

## Academic Medicine Pathway

### *Overview*

To better prepare our graduates for a career in academic medicine, the Keck School of Medicine now offers an Academic Medicine Pathway. This program is for students who wish to learn about the research process and desire an increased exposure to basic or clinical studies. The components of the program will be dispersed throughout the four year curriculum. Students enrolled in this program will have the opportunity to read and critically evaluate the scientific and medical literature, perform and present a mentored research project, receive direct feedback from an expert in the field, and critique the research and presentations of their colleagues in the program.

### *Goals of the Program:*

- Create life-long research oriented physicians
- Foster analytical skills and the development of tools for rationale decision making in future physicians
- Provide role models, mentorship, and guidance for students wishing to pursue an academic career
- Enhance the medical school culture of self-directed and peer-group fostered learning
- Encourage students to participate in research in a meaningful way

### *Objectives:*

At the end of the program the student will be able to:

- Critically evaluate scientific and medical literature
- Describe the IRB process and the rights of participants
- Design and conduct a research project.
- Present a research project in both formal and informal settings
- Critique the research of their colleagues
- Evaluate new data in a meaningful way

### *Components of the Program*

#### **Mentored Project (Year II RSP)**

Each student will perform a basic science or a clinical science research project. No later than the beginning of Year II, students will select a research sponsor and topic. This project will serve as the Year II Required Student Project. The student will be required to update his or her sponsor on the status of each project by providing quarterly updates. Students will be required to present their summer research project in the form of a poster presentation on Medical Student Research day (generally in May).

### **Workshop in Grant Writing**

Students will be required to participate in a Grant Writing Workshop during Year IV. This course will include components of the IRB process and will consist of ~3-4 two-hour sessions.

### **Seminars**

Students will be required to attend four research seminars during Years I and II (2/year). Seminar speakers will include some of the top clinician-scientists at USC. Students will then be encouraged to participate in visits to the laboratories of the seminar speakers or alternate faculty of the student's choice.

### **Clerkships/Electives**

Students will take a minimum of eight weeks of research elective during Year IV.

### *Achievement Timeline*

#### Year I

- Declare academic medicine pathway (Jan).
- Attend 2 research seminars designated as part of the Academic Medicine Pathway.
- Visit laboratories of seminar speakers or alternate research faculty.
- Begin to develop concept of Year II RSP.
- Participate in a research project in the summer following Year 1.

#### Year II

- Select research project sponsor and topic
- Required student project in an area of research interest
- Attend 2 research seminars designated as part of the Academic Medicine Pathway.
- Present research project on Medical Student Research Day.

#### Year III

- No formal requirements.

#### Year IV

- Take a minimum of eight weeks research elective.
- Participate in the Grant Writing Workshop

#### \*Advanced degree option

- Pursue an advanced degree in an area of interest.

*Student Evaluation*

- Project sponsors will complete a mid-year and an end-of-year evaluation summary for each student.
- RSP summary paper will be evaluated by the project sponsor and PPM mentor.
- In order to get recognition on their Medical Student Performance Evaluation (MSPE), students must meet all requirements of the academic medicine pathway.
- Students who miss a mandatory seminar will be required to turn in a make-up assignment to the Curriculum Office.

*Program Evaluation*

- Students will formally evaluate sponsors on an annual basis. Supplemental questions may be included to evaluate the quality of the advisement. Opportunities to discuss the quality of the experience will be available and discussed with the sponsor.
- Students will annually complete a standardized, confidential pathway evaluation form.
- The pathway director and steering committee will annually review the program and all course materials.