

# **Medical Student Scholar Program 2019-20**

## **Psychiatry and Behavioral Neuroscience**

### **A UCCOM Track Option for Medical Students**

**VISION:** To develop physician scholars using longitudinal research mentoring throughout the 4 years of medical school

#### **MISSION/GOAL:**

Participating medical students will be mentored and developed in the fundamental principles of scientific investigation into the biology and treatment of psychiatric disorders and behavioral neuroscience. This will be accomplished using a variety of clinical and didactic venues. As active observers and participants, the medical students will be able to expand their knowledge and understanding of a wide range of clinical and scientific issues. Participating students will, with the help of a senior faculty mentor, carry out one or more scholarly projects which will culminate in an abstract submission, a poster presentation, an oral presentation, and a publication in a peer-reviewed journal.

#### **Faculty Mentoring**

The University of Cincinnati Psychiatry Faculty includes a number of nationally/internationally-recognized clinical researchers in the field of Psychiatry and Behavioral Neuroscience; participating students will have the opportunity to work alongside our faculty and receive individualized attention from their mentors. Each student will meet with his or her mentor in person at least on a monthly basis through the four years, with ongoing email and telephone communications in between, with the result that students will be able to tailor their experiences to their evolving interests. Students will integrate observations in their mentor's clinic with participation in their mentor's research projects.

In addition, students will meet with the Director of Medical Student Education, Peirce Johnston MD on a regular basis, providing feedback on the program. Dr. Johnston will act as track advisor in order to assist students as they negotiate their four-year experience. Dr. Johnston also oversees the 3<sup>rd</sup> Year Clerkship in Psychiatry and the 4<sup>th</sup> Year electives, and is the faculty advisor for the Psychiatry Student Interest Group. In addition, he represents the Department of Psychiatry on both the M1/M2 Curriculum Committee and the M3/M4 Curriculum Committee, so he is always fully aware of the students' experience as they progress through each year of medical school. He is uniquely qualified to act as both as track advisor and liaison between student-scholars and faculty.

## **Year 1**

Students will:

- Attend Grand Rounds at least once a month and participate in the Q/A if they like
- Attend monthly Journal Club
- Attend some of the clinical lectures provided to the PGY1 residents [optional]
- Meet monthly with Dr. Johnston to discuss their research interests so he would match them with the optimal mentor for the 4 years and to provide and receive feedback
- Meet and interact with their mentors
- Start planning the summer project between Years 1 & 2

## **Summer**

- The summer will be spent with a minimum of 200 hours with the students' chosen faculty mentor, engaged in research and working toward the student's final project.
- The project will be overseen by the mentor, and the student and mentor will collaborate on the project specifics.
- Funding will be provided by the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Neuroscience +/- the mentor's own research grant/funding.

## **Year 2**

- Attend Grand Rounds at least once a month and participate in the Q/A if they like
- Attend monthly Journal Club
- Attend some of the clinical lectures provided to the PGY1 residents [optional]
- Meet monthly with Dr. Johnston to discuss their research interests so he would match them with the optimal mentor for the 4 years and to provide and receive feedback
- Meet and interact with their mentors
- Shadow their mentor in the clinic
- Continue to work on their project, if applicable

### **Year 3**

- Meet with Dr. Johnston to provide and receive feedback and so that Dr. Johnston can start writing letters describing the student's participation and performance within the track for inclusion in the student's Dean's Letter and residency training program application
- Meet with their mentors and begin to write up data and submit them to local and/or national meetings for possible presentation
- Attend some of the clinical lectures provided to the PGY2 residents [optional]
- Continue to attend Grand Rounds at least once monthly and participate more actively in the Q/A
- Continue to attend monthly Journal Club and participate in a more active fashion

### **Year 4**

- An optional longitudinal fourth-year elective may be planned for the student, tailored specifically to the student's interest and with the participation of both mentor and Dr. Johnston. This longitudinal elective will be comprised of approximately four hours a week over the course of at least 20 weeks.
- The student will present a poster or an oral presentation at one or more meetings (local, state or national)
- The student will complete a manuscript [or more] with the help of the mentor and submit it to publication in an appropriate journal selected by the mentor, if this has not already been completed.
- The opportunity for the student to present at Journal Club with the help of the mentor will be provided

### **Admission**

The availability of the Track will be disseminated among the Year 1 and 2 students. The application will include a personal statement elaborating the student's interest in the field of Psychiatry and Behavioral Neuroscience. Students will be accepted this fall based on the students' interests, past experience and/or ability to articulate their interests and goals.

### **Evaluation**

Students will be provided general feedback quarterly to make any necessary adjustments. They will meet at the end of each year with their mentor and track advisor for a comprehensive assessment session about the previous year. The student's progress will be discussed, and feedback from the student will be collected. Evaluation at the end of the four years will be based on participation in didactics & clinical

experience, fourth-year electives, summer experience and resultant scholarly project, the latter of which will be presented to the Director of Medical Education, mentor, interested department members, with the opportunity to present to the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Neuroscience in the form of a Grand Rounds presentation as well as local, state and/ or national conferences.

A letter of their participation in the MSSP will be written by the track advisor and mentor for inclusion in the student's Dean's Letter, and participating students will be recognized at their UCCOM graduation ceremony.

## Financial Support

As mentioned, the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Neuroscience (in combination with the mentor's own grant) will provide a stipend for the student's summer experience between Years 1 and 2. The typical compensation will be \$2000 for a basic commitment of 200 hours (\$10/hr over 40 hrs/week over 5 weeks). **Please note that compensation may be greater than \$2000 should the project last longer than 200 hrs (or 5 weeks) and if the mentor is willing to supplement the MSSP stipend from his/her own funding. The summer break for students between M1 and M2 is approximately 9 weeks.**

## Application Process

**To apply:** click the following link to MedOneStop [www.medonestop.uc.edu](http://www.medonestop.uc.edu) . Once logged in, the application can be found under the Extracurricular tab named Medical Student Scholars Program (MSSP). Take note of the following criteria:

A CV and personal statement must be submitted. The 1-2 page personal statement should address the following:

1. Your interest in the Psychiatry and Behavioral Neuroscience Medical Student Scholar's Program
2. Involvement in a research or community service project in the past and its relation to Psychiatry and Behavioral Neuroscience
3. Previous work/volunteer experience in health care – specifically any that relates to Psychiatry and Behavioral Neuroscience
4. Your goals for participation in the Psychiatry and Behavioral Neuroscience MSSP program
5. How your participation in this program will help you to reach your professional goals.

## Questions

Peirce Johnston, MD at [Peirce.Johnston@uc.edu](mailto:Peirce.Johnston@uc.edu)