

Project Title: Creating a Culture of Medical Education Research & Scholarship: Scholarship Awards for Medical Students

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Project Category: Education/ Education-Related Research

Background/Significance: Integral to supporting the development of clinician-educators is professional development of clinicians, particularly early career, in teaching and as educational scholars and leaders in academic medicine. Unlike mechanisms and structured resources available to support peer-reviewed biomedical research in areas such as grant writing and how to publish a manuscript, there remains variable and scarce parallel mechanisms for the support of educational research and scholarly activities (Collins, 2004; PMID 17411542). At the Texas A&M University School of Medicine (TAMU MED), there is a gap in a structured program that promotes, encourages, and supports faculty and students interested in medical education research and scholarship of teaching and learning (SoTL). The endeavor includes offering a career path for medical students interested in gaining skills in teaching, exploring research in medical education, and developing as leaders in academic medicine.

Purpose/Objectives: The long-term goal of this project is to create a community of educator-leaders in medical education research and scholarship. The near term goal is to create a scholarship award program that promotes and supports medical student development as skilled teachers and scholars in medical education research and SoTL. The award provides partial support for tuition and research related expenses over a two-year period. Award recipients will receive mentoring from a medical educator, funding to attend at least one conference during the 2-year period of the project, and opportunities to develop teaching skills.

Methods/Approach/Evaluation Strategy:

- Identify financial sources to fund scholarship award program – departmental (complete) and School-wide (in progress)
- Design application and selection criteria for scholarship award for tuition and research (complete)
- Design evaluation rubric for scholarship award (complete; in progress for feedback)
- Discuss and receive feedback from key stakeholders (Dean of TAMU MED, department members, students) (partially completed)
- Implement department scholarship tuition and research award May 2023 (in progress)

Outcomes/Results: Survey of medical students show high enthusiasm for opportunities in education-related scholarly activities. Success of this award program will be demonstrated by continued growth each year of applications by medical students interested in becoming an educator-scholar and continued sustainability of funds. Specific areas of outcomes will include short-term and long-term assessments.

Short term: Within the first year,

- Program awareness; Number of applications received, number of scholarships awarded per year
- Quality and characteristics of scholarship awardees
- Number of research projects in progress/completed
- Budget sustainability (departmental; private and public donors)

Long term: Beyond first year includes longitudinal assessment of awardees:

- Number of educational conferences attended/presented, publications, citation metrics as indication of impact of the awards program; number pursuing career as a clinician-educator and holding leadership positions at an academic institution, with a national organization, or similar
- Continued financial sustainability (foundation, private and public donors)

Discussion/Conclusion with Statement of Potential Impact: The offering of a medical education scholarship award will promote and develop medical educators in academic medicine: future clinicians having the skillset to design, implement, and assess pedagogy/andragogy and curricula. The impact is building a community of educator-leaders in medical education research and scholarship.