The Medical Student Scholars Program (MSSP) in Child and Adolescent Health (Pediatrics) provides medical students with an opportunity to expand their knowledge in academic pediatrics, experience a variety of clinical venues, advocacy, and participate in scientific research resulting in a scholarly product over a four year medical school career. This program was founded in 2006 after a call from the Dean’s office to create special tracks to enhance student learning and career exploration.

**General Description of the Program and Information for Students**

The Medical Student Scholars Program (MSSP) in Pediatrics will provide medical students with an opportunity to expand their knowledge in academic pediatrics, experience a variety of clinical venues, advocacy, leadership, and participate in scientific research resulting in a scholarly product over a four year medical school career. Applications to the program will be posted and distributed by UCCOM at M1 orientation.

Interviews for selection into this program generally occur in November each year. Official candidate selection into the program generally occurs in December. Up to 18 scholar positions are available. The program provides $2500 stipend support to a more limited number of students each year, and students are strongly encouraged to apply for funding with other programs (such as the Medical Student Scholars in Research Program) or directly with a faculty researcher. Students have also received funding from outside sources as well in the past. Students can apply for stipend support from our program after January of each year. While students can seek research and mentorship outside of Cincinnati, stipend support is limited to those students who choose a primary investigator mentor that is on faculty at CCHMC.

**Criteria to be a Pediatric Scholars Student:**

**Shadowing:**

Students must complete a log of their shadowing experiences, completing 6 half day sessions in first year, and 6 in the second year. A sequence of shadowing experiences recommended is noted below, but there is not a requirement on the exact sessions done (i.e. students could shadow a pediatric cardiologist in year 1 if they had a particular interest in that area).

**Lecture Participation:**

Scholars would be expected to attend 75% of the lunch lectures of the Pediatrics Interest Club in the first two years of medical school. Attendance will be recorded at these lectures but students are advised to keep track of their own attendance as well.

**Volunteerism or Advocacy:**

Students will submit materials supporting their participation in of at least 40 hours of volunteer or advocacy activity related to children during medical school. It is recommended for these hours to be completed in the first or second year.
Leadership:

Students would need to hold one office in a student-run organization or participate as a member of a UCCOM committee (such as admissions, curriculum review, etc.) for at least one year.

Research:

For the research component, a scholarly product will be submitted either as an abstract for a meeting poster or presentation, a manuscript submission, or a presentation at the University of Cincinnati College of Medicine Research and Service Symposium. Students usually seek to present their research in the fall of second year, but this presentation could occur at any point in the four years of medical school.

Fourth Year Clinical Experience:

Students will take an elective or Acting Internship in pediatrics at CCHMC during the fourth year.

Tracking of Activities:

Before official selection in January, students should keep track of any shadowing sessions or lectures attended through the Pediatrics Interest Club. After selection, students will use a special section of the ePortfolio system through UC to track their scholars program activities to document their activities to be named a scholar at graduation.

Other Benefits of the Scholars Program

Students will be noted as a Scholar in the graduation program, and most residency programs noted such program participation favorably in residency applications. Mention that you are a pediatrics scholar is placed into your Dean’s Letter sent to all residency programs that you apply to. A special graduation event is held each year for our graduating program seniors. Dr. Corinne Lehmann will be able to assist you in finding a pediatric faculty member to be your specialty career advisor, find a volunteer or advocacy activity, and ensure your preferences in the third and fourth year pediatrics clinical placements.

Learning Objectives

The student in the Medical Student Scholars Program in Pediatrics will:

-Demonstrate a growing knowledge base in pediatrics and the application of basic science knowledge to the clinical setting through discussion with clinical preceptors, mentors and faculty lecturers.

-Demonstrate a broadened knowledge of aspects of medicine and how they impact Pediatrics (environmental health, developmental biology, clinical effectiveness, etc.) through discussion with clinical preceptors, mentors, faculty lecturers, and participation in advocacy experiences.

-Discover a clinical, scientific or educational research interest and produce a “scholarly product” by fourth year.

-Experience leadership through volunteerism, advocacy, and committee memberships at UCCOM and CCHMC.
-Develop independent and creative thinking, intellectual curiosity, self-reflection, and professional growth through tracking your activities in the program in an organized manner.

**Year 1 “The Normal Child and Adolescent”**

**Clinical Experience**

The first year emphasis of the clinical shadowing experience would be on “normal children and adolescents”. Emphasis on the normal physical findings and the normal clinical history of children and adolescents should be stressed. The student will generally spend a four hour session with a clinical preceptor of each generalist area over the course of the academic year. Each area will take responsibility for the clinical opportunities for the students during their session. Students will be responsible for contacting each preceptor to set up a mutually suitable time. Students should complete all shadowing sessions by the end of the academic year. These areas include the following:

- General Pediatrics (both CCHMC clinics and private offices)
- Adolescent Medicine
- Child Development/Genetics
- Emergency Medicine
- Neonatology

**Research: Summer Year 1**

The summer experience between Year 1 and Year 2 will be dedicated to the research or educational scholarly project. Each research mentor will be responsible for helping the student to culminate their experience in a final project. The students can apply to receive a stipend for their summer research work if the student is not otherwise supported by their research mentor or another program. The stipend is funded by the Department of Pediatrics. It is expected the student will participate at an effort of at least 40 hours a week for an 8 week period. While it is generally expected that student research will be conducted at a Cincinnati Children’s Hospital facility, students can choose to pursue research at another institution with prior approval of the scholars program director and student research director. Students who work at another institution will not be supported by internal CCHMC stipends. Students are discouraged from taking other jobs or classes during this time period to concentrate on their research experience.

**Year 2 “Specialty Pediatrics”**

**Clinical Experience**

During the second year the student will rotate through the subspecialty areas spending time with a clinical preceptor each month. As medical students will have completed their more of their coursework, the student will be able to take a more active role in the clinical setting and have a better understanding of disease processes. The student will spend a four hour session with a clinical preceptor of a specialty area. Each specialty area will take responsibility for the clinical opportunities for the students during their month.
Current specialty areas are:

- Neonatology Intensive Care (NICU)
- Gastroenterology
- Pulmonary Medicine
- Cardiology
- Nephrology
- Endocrinology
- Allergy/Immunology
- Rheumatology

**Other Year 1 and 2 Activities Required**

Students should attend at least 75% of monthly lunch lectures to maintain good status in this program during years 1 and 2. Additionally, students should strongly consider completing the volunteer/advocacy component during years 1 and 2. Depending on the nature of the medical student’s research interest, the opportunity to continue working on a research project throughout their remaining medical school years. Students should consider joining a committee or running for a leadership position in a student led organization by the end of the first year.

**Year 3: The Clerkship Year**

There will be no formal program requirements during this heavy clinical year. During the Pediatric Clerkship, every effort will be made to assign the students to the pediatric clerkship service most closely aligned with their demonstrated preferences.

**Year 4: The Pediatric Elective**

It is expected that all candidate students who have participated in the MSSP in Pediatrics will participate in a minimum of two weeks of clinical elective work related to pediatrics. This can be an elective or Acting Internship (AI) at Cincinnati Children’s. Away pediatric electives that qualify as Intensive Clinical Experience (ICE) credit at UCCOM can also be submitted for this requirement.

**Admission Criteria**

Candidate student must be a full time medical student at the University of Cincinnati College of Medicine. Interested students will complete an application in the fall of the first year, which will include a personal statement addressing the particular pediatric academic interests of the student. It is preferred that the student have some evidence of previous research or have completed an academic project, have worked with children in the past, or have some community service experience. Students will then be invited for an interview with a member of the Admission Committee based upon their application. The Admissions Committee for the MSSP in Pediatrics will consist of (but not limited to) the Chairman of Pediatrics, the Vice Chairman of Education at CCHMC, the Director of Medical Student Education and the Associate Director of Medical Student Education. We may be able to admit students in the second year IF they have proof they have met the above program requirements for first year students. We no longer accept matriculating students prior to the first year of medical school into this program.
Evaluation

The candidate student’s progress will be evaluated based on participation in the educational lectures, participation in the clinical experience, and progress on their summer research project. Students must maintain in good academic standing with the College of Medicine to remain in this program. The student must advise the program director if they are not in good academic standing at any time. Students may be asked to disenroll from the program should they fall into Academic Warning or similar categories with the College of Medicine.

We consider the evaluation process to be ongoing at all times. The students can meet at any time during to review their progress with the program director or their academic advisor. Students should also meet regularly with their academic advisor regarding their academic and program progress, as well as about their future career interest. Students will also be evaluated by their research mentor. Early in fourth year, Dr. Lehmann will review each student’s ePortfolio for documentation of completion of program requirements and submit the names of eligible graduating seniors to the Dean’s office for inclusion in their Dean’s (MSPE) Letters. Dr. Lehmann will have oversight of all participants in the program and will contact students who are deficient in program requirements.

Time Commitment

The students will be expected to participate in about one clinical experience a month (4 hours) and approximately one lecture hour a month in the first two years. Students will need to initiate shadowing and lecture attendance on their own. Students will also need to carefully plan their volunteer/advocacy and committee participation. The summer experience between years 1 and 2 will be dependent on the individual’s research project, with a minimum of 40 hours effort over an 8 week period.

Contact Information

Dr. Corinne Lehmann 513-636-8591
corinne.lehmann@cchmc.org

Mimi Pence, student coordinator 513-636-0339
mimi.pence@cchmc.org