



STANFORD MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH RESEARCH INSTITUTE Clinical Trainee (MD) Support Policy

GENERAL

The Stanford Maternal and Child Health Research Institute (MCHRI) Clinical Trainee (MD) Support program is designed to create a pathway and provide support for training the next generation of physician scientists focused on child¹ health.

Research Fellows of the MCHRI shall have roles and responsibilities consistent with MCHRI's Charter, Mission, Vision and Values and use the resources for their remuneration and benefits such that there shall be demonstrable, significant and meritorious scholarship/research activities related to innovation in maternal and child health.

The appointment of a MCHRI Research Fellow shall:

1. Involve a competitive process
2. Recognize outstanding:
 - a. Performance and potential of the candidate
 - b. Accomplishments and track record of the (co-) mentor(s)
 - c. Research proposal
3. Not entitle the nominee to additional benefits or compensation beyond those as determined by the Stanford School of Medicine (SOM) or LPCH as appropriate

Unless specified by the philanthropic gift agreement, the endowment for a MCHRI Research Fellow does not belong to any specific Department or Division, but rests within the MCHRI and is used in a manner that optimizes the use of these resources for innovation in child health.

ELIGIBILITY

To be eligible for the award, the applicant must meet these criteria:

- Hold a medical (MD or equivalent) doctoral degree
- Have completed one year of training by the start of the award term
- Demonstrate a commitment to an investigative academic career in obstetrics, pediatrics, pediatric

¹ "Children" or "Child" refers to expectant mothers, oocyte, zygote, embryo, fetus, infant, child, and/or adolescent.

² Since there are some differences in the timing of research during the training of Pediatric subspecialists and other child health MD specialists (e.g. pediatric surgeons) the respective discipline's trainees

subspecialty or subspecialty primarily focused on child health (e.g., pediatric surgery)

- Use the MCHRI funding for their 2nd and 3rd years of research training (Post Graduate Year (PGY5 and PGY6) during which a minimum of 75% time is devoted to research²
- Have legal residence status in the United States
- Be a practitioner or scientist who has a focus on maternal or child health
- Primary research mentor may be from any research discipline
- Primary research mentor must be a member of the MCHRI
- Non-ACGME fellows are eligible provided all other criteria are met

The following are *not* eligible:

- Mentor or applicants who have overdraft(s) in previous awards that are not cleared prior to applying

IRB Approval

It is *strongly encouraged* that you submit your IRB application *prior* to the MCHRI application submission deadline *and* the IRB review meeting date stated in the MCHRI application. If there is an approval letter, it must be attached with the application. If approved for funding, the award cannot commence (fund transfer) without the approved IRB. Should there be a reason you will not have IRB approval by the award start date of 7/1/22, please email mchri_admin@stanford.edu to request a waiver and include a justification in your request.

For more information, please see:

<http://humansubjects.stanford.edu/>

Pre-Submission Consultations

Biostatistics

Applicants must adequately describe the biostatistical methods, which will be used in the proposed study. A biostatistical consult is *required* for all human-based studies and those with power calculations.

As part of a partnership with the Stanford Quantitative Sciences Unit (QSU), MCHRI Support Program Applicants may request services as needed to support the success of their research project (*most services at*

may apply as long as equivalent criteria are met and there is a commitment from the Dept they will be accepted into the child health MD fellowship.

MCHRI Clinical Trainee (MD) Support Policy

no charge to the investigator). Their expertise is available for consultation, the development of grant proposals, and implementation of funded projects.

Applicants must schedule consultations for this funding mechanism a minimum of 4 weeks prior to the application deadline*.

Click [here](#) to submit a request directly to the QSU.

Patient Oriented Research at SCH

Studies involving patients at Stanford Children's Health (SCH) must contact the SCH Clinical Research Support Office *early in the study design phase* by emailing crso@stanfordchildrens.org to ensure hospital units involved can assess feasibility and resource requirements are taken into consideration, including hospital costs. Studies that would occur at SCH without CRSO consultation will not be reviewed or may be asked to resubmit in the next cycle.

NOMINATION

MCHRI Research Fellows will be nominated by their Division Chief or Department Chair. There is no limit to the number of fellows nominated per Division or Department.

The nominator's letter will verify that:

- The applicant will spend a minimum of 75% time devoted to research during the years funded by the MCHRI fellowship
- And, that failure to maintain this commitment will result in forfeiture of the award and financial recovery of the award from the nominating Division or Department

APPLICATION

Type of Research

Research project must be *significantly* related to maternal and child health. "Child" refers to the expectant mother, embryo, fetus, infant, child and adolescent. All areas of research are eligible: basic, translational, clinical research, epidemiology/statistics, informatics, health services, or health policy.

Applicant Information

The potential MCHRI Research Fellow must submit a digital application following detailed instructions located [here](#).

The application includes:

- NIH Biosketch (include in a separate section a list of abstracts presented at national meetings and submitted manuscripts).
- A personal statement that:
 - Outlines the applicant's career plans and how the award would help the individual achieve their goals of becoming a physician scientist.
- Documentation that applicant will submit a competitive application to 1 or more agencies external to Stanford to support her/his research fellowship, or residency as appropriate with the discipline³. (A requirement of the renewal)

Supervisor/Primary Research Mentor

Training should be pursued in the wet or dry laboratories of mentor(s) who have or have had significant extramural funding for outstanding research programs and a track record for training researchers. If the nominating supervisor is an Assistant Professor, then a more senior research mentor must be integrally and intimately involved in the fellow's research program.

The supervisor/primary research mentor must have a history of being the primary supervisor of successful research trainees. Primary research mentor may be from any research discipline and must be a member of the MCHRI, a membership form is available [here](#).

A Mentor Support Form is *required* from the *Primary Research Mentor* for assistant professors, instructors, fellows and all postdocs.

Upon creation of an Online Application Record by the applicant (we encourage applicants to create a record at least 4 weeks prior to submission deadline), the *Primary Research Mentor* will receive an automated email with a unique link to complete the Mentor Support Form. For further instructions on the please go [here](#).

The supervisor will also provide:

- NIH Biosketch
- Other Support Page
- Assurance that the Fellow completes the Annual Progress reports during and for 3 years after completion of the award (See Progress Reports below). If the fellow fails to do so it becomes the responsibility of the primary research mentor.

Research Proposal

The proposal should contain a concise description of the project aims, hypothesis, background, preliminary studies (if available), overall design and methods and potential pitfalls. For human-based studies there should also be a brief description of sample size and plan for statistical analyses of the results.

³ For example, the training of a pediatric surgeon.

MCHRI Clinical Trainee (MD) Support Policy

AWARD

The MCHRI Clinical (MD) Trainee Award:

- Provides **up to 100% salary** support plus fringe for up to two years (non-competitive renewal for year 2)
- Supports PGY5 and PGY6 (2nd and 3rd years) of fellowship only
- Shall be used for the fellows' remuneration and benefits (at the level determined appropriate for their particular specialty)

Review Timeline

- One grant cycle is offered annually in the spring
- Within this one competition a revision (resubmission) is allowed.
- Proposals that are not funded in March are allowed to be revised and resubmitted in April in the same review cycle. Formal award letters for both rounds within the cycle will be issued in June. Award will have a start date of July 1.

Documentation of External Application

Renewal funding is *contingent* upon documentation that the applicant has applied to a competitive external agency (outside of Stanford) by May 15 in the first year of the award to support their research fellowship, or residency as appropriate with the discipline⁴.

Determination of Funding Level

If the applicant is successful in obtaining external funding for his/her salary for part of year 1 or the renewal year, s/he must immediately notify the MCHRI. *In such a situation, the MCHRI award will be reduced by a comparable amount.*

However, if the applicant is successful in obtaining external salary funding, an incentive 'bonus' of *up to* \$10,000 will be awarded to the fellow, to be used for any purpose at the discretion of the mentor, with the exception of the purchase of computers. The purchase of computer software must be justified. Each awarded fellow may only receive the incentive bonus once during the course of their fellowship. The amount of the incentive 'bonus' will be awarded as follows:

External Award (Salary)	MCHRI Incentive Bonus
≥ \$35,000	\$10,000
≥ \$20,000 and < \$35,000	\$5,000
≥ \$5,000 and < \$20,000	\$2,500
≥ \$0 and < \$5,000	\$0

The funding level for MCHRI Research Fellows requesting a year 2 Non-Competitive Renewal will depend on each fellow's external funding situation during

year 2 as outlined above. Non-competitive renewal is only available to MCHRI fellows in their second year of training (PGY5). Funding level is contingent upon availability of funds.

SCORING AND REVIEW CRITERIA

Review is based on (1) relevance to maternal and child health and (2) NIH Investigator-initiated Review Criteria:

1. *Significance.* Does this study address an important [child¹ health] problem? If the aims are achieved, how will scientific knowledge or clinical practice be advanced? What will be the effect of these studies on the concepts, methods, technologies, treatments, services, or preventions that drive this field?

2. *Approach.* Are the conceptual or clinical frame-work, design, methods, and analyses adequately developed, well integrated, well- reasoned, and appropriate to the aims of the project? Does the applicant acknowledge potential problem areas and consider alternative tactics?

3. *Innovation.* Is the project original and innovative? For example: Does it challenge existing paradigms or clinical practice or address an innovative hypothesis or critical barrier to progress in the field? Does the project develop or use novel concepts, approaches, methods, tools, or technologies?

4. *Investigators.* Are the investigators appropriately trained and well suited to carry out this work? Is the work proposed appropriate to the experience level of the principal investigator and other researchers? Does the investigative team bring complementary and integrated expertise to the project (if applicable)?

5. *Environment.* Does the scientific environment contribute to the probability of success? Do the studies benefit from unique features of the scientific environment or subject populations or use useful collaborative arrangements? Is there evidence of institutional support?

SELECTION PROCESS

Proposals are reviewed by the MCHRI Scientific Review Committee.

Reviewer Comments

All applicants will receive reviewer comments regardless of award.

AWARDEE RESPONSIBILITIES

Term of Appointment

All appointments are term limited for a single term of up to 2 years. Should there be a change in the awardee's role that significantly alters their ability to carry out their responsibilities as a MCHRI Fellow the award will be

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MCHRI Clinical Trainee (MD) Support Policy

forfeited prior to the completion of the term. However, if there have been unusual occurrences then the awardee may request a deferral or leave of absence from the award; this request will be adjudicated by the Director of the MCHRI. If a deferral is approved, the end date of this award will be adjusted accordingly by MCHRI administration and MCHRI will resume award payment upon awardee's return..

Progress Reports

MCHRI Research Fellows must submit an Annual Progress Report for each year funded by the MCHRI.

The MCHRI Research Fellow recipient:

- Has the responsibility for timely submission of a Progress Report by May 15 in the first year of the award wherein progress is outlined;
- Must provide timely update on funding status from external and/or internal sources;
- Has the responsibility for submission of Annual Progress Reports for 3 years *after* the end of the MCHRI fellowship funding including updated peer-reviewed publications, employment, and competitive funding (federal or national non-profit foundations).
- Acknowledge research support in all publications, abstracts, and presentations as follows:

"The project described in this publication was supported by the Stanford Maternal and Child Health Research Institute."

Award recipients, who have not acknowledged their work, as indicated above, are not eligible for future awards sponsored by the MCHRI.

RESUBMISSION

Applicants not funded may resubmit proposals within the current cycle. They are encouraged to work with the primary research mentor on revisions and/or suggestions for improvement.

CONTACT

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