



www.digestivedisease.org

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2012-2013 DDRF Medical Student Fellows General Information



Digestive Disease Research Foundation
Training Tomorrow's Physician-Scientists

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DDRF Medical Student Clinical Research Fellows Program

The Digestive Disease Research Foundation (DDRF) announces the 2012-2013 DDRF Medical Student Clinical Research Program. The program supports one year of full-time research under the direct tutelage of a carefully chosen mentor. This program is intended to develop a medical student's serious interest in a career as physician-scientist with a possible interest in the field of gastroenterology.

Key Features:

- **Focus on students:** In recent years, the number of medical students taking a year off during medical school in order to explore a special scholarly interest has increased. But with only about 150 funded internships available nationally, 90% of applicants are unable to receive financial support. A successful research experience during student life correlates with the later choice in a medical career that includes research.
- **Focus on mentoring:** Many medical students pursuing one-year scholarly opportunities seek to receive one-on-one mentoring from an established physician-scientist. The identification of a committed mentor is essential to the success of the year.
- **Focus on clinical research in private practice:** The burden of digestive diseases in the United States and world-wide is enormous. Continued progress in the field depends on the research efforts of gifted physician-investigators. Recruitment of gifted students into gastroenterology research is more challenging today related to funding shortages, increased financial pressures on students, and alternative career paths.

Awards

Each full-year DDRF award is \$32,000, to be paid directly to the student in quarterly increments of \$8,000. Students with internships that run for less than 12 consecutive months will have their awards prorated accordingly. Students will be responsible for all applicable taxes and will receive a 1099-misc form for their grant stipend payments. DDRF will also pick up the student's health insurance cost (up to \$3,200) for the fellowship duration. This cost will be paid directly to the health insurer therefore the student will need to supply DDRF with the appropriate paperwork in order to pay the insurer directly. In addition, DDRF will cover travel and related expenses for the student's participation/presentation at pre-approved medical conferences. Students are asked to contact DDRF prior to conference registration for specific information and details.



Funding Criteria and Eligibility

- The research should provide the student with active mentoring from an established and committed physician-scientist.
- The research should be focused on such topics which advance the understanding and treatment of digestive diseases.
- The research should provide exposure to all elements of designing and implementing a research project (i.e. IRB submission, statistical design, subject recruitment, subject management, data analysis, safety monitoring, preparation of abstract and/or full-length manuscript, travel to meetings, and inclusion in conferences).
- Physician-investigators should propose a research study with clear objectives that is feasible to complete in one year.
- The student should be assigned a leadership role for the study, under the supervision of the mentor.
- The proposed project should represent a full-time professional effort for the student during the twelve month period of the DDRF Fellowship.

Review Process

Awards will be made by the board of directors of DDRF in consultation with the founding physicians and the DDRF grants committee. Questions regarding the application process may be directed to DDRF, 311 E. 79th St., New York, NY 10075 or ddrf.ddrf@yahoo.com.

Application Process:

1. Submit the attached DDRF application with any supporting documents as soon as possible to:
Digestive Disease Research Foundation
311 East 79th Street #2B
New York, NY 10075
Email: ddrf.ddrf@yahoo.com
2. Applicants will be notified via email of receipt of materials.
3. DDRF will review all applications and notify applicants as soon as possible.

Application & Grant Timeline:

Application deadline: No later than April 15, 2012
Notification of award: As soon as possible
Fellowship start date: No later than August 30, 2012 unless prior approval received
Internship duration is expected to be no less than 9 and no more than 12 months unless prior approval received.

Information about past and current DDRF funded research is available on our website at www.digestivediseases.org.



Required Reports and Meeting:

DDRF Fellows will be asked to submit two brief confidential reports. The interim report will be requested mid-way through the internship year and is intended to review the progress of the project, the student's research activities, and the focus during the following months.

Within three months following the conclusion of the internship, the DDRF intern and physician-mentor will each submit a brief final report reviewing and evaluating the year. This report will conclude with recommendations to DDRF regarding the value of his/her internship and any suggested changes in the program requirements, design, or implementation.

A personal meeting or conference call with representatives of the DDRF Grants Committee may also be requested during the internship year.

Acknowledgment of DDRF in Research Publications/Presentations:

Each DDRF Fellow must credit the Digestive Disease Research Foundation in any publication, poster or presentation resulting from the year of research sponsored by DDRF. The recommended wording of such an acknowledgment is: "This work was supported by a grant from the Digestive Disease Research Foundation." DDRF is also able to provide DDRF logo.

Evaluation of Fellowship Year:

DDRF will evaluate the success of the year using several criteria:

- written evaluation by physician investigator mentor
- written evaluation by DDRF Fellow
- personal meetings/conference calls with DDRF leadership
- research output (manuscript publications, presentations at conferences, etc) of the DDRF Fellow and mentor
- career choice of the DDRF Fellow

The Digestive Disease Research Foundations requests acknowledgment in all manuscripts, posters and presentations which are a result of this research year regardless of publication or presentation date.

Program Restrictions:

DDRF reserves the right to terminate the award if the intern or mentor violates the spirit of the DDRF program. Examples of cause for termination would include (but are not limited to): failure to adequately mentor the student; failure of the student to devote his/her full-time energies to the project; failure to provide the required reports to the Grants Committee; unprofessional behavior; violation of the principles of human subjects research. In the event that the mentor fails to meet his or her obligations, DDRF will attempt to help the student identify another suitable mentor and project.



HISTORY AND FOUNDERS

Established in 2003, the **Digestive Disease Research Foundation (DDRF)** is a 501(c) (3) organization dedicated to improving the care of people with digestive diseases and nurturing tomorrow's physician scientists.

Steady growth in its financial support has allowed **DDRF** to expand its educational program and clinical research, and enabled the foundation to move toward a national forum. Since its inception **DDRF** has sponsored nine students, supported over eight full length manuscript publications and countless abstracts, and a full length textbook currently available on Endoscopic Sedation.

With support and collaboration, **DDRF's** founding physicians will continue their work mentoring, leading research studies and evaluating funding proposals for clinical research in their commitment to improving the lives of people with digestive diseases and nurturing tomorrow's physician-scientists.

FOUNDERS

Lawrence B. Cohen, M.D., F.A.C.P.



is an Associate Clinical Professor of Medicine at The Mount Sinai Hospital. He graduated with highest honors from Hahnemann Medical College and completed his medical residency and fellowship in gastroenterology at The Mount Sinai Hospital. He has authored more than 30 articles, as well as a textbook of endoscopy. His research activities for the past 15 years have focused on esophageal diseases, swallowing disorders and better sedation practices for procedures. He lectures internationally.

James Aisenberg, M.D., F.A.C.P.



is a Professor of Medicine at The Mount Sinai Hospital. He graduated from Harvard Medical School, trained in internal medicine at the Columbia Presbyterian Medical Center and completed his gastroenterology fellowship at Mount Sinai. His research focuses on the endoscopic diagnosis and management of gastrointestinal diseases. His research has appeared in peer reviewed medical journals and he has lectured widely at international gastroenterology conferences.

Kenneth M. Miller, M.D., F.A.C.P.



is a Clinical Instructor of Medicine at The Mount Sinai Hospital. He graduated with highest honors from New York University School of Medicine, trained in internal medicine at Harvard University's Beth Israel Hospital, and completed his gastroenterology fellowship at The Mount Sinai Hospital. His research interests include colorectal cancer screening and the development of new technologies for therapeutic applications of endoscopy. He has numerous publications and has presented his research findings at conferences around the world.

Board of Directors

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