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 child health.

All projects 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.

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.

DIVERSITY, EQUITY, INCLUSION and JUSTICE (DEIJ)

MCHRI is committed to advancing diversity, equity, inclusion, and justice in all aspects of our work supporting research, education, and resources in maternal and child health. Applicants will be asked to provide a DEIJ statement in their application.

All applications must provide a plan for promoting inclusion, diversity, and equitable research in the research proposal. This section should describe the activities and strategies of the applicant to promote DEIJ within the context of the study population(s) and any associated research group(s).

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
- *NEW* Clinical primary location for seeing patients is at LPCHS
- Demonstrate a commitment to an investigative academic career in obstetrics, pediatrics, pediatric 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 research
- 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

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 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.
The following are not eligible:

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

PROPOSAL REQUIREMENTS

Biostatistical Analysis
A statistical analysis plan 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 grant applicants may request data sciences resources as needed to support the success of their research project. Their expertise is available for study design, the development of grant proposals, and implementation of funded projects. The QSU will hold office hours for MCHRI applicants. Click here to submit a request directly to the QSU. Request QSU Office Hours at least 8 weeks in advance of a submission deadline. The QSU may not be available to accommodate Office Hours requests within the 8-week window.

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

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.

Letters of Support
- Letters of support are required from all listed non-primary research mentor(s), co-investigator(s), and collaborator(s)
- Letters are NOT blinded and must be attached at the end of the single, PDF application that is uploaded to the Online application portal.

Biosketch
A NIH Biosketch (including Personal Statement) from each research mentor, co-investigator and collaborator must be obtained.

The NIH Biosketch template can be obtained here: https://grants.nih.gov/grants/forms/biosketch.htm

Budget and Budget Justification
The applicant must submit a MCHRI Budget Worksheet detailing all current and potential other sources of funding for this study.

Clinical Trainee (MD) Support Budget Worksheet

Applicants must identify all potential sources of funding as instructed on the budget form.

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/
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 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 their discipline support their research fellowship, or residency, as appropriate with the discipline.

**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. External funding is defined as any non-Stanford, competitive funding mechanism that is applied for directly by the awardee. E.g., NIH F32 meets the criteria.

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, except for the purchase of computers. The purchase of computer software must be justified. Each awarded fellow may only receive the incentive bonus once during their fellowship. The amount of the incentive ‘bonus’ will be awarded as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>External Award (Salary)</th>
<th>MCHRI Incentive Bonus</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>≥ $35,000</td>
<td>$10,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>≥ $20,000 and &lt; $35,000</td>
<td>$5,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>≥ $5,000 and &lt; $20,000</td>
<td>$2,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>≥ $0 and &lt; $5,000</td>
<td>$0</td>
</tr>
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3 For example, the training of a pediatric surgeon.

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 [child 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 preventing that drive this field?

2. **Approach.** Are the conceptual or clinical framework, 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 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

MCHRI Administration: mchri_admin@stanford.edu or 650-724-0279