholarly publications of significant impact are certainly helpful, but are not necessary.

**Question:** What are the main challenges of the program and how do you overcome them?

**Answer:** There are really no main challenges with the program. We do work very hard to ensure that participants find the best mentor possible for their research years. Helping the MRSP scholar find the mentor and research project that best suits their interests and career plans is critical for a successful year. After acceptance into the program, students are quickly placed into contact with an advisor who can help point them in the direction of which investigators to contact to discuss possible projects for the coming year.

# Questions and Answers

**Question:** What are the available research areas/projects for veterinary medicine students?

**Answer:** All MRSP scholars have the opportunity to be engaged in a mentored basic, clinical, or translational research project that matches their research interests and career goals, as well as experience the full continuum of biomedical research. If interested in learning more about specific projects of veterinary students who have been in the program, please send that request to [mrsp@nih.gov](mailto:mrsp@nih.gov)

**Question:** How many veterinary students have participated in the program?

**Answer:** There have been two MRSP scholars in the first three classes.

# Questions and Answers

**Question:** How many years has the program or its predecessor been in existence? Are there data to show its success as far as acceptance to competitive residency programs and/or interest in subspecialty training programs after residency?

**Answer:** The MRSP has been in existence for three years and evolved from the merging of two predecessor year-long NIH research programs, the NIH Clinical Research Training Program (CRTP) and the HHMI-NIH Research Scholars Program which were in existence for 15 and 25 years, respectively. Graduates of these programs have been accepted into highly competitive and prestigious residency and subspecialty training programs, and have generally been accepted into one of top training programs in their rank lists. The Office of Clinical Research Training and Medical Education has tracked outcomes of past CRTP fellows who have completed training, including information about their residencies, fellowships, advanced degrees, current positions, publications, funding for research from both public and private sources, and their amount of time spent conducting research. Of those CRTP graduates who completed their postdoctoral training, nearly two-thirds went on to careers in which research plays a role, and nearly 20% have received early-career grant support from the NIH.

# Questions and Answers

**Question:** What benefits professionally have MRSP scholars or from predecessor programs generally obtained? What does the program provide to students? What doors does it open and how many go on to research careers?

**Answer:** MRSP scholars are given the opportunity to immerse themselves in one or more comprehensive research projects on the NIH campus, from design to implementation to completion. They receive in depth hands-on experience in experimental design, cutting edge experimental methods, and one-on-one mentoring in data analysis, presentation, and publication. Nearly all MRSP scholars have been given the opportunity to present their work at national meetings in either poster or oral format. The MRSP allows participants to fully understand how basic, translational, clinical research can be integrated into their career pathways. In addition, MRSP provides scholars the opportunity to build lasting relationships with their mentors, who can provide them with lifelong guidance and career development advice. MRSP scholars also create meaningful academic and collaborative networks with one another, which are cultivated over time through a robust alumni network.